

**TEAMWORK
PAYS OFF**
Page A6



**OUR EXCLUSIVE
WORD PUZZLE**
Page B1



**WE ESCAPE
THE WINTER**
Page B6



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 12 - NO. 18

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 20, 2014

WENDELL
SELECTBOARD

Cuneo In As Fire Chief

By JOSH HEINEMANN

At its February 12 meeting the Wendell selectboard members agreed to pursue the hiring of New Salem's part time fire chief, Joe Cuneo, as Wendell's 19 hour a week part time chief, replacing Everett Ricketts who will retire at the end of February.

Cuneo comes with enthusiastic recommendations from Shutesbury fire chief Walter Tibbetts, and Montague Center fire chief John Greene.

Board members agreed that they will have to meet with the New Salem selectboard and with Wendell's finance committee to work out the details of a cooperative arrangement between the towns. Compensation is expected to mirror what New Salem pays.

The two fire departments have worked together, and have drilled together, and the towns already share a school and have other common interests, but there is no precedent for a shared fire chief. A consultant will help with the transition, because much of the knowledge about Wendell's fire department is in chief Ricketts' head, and he will be a necessary part of that transition.

Like Ricketts before him, Cuneo will be a "strong chief," meaning that after the budget is set by the town see WENDELL page A5

Ousted by Fish & Wildlife, Ramblers Will Move to Gill



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

LAKE PLEASANT - For over 55 years, the Mohawk Ramblers Motorcycle Club has been a part of Montague. For 45, their headquarters have been a non-descript club house on Bartlett Road at the entry to the Montague Plains.

But all that will change as of June 14. Massachusetts Fisheries and Wildlife, on whose land their current clubhouse sits, wants to restore the plains to a natural state.

Marion Larson, Chief Information and Education officer for Fish and Wildlife, said that the issue was not the presence of the motorcycle club on the Plains.

"We've had a great relationship with it," she said. "They have taken very good care of the property, including making their [club]house a

staging area for the Source-to-Sea cleanup."

The problem, she explained, was that "State agencies, including our own, are getting out of the landlord business. Leases to private entities are discouraged.

"We inherited the lease when we bought that part of the Montague Plains from Northeast Utilities about 15 years ago, and we were happy to honor it."

Nat Dillenback, former president of the Mohawk Ramblers, and a longtime member, said the "polite eviction notice" they received from the state didn't come as a surprise.

"We had a 40-year lease that expired in 2009. At the time that expired, we knew our time on the Plains was limited. The state told us then they wanted to take the land back to convert it to a wildlife

see RAMBLERS page A5

G-M SCHOOL COMMITTEE

GMRSD Budget Request Dismays Towns; Sullivan Details His Entry Education Plans

By PATRICIA PRUITT

At their regular meeting on February 11, a majority of the GMRSD School Committee members voted to accept Superintendent Michael Sullivan's proposed preliminary budget for fiscal year 2015 of \$19,736,168. With the exception of school committee members Marge Levenson and Sandy Brown, all others voted in favor of the budget.

The motion to vote on the budget, however, was first challenged. At 6:30, at the very beginning of the meeting, chair Joyce Phillips asked for a vote on the budget. School Committee member Marge Levenson disagreed with the vote being taken before the budget was opened for discussion.

She argued that it prevented those in the audience, including members of the Montague and Gill finance committees, as well as members of the Gill-Montague tech panel, and interested citizens there, to comment on the budget.

School Committee member Jen Waldron commented that the committee accepts the budget as made and then hears from the towns. Levenson's objections were unable to stop the vote for accepting the bud-

get and it was voted affirmatively by the majority of the school committee. The total amount voted was \$19,736,168 for FY '15.

Superintendent Sullivan emphasized that this was the beginning of the budget discussions and no doubt there would be some changes in the school budget, but at the same time he stressed that this was a "serious"



BLANCHETTE PHOTO

Michael Sullivan was hired as the district's superintendent last August.

budget. With that, discussion began.

Jeff Singleton, Montague's representative to the GMRSD, expressed the fact that the assessment for Montague is beyond the available revenues in Montague. He noted that Chapter 70 monies are essentially flat, school choice and

see GMRSD page A4

Governor's State Budget Proposal Reflects Priorities and Tradeoffs

By JEFF SINGLETON

In late January Governor Deval Patrick began the current state budget process by issuing the so-called "Governor's Budget."

This will be followed by budget proposals from the legislature, the state House and Senate. There will be negotiations and compromise hopefully leading to a final state budget before July 1, the beginning of the new fiscal year (2015).

The state budget process has significant consequences for local town budgets in the region and for state programs that local residents rely on.

The state budget helps determine the level of local property taxation, the cost of running local schools, whether elderly citizens will stay in their homes or live in nursing homes, and how much it costs to go to the University of Massachusetts. The state budget involves setting pri-

orities and making choices.

The Governor's budget is the first statement of those priorities for the next fiscal year.

Chapter 70 state education aid, the largest form of aid to cities, towns and regional school districts is flat, as it has been for more than a decade.

The regional school districts Gill-Montague, Mahar and Amherst-Pelham received the same amount of aid as in FY 2014 and in addition were awarded only a \$25 per student increase. The resulting increases were less than .5%.

Franklin County Technical School received something called "downpayment aid" which added about \$21,000 or .61% to its chapter 70. Of the town elementary schools, Shutesbury received "downpayment aid", while Leverett and Wendell (Swift River) received \$25 per student.

These levels of Chapter 70

were primarily caused by the state aid formula. Statewide, Chapter 70 increased by \$99.5 million or 2.3 %.

Only 25% of local districts received aid increases under the core formula. Roughly 201 districts (out of 325) received the nominal \$25 per student increase while 94 received "downpayment aid."

The latter is a wrinkle in the formula which gives those districts that would receive more aid under the "aggregate wealth model," a reform of the formula introduced back in 2007, some additional state funds.

State aid spreadsheets also show the balance for school choice and charter school programs.

The Gill-Montague district was hard hit by these controversial state policies, losing over \$110,000 net in choice revenues and expenditures, and over \$130,000 in charter school payments and

see BUDGET page A5

Skate Park Campaign Awarded \$5,000 Tony Hawk Challenge Grant

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

TURNERS FALLS - The Unity Skate Park Committee received word on Tuesday, February 18, that their application for a coveted Tony Hawk grant had netted the project \$5,000.

The challenge grant, however, comes with a significant provision: the skate park committee must also raise \$5,000 or more, over the next three months, to be able to collect the money.

The town and the skate park committee had applied for a grant of \$25,000, 100 percent of which was to go to offset construction costs. The challenge grant, therefore, was far less than they had hoped to receive. It is, nonetheless, a step forward.

Montague town planner Walter Ramsey, who helped write the grant application, said: "I am pleased that the Tony Hawk Foundation will offer a challenge grant contribution to the skate park. Every private contribution helps."

Ramsey continued, "At this point, the skate park has been approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission, supported by the Selectmen, and programmed into town plans. The site is secured and the design is complete. How-

ever, funding construction is the last hurdle.

"My office will continue to work with the skate park committee and Parks and Rec to make the park a reality, by minimizing the cost of the park and identifying funding sources." Indeed, the challenge is on.

Bringing down the projected cost is a major part of the current effort to build a skate park.

To this end, Ramsey said he was meeting on February 20 with Peter Wells from the Berkshire Design Group along with Parks and Recreation director John Dobosz and Bryan Dolan from the skate park committee.

According to Ramsey, the goal is to work toward reducing construction costs for the proposed 7,300-square-foot

PILLAR DESIGN IMAGE



The park campaign is regaining momentum lost due to a combination of unexpectedly high cost estimates and its unannounced removal from the town's Community Development Block Grant process.

| | | Gill-Montague | Mahar | Franklin Tech | Swift River | Leverett |
|---------------------|------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-----------|
| Chapter 70 | FY'14 | \$6,037,994 | \$5,304,190 | \$3,416,933 | \$629,007 | \$274,716 |
| | FY'15 Gov. | \$6,065,994 | \$5,322,215 | \$3,437,311 | \$631,982 | \$277,216 |
| School Choice: Rec. | FY'14 | \$707,783 | \$957,357 | | \$111,695 | \$169,140 |
| | FY'15 Gov. | \$573,815 | \$1,046,701 | | \$106,695 | \$125,015 |
| Sending | FY'14 | \$1,120,569 | \$152,586 | \$5,000 | \$43,045 | \$80,648 |
| | FY'15 Gov. | \$1,104,471 | \$169,884 | \$5,000 | \$38,891 | \$10,493 |
| Charter: Reimb. | FY'14 | \$204,657 | \$15,956 | | \$17,875 | |
| | FY'15 Gov. | \$142,226 | \$23,672 | | | \$28,004 |
| Sending | FY'14 | \$804,936 | \$152,586 | | | \$53,232 |
| | FY'15 Gov. | \$874,366 | \$169,884 | | | \$106,442 |

Under the proposed budget, Gill-Montague would be hit particularly hard in its net school choice and charter reimbursements.

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

Editor in Chief

Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno

Patricia Pruitt, Associate Editor
Mike Jackson, Managing Editor
Suzette Snow-Cobb, A&E Editor

Editorial Assistants

Hugh Corr
Gloria Kegeles

Layout

Christopher Carmody

Distribution Manager

Don Clegg

Technical Administration

About Face Computing

Founded by

Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August, 2002

Unity Park Sledding Hill: A Late-Winter Lament

This week is school vacation. And we've got snow, plenty of snow. Traditionally, kids flock to Unity Park in Turners Falls, sleds in tow, to slide down the hill. But not this year. The hill is closed for sledding.

The decision to close the hill was not arbitrary. The improvements to Unity Park included turf restoration and reseeding of the playing fields which resulted in a fence being thrown up to protect the fragile grass. We understand this need. Nonetheless, we bemoan the fact that our kids have no place to go sledding this winter.

To get a better understanding of the dynamic between sledding and grass protection we put a call into Peter Wells, the landscape architect at the Berkshire Design Group, who did the plans for the Unity Park improvements.

Wells said he was not aware that the hill had been closed for sledding. He did say that when there is a fairly thin snow cover, sleds and saucers and toboggans can certainly damage newly-seeded grass. But he also added that with as much snow as we now have, the threat was fairly minimal.

He said this hadn't been his call, and that we should ask Parks and Recreation director John Dobosz why he had decided to close the hill.

Dobosz said he was quite aware

that this was an inconvenience, but that for this winter the hill would have to remain closed.

When we asked whether the fence could be temporarily taken down so that kids could slide, Dobosz replied that it wasn't possible, as at this point the fence was stuck in frozen ground.

He also added that if we did get a melt, the grass would be exposed and could be damaged.

He did express hope that next year the hill would again be open.

It's pretty clear to us that our kids this year won't have any place in Turners to enjoy the thrill of sliding down a snow-packed hill.

And while we can appreciate the reason, we wish that a little more creative thinking could have gone into the decision, such as removing the fence for a few weeks before it became encased in ice.

As we all know, there are precious few winter activities for kids to do in Turners, and sledding is one of the most delightful activities of winter.

For as long as anyone can remember, Unity Park was the place to go every winter. Indeed, multiple generations have careened down that hill.

We look forward to next year when the famous sledding hill will once again be the venue of choice for a rollicking ride on newly-fallen snow.



Letters to the Editors

Error of Commission

Really? The Turners Falls Water Department?

I'll be honest. After attending last Tuesday's select-board meeting and being pleasantly surprised at their cautious attitude, I was shocked to hear that the very next day the Board of Water Commissioners turned around and signed away allowing Kinder-Morgan to survey.

This is the department that says it is "committed to providing a safe and reliable supply of high quality drinking water to its customers?" And claims that "it is vital to educate all members of our community on conserving and protecting our water supply" (emphasis added)?

This was the perfect opportunity to ask questions and educate the public about what may someday be imposed upon us. I guess part of that

education is that maybe it's OK that one day a pipe may run through it.

Even if a pipeline may pose no risk to Turners' town water (drawn from artesian wells), what of private wells? Or groundwater quality in general?

Once Lake Pleasant is no longer part of the backup water supply, is it OK to think about a gas line running near Green Pond? What kind of conservation, protection, education is that? Why not ask some questions and think about the larger community that you serve? We are all in this together. Aren't we? What's the rush?

(And thank you Reporter for covering this, otherwise how would most of us know of it?)

Emily Monosson
Montague Center

A Fan of "Parnassus"

I want to send kudos for the masterpiece, "The Library at Mt. Parnassus" running its serial course in *The Reporter*. I'm not sure if David Detmold is completely aware of what a totally excellent piece of work it is. I'm talking exceptional here.

There's so much bad writing out

there these days, it is a real pleasure to come upon work like this, where I can tell every sentence is measured and crafted with care and soul (and love for the characters). This is both craft and a gift.

Don Ogden
Leverett

Not Buying Natural Gas, or Sludge Compost

Massachusetts could better put its resources into many forms of alternative energy, including offshore wind and possibly tide power, rather than a new fossil fuel pipeline in the form of dirty fracked gas that has polluted someone else's land, well and aquifer.

It's mostly a matter of where subsidies are allocated.

Another big concern is Erving's wastewater treatment plant plans to turn toxic sludge into "organic" fertilizer to be distributed around Franklin County's farms, gardens and lawns.

There is no way to turn wastewater sludge, from households, hospitals, industries and stormwater runoff, into safe, non-toxic organic fertilizer, despite the EPA's and DEP's possible approvals. Pathogens are the least of our worries. Check out the book, *Toxic Sludge Is Good For You*.

Gloria Kegeles
Wendell

GUEST EDITORIAL

Archeology, Native American History, and the NPS Report

By JEFF SINGLETON

Last January 16 an article appeared in *The Montague Reporter* under my name covering a debate at a Montague selectboard meeting over a "battlefield grant" to study the Turners Falls massacre (or battle) of 1676.

As the article pointed out, much of the opposition to the grant from Selectboard member Mark Fairbrother derives from his experience on the Montague Airport Commission.

Specifically, Fairbrother was put off by the fact that Native American activists were able to block a proposed runway expansion on the basis of a supposed ancient Indian ceremonial site on the property.

The claim of a ceremonial site

was rejected by state archeologists but endorsed in a report by the National Register of Historic Places, part of the federal National Park Service (NPS).

According to the Reporter article: "That view [the rock formation as a ceremonial site] has since been corroborated by the National Register of Historical Places, who in their decision to grant the ceremonial hill special recognition, deemed the hill 'highly significant.'"

That sentence was not in my original article, and for a reason. It was added by the editors.

First let me say that the editors of *The Montague Reporter* frequently edit, add to and change articles I write. I see nothing wrong with that. They nearly always improve the final product.

Occasionally I disagree with them but rarely, if ever, have complained. In my view, the editors have a right to do their job, which is edit. That is exactly the way I feel in this particular case.

At the same time, I feel it necessary to say that I disagree with the implication that the NPS report somehow proves that the airport rock formation is a ceremonial site.

I have read the report a number of times, and strongly feel that it proves no such thing.

The methodology, if you can call it that, essentially rejects concrete archeological evidence in favor of a vague, generalized discussion of the regional, cultural and historic context.

The report also relies heavily on purported Native American and white oral traditions which do not seem to point to a ceremonial site at the location in question.

**WE WELCOME
YOUR LETTERS!**

Montague Reporter

177 Ave. A, TF, MA 01376

editor@montaguereporter.org

Advertising and copy deadline is
Monday at NOON.

This newspaper shall not be liable for errors in advertisements, but will print without charge that part of the advertisement in which an error occurred. The publishers reserve the right to refuse advertising for any reason and to alter copy or graphics to conform to standards of the newspaper, such as they are.

Annual Subscription Rate:
\$25/\$30/\$50, depending on address.
Call us or contact
subscriptions@montaguereporter.org
with any questions.

Published weekly on Thursdays.
Every other week in
July and August.

No paper last week of December.
PHONE (413) 863-8666

Please note new email addresses:
editor@montaguereporter.org
ads@montaguereporter.org
bills@montaguereporter.org
circulation@montaguereporter.org
events@montaguereporter.org
info@montaguereporter.org
poetry@montaguereporter.org
subscriptions@montaguereporter.org

Send address changes to:
The Montague Reporter
177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Sign Me Up!

\$20 { 10 months (37 issues) for our walking routes
8 months (31 issues) for our driving routes
5 months (18 issues) for mailed subscriptions

The Montague Reporter

177 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____



LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

"Circle of Moms: We Are All In This Together" meets on Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon at Community Action Family Center, 90 Federal Street, Greenfield. Child-care, snacks, and parking are free.

MotherWoman Support Groups are held throughout the Valley. All groups are free, and babies welcome. Groups are not held during public school vacations or snow days.

For current calendars & more information visit www.motherwoman.org/groups or www.facebook.com/motherwoman/, or call (413) 774-1000 x2048.

The **Winter and Spring Preschool Series**, "Where Are All the Animals Hiding?," continues at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 22.

Winter is a time for staying snug and warm for animals too. Join Janel Nockleby to investigate the secret hidden animal homes of the season through stories, crafts, and activities. The program is aimed at ages 3 to 6 accompanied by a parent or guardian. Siblings and friends are welcome.

This winter/spring series is sponsored by The Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

There will be a **Franklin County Technical High School Open**

House on Wednesday, February 26, from 6 to 8 p.m. During that time, you can tour the Technical Programs, and talk to some shop and academic teachers, who set high standards to help your child achieve success.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Guidance Department at (413) 863-9561, ext. 122.

The New Salem Firefighter's Association is sponsoring a **dinner/dance fundraiser** on Friday, February 28 for Deputy Fire Chief Larry Eaton and his wife Donna.

A large structure fire on January 5 destroyed a storage shed and all the equipment and tools Larry uses in his contracting business. It also destroyed the well and electrical service to the Eatons' house.

The dinner/dance will be held at the Athol/Orange Elks Lodge on Route 2A in Orange.

The evening will start with a cocktail hour at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. and dancing to the Reprobate Blues Band at 8 p.m. Dinner choices are: turkey, braised beef, or vegetable pasta.

Tickets (\$20 each or \$30 per couple) are available at Bruce's Browser in Athol, Diemand Farm, the New Salem General Store, Trailhead in Orange, and via Paypal.

The new **documentary film Food for Change** will be shown at the Wendell Free Library on Friday,

February 28 at 7 p.m. Filmmaker Steve Alves will discuss the film after the viewing.

The 84 minute film tells the story of the co-op movement in the United States through a combination of interviews, rare archival footage, and commentary by co-op leaders and historians. The viewing is sponsored by the Wendell Agricultural Commission and the Wendell Free Library. For more information call 978-544-3559.

Essential Skills for Family Caregivers will offer caregivers practical suggestions to help you care for your loved one.

"It Starts with Communication" will take place on Tuesday, March 11 from 1 to 3 p.m.

"Understanding Behaviors" will be held on Tuesday, April 8, and "Safety at Home" on Tuesday, May 13 at Franklin County Home Care, 330 Montague City Road, Turners Falls.

All three classes in the "Essential Skills for Family Caregivers" series are free and will provide education and practical tools to those caring for someone with dementia.

To pre-register, call the **Alzheimer's Association** at 1-800-272-3900

or sign up online at www.alz.org/MANH. This program is not open to professional caregivers.

Community Action, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and other community organizations, will sponsor free public showings of **Cracking the Codes on Race**, by Shakti Butler, on Thursday, March 13, and Saturday, March 15, in Greenfield and Turners Falls.

The screenings will provide all interested community members with an opportunity to consider and discuss issues of racism, privilege, and structural inequality.

The first showing is Thursday, March 13, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the John Olver Transit Center, 1st Floor Community Room, at 12 Olive Street in Greenfield.

The second showing is on Saturday, March 15, from 3 to 5 p.m. at The Brick House Community Resource Center, at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls.

The Gill Energy Commission will be holding a **free solar hot water systems workshop** on Saturday, March 15, from 9 a.m. until noon at the Gill Town Hall, 325 Main Road, Gill.

This workshop will review the

wide variety of different solar systems that can combine with your existing water heating system to make clean and green hot water.

The workshop will be presented by Peter Talmage who has been teaching people in the Renewable Energy field at GCC and elsewhere for many years.

The workshop is limited by space considerations. Pre-registration is required. To register call Janet Mascucci at (413) 863-8694 or email jmasucci@msn.com.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.



www.MontagueMA.net
local gossip, news & business listings

Mesa Verde

Eat In or Take Out!

BURRITOS,
BOWLS,
SOFT TACOS,
QUESADILLAS

Now Serving
BBC Steel Rail

(413) 772-2531
10 Fiske Ave - downtown Greenfield
Hours: Mon - Sat 11:30 am - 9 pm

Nina's Nook

Uniquities, Frivolities & Unnecessariums

125a Avenue A, Turners Falls
413.834.8800 ninasnook.com

Weds & Th 4-6
Fri & Sat 1-6

SLUGS GALORE!

art . craft . design .

Now Serving
BREAKFAST,
LUNCH & DINNER
Thursday - Monday

The WAGON WHEEL RESTAURANT

Route 2, Gill • 413-863-8210

GREENFIELD FARMERS COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE
Locally Owned Since 1918

269 High Street - Greenfield
(413) 773-9639

Local Farmer-Owned

Products for the home,
farm, pets, yard & garden

If you
Feed it - Seed it - Weed it
We GOT it!

www.greenfieldfarmerscoop.com

My First Year Clean (Part 2)

Editor's Note: Mr. Rice wrote last year in these pages about how addiction had ruined his life, sending him to jail and into a court-ordered treatment center. We caught up with him recently, and he wanted to update our readers. This is the second part of a two-part article.

By LANCE RICE

TURNERS FALLS – So I sat in jail for a whole month, clean, depressed, not knowing if I would get out, if I would be sentenced to some time. But after a month I was released to a program called Drug Court.

Drug Court is a kind of last resort for people like me who have tried everything else. I started Drug Court on September 22, 2013. It is a VERY intensive program that pushes you to your limits and gives you no room at all for error.

Every morning I am required to call a number and if the answering machine says the color is "red," I have to make my way to the jail in Greenfield and submit to a random drug test, in which I am required to give a breathalyzer and a urine screen.

Every week I also have to go to one-on-one therapy, as well as group therapy. I have to attend a minimum of five AA or NA meetings a week, and get my attendance verified.

And I have to appear in court every Wednesday. There I go in front of the judge, who checks my progress for that week.

The program, difficult and unforgiving, lasts about 13 months but can be much longer. Despite the intrusion it is making into my life, I am willingly doing it and it seems to be helping.

In fact, I am very grateful for programs like this that give addicts like me the chance to get the help we need rather than just throwing us in jail.

What I know is that if we have no treatment, we will come out of jail and do the same exact thing we'd been doing.

Drug addiction is a true disease, just as cancer or HIV. There is no cure for our disease; there are just different kinds of treatments.

From my experience, you need to pursue any and all treatments that you can, since this is a powerful disease of the mind and it can take you back under in one second. One second – yes – that's all it takes.

I recently started on a medication called Suboxone, which has already helped me a great deal. Suboxone is used to treat opiate addicts to keep them away from opiates and to take away drug cravings, and that is exactly what it does.

So many people in the courts were against me getting on it, but

it works for me, and I know what I need in my recovery.

In fact, this is a great medicine that I recommend to anyone who is struggling with addiction from opiates, heroin, pills, etc....

I also have been court-ordered to go into yet another program for six to nine months in Greenfield called

the Beacon House for Men.

I don't feel I need it, but the judge and drug court feel that my living situation isn't the best place for me to be while trying to stay clean, and they may be right. Since I have to go, I am not going to fight it.

While I live a much better life these days, I still have my everyday life problems, as does everybody, and those never go away.

I still have bad days, but they are nothing compared to the bad days that I used to have when I was using drugs.

And, slowly but surely, I see a light at the end of the tunnel, and I have hope today that things will get better if I continue down this road. I have never felt that way before.

During the times I was using the most, I would always say to myself that I could not see any way out of my downward progression. I'd think that I'd never be able to get away from this, that this awful existence would be my life, forever.

But I was wrong. With a lot of hard work and dedication I marked one year of being clean on February 7, 2014. I never thought in a million years I would be able to say that.

I just want to say: Please don't judge a book by its cover. Addicts have feelings too, and all addicts are prisoners in their own bodies in a way that you may never understand unless it happens to you.

Every addict is someone's mother, brother, sister, father, cousin, aunt, uncle. This could happen to you or someone in your family.

You need to know that. You know our names, but not our stories. You've heard what we've done, but not what we've been through.

And I truly hope that by sharing my story, I have given people a better outlook on the types of people we are and the struggle we have to go through to get clean.

It is no way to live – I would never wish it on my worst enemy.

I've learned on my journey to recovery that strength doesn't come from what you can do, it comes from overcoming the things you once thought you couldn't!



... Another Letter

In his otherwise solid news article "Underwhelmed By 'Bump-Out'" (Jan. 30, pg A1), Jeff Singleton more than leans toward the editorial through his use of the word "very."

First, he refers to a "very attractive architect's conception" of the sidewalk expansion project.

He proceeds to tell readers of the "very long public process" that led to the decision to spend the \$200,000 on the project.

Considering the dedication of Montague residents who've been struggling long (well over a decade, I believe) and hard (re-

ally *really* hard, but that's just my opinion) to raise money for a skate park that people actually want here in Turners, I think Mr. Nelson's qualms are reasonable, and that Mr. Singleton and the *Reporter* should, at least in a news article, let readers decide how "attractive" the conception (or perhaps it was the architect?) is, and just how "long" the process was.

Perhaps I'm quibbling a bit, but a few little words can make a very, very, big difference.

Jamie Berger
Turners Falls

NPS from previous page

ceremonial site? I would argue that the answer is no.

The brief (less than two pages) section on the actual rock formation relies heavily on Native American and white oral traditions.

While many historians and archeologists certainly value such traditions and attempt to integrate them into their work, I seriously doubt they would rely on them as primary evidence to identify a specific site.

Oral traditions also change over time, and are influenced by cultural changes and even what we might call political agendas. Interpreting them is not a simple process.

In this case, however, the oral traditions do not seem to mention the site in question at all.

For example, a contemporary medicine man is quoted making general comments about the role of traditional ceremonial sites, but does not document any oral tradition that refers specifically to the airport location.

Then the report notes that a white resident of Montague told Williams Pressey, who wrote a town history in 1905, that there were stories handed down among local residents of Indian ceremonies on the Montague Plains.

These are, at best, 19th-century white oral traditions about Indian activities that occurred nearly two hundred years earlier somewhere on the Plains, a very large area of

which only a small portion is the current airport.

On the other hand, the NPS report contains virtually no archeological evidence to support its findings. The report does not even bother to counter the archeological research done by the Massachusetts state agency that found that the airport formation was not a ceremonial site.

To be fair, I would note a number of redacted sentences that may contain archeological commentary, which raises another problem with the report in my mind.

The NPS report, perhaps unintentionally, encourages the popular local view that because we do not like the attitudes of archeologists, we should throw concrete evidence – or lack thereof – for ceremonial sites and burial grounds out the window.


I agree that state-connected archeologists have been excessively secretive in their efforts to protect sites from amateur digging and looting. Forcing Gill to take archeological research concerning the Mariamante property off its website discourages precisely the kind of public debate I am advocating.

But solid archeological research must be the primary basis for determining the status of ceremonial sites, burial grounds, and controversial rock formations in the region.

This is clearly not the case in the NPS report.




PAPER
Week of February 24
in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054

**NANCY L. DOLE
BOOKS & EPHEMERA**



BOOKS

now located at
20 State Street,
Bucklandside
Shelburne Falls
413-625-9850
ndole@crocker.com
closed Mondays

**WE HEAT
FRANKLIN
COUNTY**

- System 2000 (Energy Kinetics)
- Thermo Pride
- Weil-McLain
- Other Major Brands
- Expert Burner Service



(413) 773-3622


**GREEN
RIVER
ZEN CENTER**

Practice, Study,
Community

Free
Everyone Welcome

www.greenriverzen.org
413-256-1594

IN GOOD COMPANY
SKILLED, INTENTIONAL
COMPANIONSHIP FOR
ELDERS AND OTHERS



SITA LANG 413-834-7569
HOSPICE TRAINED
CPR CERTIFIED

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

**February Not The Cruellest
Month For Selectboard**

By **JEFF SINGLETON**

The Montague Selectboard meeting on the snowy night of February 18 was short and sweet. There were no proposals to study a seventeenth-century battle between English colonists and Native Americans; no debates over the role of public art in the planters on Avenue A; no concerns about a pipeline carrying "fracked" natural gas through residents' (and town) property.

The only real drama was whether Tim Lindtrop from MCTV, who forgot that the meeting started at 6 p.m., would arrive on time for taping. (He did, although just barely.)

First on the docket were Ester and Jay Stone of Federal Street (Route 63) who were requesting that the license for their equipment repair business be transferred from Paul W. Stone to Stone's Equipment Repair Inc.

This rather simple task was required for the business to apply for a surety bond and state license approval. The transfer was approved unanimously.

Next John Dobosz, director of the Parks and Recreation Department, requested that the board approve a letter to designate Montague as a "Playful City USA."

This is a concept promoted by the Humana Foundation, an organization which describes itself as promoting "healthy lives and healthy communities."

Dobosz stated that being designated a playful city creates the general feeling that the locality is child friendly. He said that this was not only "good PR" but would allow

Montague to apply for grants.

The Selectboard enthusiastically endorsed the idea but requested that Mr. Dobosz write a draft of the actual letter.

Next up was Bill Goldfarb of Lefty's Brewing Company, which requested a one-day liquor license for an event on May 9 at the Shea Theater. The event is being sponsored by the Greenfield Police Department, which produced some banter about the sense of humor of police officers.

Goldfarb stated that he did not know anything about that issue: "All I do is make the beer." The permit was unanimously approved.

Father Stanley Askamit then approached the board requesting approval for "assembly and public demonstration" on April 26, 2014. This is in fact a combined 5-kilometer walk/run and a 10-kilometer run to raise money for Haitian relief.

The request had come before the board the previous meeting but had been put on hold due to some confusion about the routes. The board also requested the presence of "Father Stan," as he is known, to make the request in person.

The board voted unanimously to approve the event.

Frank Abbondanzio had little to say in his "Administrator's Report," beyond requesting that the board approve Alex Perkin as a member of the conservation commission. This means that the "Con Com" has a full complement of seven members.

The board approved the appointment, and then went into executive session to discuss "litigation."

GMRSD from page A1

charter funding losses have not decreased, and wage and benefit increases did not take into account the actual revenue increases available to fund them.

Tech panel member Michael Naughton, acknowledging that it was early in the budget process, wondered what was being done to address the choicing-out problem. He further asked, "Does the school committee feel there is any continuity in the plans for increasing enrollment?"

Naughton also wanted to know how the back and forth between towns and the school committee was going to work. Sullivan responded that as numbers change and need to be shared means there needs to be multiple meetings. Tupper Brown, also a tech panel member, suggested there needed to be a meeting before the official meeting on March 5.

John Hanold of the Montague finance committee expressed Montague's willingness to work with the school committee on the budget but supported the comments previously made on the townside. Lynn Reynolds also of the Montague finance committee, expressed concern about the two percent COLA and the in-

crease in health care costs that are likely to add up to four percent.

Phillips closed the hearing and the school committee approved the plans for a student trip to Hershey Park, PA from May 9-11 for the Turners Falls Chorus.

Next, Superintendent Michael Sullivan presented the highlights of his 24 page "Superintendent Entry Report." The report lays out what Sullivan has learned and gathered in discussions with every group involved in the schools' doing the job of educating our students and the efforts of four previous Superintendents to achieve progress toward taking the District out of the Level 4 designation imposed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). That negative designation was finally lifted in August 2013.

In his entry report Sullivan focused on nine separate areas of district life, each of which is further analyzed with respect to an essential theme, a summary of current conditions, and a list of opportunities for further inquiry or improvement.

The nine areas are as follows: Governance, Leadership, and Administration; District Vision, Mission, Core Values and Learning

Principles; Student Performance; Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Adult Learning and Professional Development; School Culture; Parents and Community; Support Operations and District Finances.

Sullivan noted in his summary that the "school district is moving in a positive direction. With a dedicated staff, innovative teachers, well equipped and maintained facilities, and small class sizes, the district is, in many ways, well positioned to build upon its successes. However, some significant challenges remain."

Among the many challenges Sullivan outlined is a need for the district to have an articulated vision of where it wants to go.

To make this happen, Sullivan proposed "a strategic planning process that engages all stakeholders and results in a meaningful strategy which charts a course of measurable improvement."

To implement this strategy, Sullivan advocated learning "why past improvement initiatives have not born better results."

He noted that "while improved standardized test scores are important, these should be a byproduct of

the learning we aspire to support, not an end in itself."

As for how he hoped to achieve consistent and improved academic success, Sullivan had a number of recommendations. These included creating "highly developed curriculum maps that will bring consistency across classrooms and alignment between grade levels."

He also wants to implement a "common core standards aligned, elementary literacy program."

Sullivan also stressed exploring "the link between weak literacy skills and student behavior and engagement." Improving parental involvement is also another key element in helping students succeed.

More, he said, could also be done to train staff and that all administrators should "work with faculty to improve their relationships, their shared decision making and planning, their lines of communication, and their opportunities for staff feedback to administrators."

Although he was confident that many of his proposals could and would be implemented he also noted that "current fiscal conditions made it difficult." The Superintendent's Entry Report is available at www.gmrdsd.org.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

Project File No. 607239

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed **Canalside Bike Path and Pedestrian Crossing Improvement project at Montague City Rd, Montague, MA.** The proposed project will provide for accessible and safe bicycle and pedestrian crossings and transit accommodations along Montague City Road, between its intersection with Masonic Avenue and Solar Avenue & Depot Street. The proposed roadway cross-section will include an 11-foot wide travel-lane, a 7-foot wide exclusive bike-lane and a 5-foot wide sidewalk in each direction. The work also includes repair of existing and/or construction of new wheelchair ramps, improved bus stops, pavement markings, and signage. The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

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

WHEN: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

JOB POSTING: YOUTH PROGRAMS MANAGER

The Brick House is seeking a Youth Programs Manager to oversee programs for youth, primarily the Teen Drop-in Resource Center.

The manager will work within the vibrant and busy (and sometimes loud) teen center, providing support and guidance to the Programs Assistant and the Youth Programs Coordinator (RISE AmeriCorps Member), and ensuring smooth day-to-day operations and administrative practices. The job is for 20 hrs/wk, at \$15/hr plus benefits.

Applications accepted until position is filled. To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to: The Brick House Community Resource Center, P.O. Box 135, Turners Falls, MA 01376, or director@brickhousecommunity.org. No phone calls, please.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$9.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Dudek Tax Service
10 Masonic Ave
Turners Falls
MA 01376
Frank J. Dudek
Kelly Berthiaume
413.863.5174 - Office
413.775.3327 - Cell
frankd_74@yahoo.com



**Montague
BOOKMILL**
Open Daily 10 - 6
413-367-9206
www.montaguebookmill.com



**Good Dirt Pottery
Studio**



38 Main Street, Montague
413-367-0155
www.gooddirtpottery.com

B. RUBIN & SONS INC.



COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS

Shocks • Tires • Batteries • Starters
Struts • Tune-ups • Brakes • Oil Change

194 MILLERS FALLS RD. • **413-863-2236**
10% SENIOR DISCOUNT FREE ESTIMATES

MASS INSPECTION STATION: NO. 13051

TE chair and table rentals

Tammy Young
owner
1-413-221-3228 / 413-863-0293
Teyoung0201@verizon.net

**"We Rent nice quality Tables
& Chairs for any Occasion"**

11 Paradise Parkway, Turners Falls Mass 01376

TABLETS!

Stop by your local,
friendly computer
store & check them out!



151 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376
413.863.5447
www.about-facecomputers.com

**About-Face
Computer Solutions**

BUDGET from page A1

reimbursements. All of the school choice losses were the product of a significant decline in students coming in to the district under the program. The data shows wide variations in the impact of the school choice and charter school programs on school districts in the region. Ralph C. Mahar middle school/high school, for example, has a very favorable school choice balance and a relatively low level of charter school spending. Amherst, on the other hand, has favorable school choice balance but a very high level of charter school expenditures. Franklin County Technical is only responsible for one school choice student and spends nothing on the charter school program. The other large form of state aid to cities and towns is so-called "unrestricted general governmental aid" (UGGA). This form of aid, which primarily consists of the distribution of lottery funds, is level funded for all cities and towns in the state for

the second year in a row. According to the Massachusetts Municipal Association, UGGA has been cut by \$400 million, or approximately 30%, since 2008. The association has called for an increase of approximately \$40 million this year, which it says is consistent with state revenue growth. In January, House Speaker Robert DeLeo told municipal officials that the House "will do better" than the Governor in the area of aid to cities and towns. However, there would appear to be limitations on what the legislature can do. State revenues are still problematic, with the liberal watchdog group Massachusetts Budget and Policy Priorities estimating that there remains a structural gap between state revenues and expenditures of \$514 million. The Policy Center estimates total state-generated revenues at \$24.3 billion and the total budget, which includes federal revenues and other funding sources, at over \$35 billion. There are also significant demands on state policy beyond local

aid. For example the Governor's budget contains significant increases in higher education for the third year in a row, after big cuts during the two recessions of the past decade. The Governor has pledged to avoid increases in both tuition and fees at the University of Massachusetts, although it is not clear that his budget can accomplish that goal. State health costs continue to grow significantly, both for state employees, many of whom live in the region, and to fund the transition to the new federal health care program. The Governor's Budget also contains increases in funding for some human services programs which also suffered big cuts during the last recession. Services for children, youth and families received significant increases, although their budgets remain below pre-recession levels. The Governor's proposal contains a \$10.1 million (approximately 16%) increase in Elder Enhanced Home Care Services. These services allow thousands of elderly residents

to remain at home rather than living in nursing homes. On the other hand, the budget for Transitional Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), an entitlement program commonly called "welfare," has declined significantly over the past year (by 12.6% or over \$25 million) due to a decline in the caseload. For a full analysis of the Governor's budget and other state funding issues see the websites of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, The Massachusetts Budget and Policy Priorities Center and the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation. "Cherry sheets" for all cities, towns and regional school districts can be found on the Massachusetts Department of Revenue Website in the "Local Officials" Section. More detail on Chapter 70 and other education funding programs can be found on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website under school/district administration: check the "finance/grants" dropdown menu.

FRCOG Awarded Three Grants for Regional Collaboration

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Administration and Finance released its list of funded Community Innovation Challenge grantees on Thursday at the State House. The Franklin Regional Council of Governments received three grants on behalf of regional collaborative projects. FRCOG Executive Director Linda Dunlavy and Regional Project Planner Ted Harvey were on hand. The first grant expands the Northwestern District Attorney's Anti-Crime Task Force. FRCOG's Director of Community Services Phoebe Walker explained the Task Force: "Police officers assigned from more than fifteen cities and towns and the Massachusetts State Police work together to investigate major crimes in the region, pooling resources..."

RAMBLERS from page A1

reserve." Dillenback added that the state was cooperative. "They agreed to a five-year deal in order to let us find a new home. But now that five years will soon be up." According to Larson, "it was a very amicable parting of the ways." She noted, as well, that contrary to its usual policy, Fish and Wildlife had no issue with extending the lease for an extra five years. "Things were going so well with them. They were so responsive and responsible that we had no concern about allowing them five years to find a new property." The Ramblers have not been sitting on their hands over the last five years. During the interim lease they bought 20 acres in Gill as the base of Pisgah Mountain Road.

According to Dillenback, they're hoping to have a new headquarters in place there by June: "We'll see how the permitting process goes. We need to get permits for wells and septic. But we're ready to go." While Dillenback said he was looking forward to building the new place in Gill, he also said he'd miss the Plains. "This has been home to all of us for a very long time." Several town officials noted that the club's presence would also be missed. "They've been very good stewards of the land and of the Plains," said Montague town planner Walter Ramsey. Montague building inspector David Jensen was highly critical of the eviction. "The state is so myopic," he said. "As long as those guys were there, you didn't have a dumping problem.

"Just take a look at that entry to the Plains. You won't see a scrap of paper on the ground. If there is trash, they clean it up. And they pay attention to who comes in and out. "[The state has] just pulled another stopper out of the bottle, because without the club there, we're going to have brand-new access to the plains." Dillenback also said that this was a concern. "If we come across a pile of trash we clean it up," he said. "And we do police the road... We participate in the Source-to-Sea cleanup. We take our role as resident up there [on the Plains] seriously." Amy Mahler, Assistant Press Secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, said that they plan first to remove the Mohawk

Ramblers' building in the near future, and then begin work on restoring the property as natural habitat. "The Plains are the largest inland pine barrens in New England," she said. "It's already an actively-managed and researched property, not to mention a beautiful area. In our restoration efforts we will follow conservation best practices, as everywhere on the Plains." She emphasized that the Montague Plains, as now, will be open to all for recreation, hunting and hiking. The clubhouse is about 500 feet from Northeast Utilities' power line right-of-way which, according to maps it shared with the Turners Falls Water Department, Kinder Morgan views as the intended route for a major interstate natural gas transmission pipeline.

WENDELL from page A1

he will run the department as he sees fit. The other person who applied for the fire chief position was Almon "Bud" Meattley who also was well qualified, but board members thought Cuneo was a better fit for Wendell. The board will send Meattley a letter thanking him for applying. **Eviction?** Treasurer Carolyn Manley presented the selectboard with this year's second case of tax title ownership of a house that contains residents. When Phil Stowell died suddenly in October 2012 he left young adult children still living in the house. They are still there, but the town has taken the house for unpaid taxes. That makes Wendell a landlord in a house that the town's insurance will not cover. Manley said that the taxes owed are more than the house is worth, and there are health and other code violations. Stowell's adult children still living in the house said they would call with a plan, but Manley said they have not called.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard said no response probably means they have no real plan. She said they are young, and that this did not surprise her. An eviction notice would require a sheriff to serve it, but if the board of health determines the building is uninhabitable, they, with the selectboard, may have the authority to require the occupants to move, and not involve the sheriff. Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser suggested checking with board of health clerk, Mary Gifford, to confirm that. Then the next step is to have the board of health look at the property, possibly with the building inspector and corroborate health violations or structural problems. The house stands on a piece of land smaller than an acre. **Other Business** Board members read and signed the warrant for the special town meeting that will be held Thursday evening, February 27. Three articles would pay bills of prior years, and a fourth would declare Wendell a "no-fracking zone"

for natural gas, without banning fracking for drilled water wells. This town meeting may be the last one with Kathy Becker as town moderator, as she has announced her intention to step down after 29 years. She may allow herself to be appointed deputy moderator, but her new situation as ordinary citizen will allow her to speak her own opinions at town meetings. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said that Seaboard Solar has not sent a check yet to pay for the town counsel expense that was incurred writing a contract with the town. Selectboard member Dan Keller said he would call. Aldrich said that the town has been paying for electricity through Hampshire power on a real time basis, at rates that fluctuate wildly from minute to minute. The head of Hampshire Power recommends changing to a fixed price charge, and board members voted to do that for a trial year. Nina Keller volunteered to join the board of health to fill a vacancy and the selectboard quickly appointed her. Assuming she wants to continue on the board of health she

will have to run for an elected term in the May town election. The town's snow removal and sand account is \$70.82 over the amount authorized for this winter. Board members agreed to pay that amount from the reserve fund, and added that snow and ice removal will continue, along with road sanding, and should be paid for. Montague sent a letter to FRTA protesting a closed and autocratic decision to drop bus routes to smaller towns, and asking for a more transparent process. The Wendell selectboard received a copy and asked Aldrich to compose a similar letter for them to send to the FRTA. Pooser said that the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative (MBI) is done with their part of bringing fiber optic cable to Wendell, the middle mile of high speed internet capability and they are "washing their hands" of the process. Town buildings are not yet connected, and it is the responsibility of the town to contact a provider and get access. The plan is to connect one town building, and use a wireless signal to connect the others.

The expansion grant... will allow new towns to join the task force, and expand [its] scope to provide vital law enforcement resources to address Franklin County's explosive heroin problem, as well as begin to address human trafficking in the region." The second project is the Franklin County Initiative for Regional Excellence in Response (or FIRE Response). The program will bolster the capability of fire departments to work together through new shared software, increased data collection, and communication between departments. And finally, the FRCOG received funds for the North Quabbin Regional Animal Control program, to expand the current Athol shelter to accommodate three additional towns and implement a shared animal control officer. The Patrick Administration developed the Community Innovation Challenge (CIC) grant program in 2012. In two years, the program invested \$6.25 million in 49 unique projects that involve 197 municipalities across the Commonwealth. 2014 is the third year of the grants. Previous local CIC grants have enabled the Sheriff's Office to open a regional dog shelter in late 2012. CIC funds have also created the county's first new regional health district in thirty years: the Cooperative Public Health Service, which serves ten rural towns. For more information on the grant program: www.mass.gov/anf/budget-taxes-and-procurement/working-for-you/community-innovation-challenge-grant/

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HEREABOUTS FOR ONLY \$9.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

EDL Dealer in used Home Furnishings
SMALL FURNITURE • COLLECTIBLES • DECORATIVES
374 Deerfield Street • Greenfield
featuring: Lamps Mirrors Chairs Baskets
Cookery Figurines End Tables
I Make Lamps Lite! Open 7 Days a Week
GOOD USED USABLES

Rau's Auto
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR
(413) 367-2475
531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague
24 hour emergency towing
Best service licensed Mechanics

Animal Crackers
Fun stuff for pets and their people.
Saturday Fish Special
• Aquarium Plants
• Saltwater Fish & Lots of Critters
Animal Crackers
Aquarium & Pet Supplies
44 Deerfield St. (Rte 5 & 10)
Greenfield, MA 413-774-7346
Open Sundays, Noon to 5

Montague Mini Storage | Mike Fuller - owner

The Best Hiding Place in Town
48 Randall Road | 413-863-4680

Simons & Simons
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
Gerry G. Simons
Estates • Wills • Real Estate
Personal Injury
P.O. Box 9 • Turners Falls
(413) 774-3239 gerrygsimons@yahoo.com

RIVERSIDE RADIATOR
General Auto Repair
RADIATORS for CARS - TRUCKS
and HEAVY EQUIPMENT
Foreign and Domestic
Propane Filling Station
Route 2, Gill
863-4049 1-800-439-4049
8-5 Mon-Fri (closed Sat.)



CHIP DODGE PHOTO

The 5th and 6th grade Montague Parks and Recreation team, Montague Gray, took second place last weekend at the 2014 Vernon, VT Invitational tournament with eight other teams. In the end the Gray were beat by Vernon, who took first place. To get to the championship, they won six games and lost only one. Their coach, Charles (Chip) Dodge, says: "Our kids played their hearts out." The players were: Bailey Young, Jake Dodge, Gram Pezzati, Jake Sak, Gabriel Laroche, Vinnie Carme, Brody Baird, Brody Trott and Christian LaRoche.

PARK from page A1

skate park committee on drafting a FY '15 grant application for a Massachusetts Parkland Acquisition and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant to build a permanent concrete skate park at Unity Park.

This grant has emerged as the most likely source of financing, but it would require that the town and skate park committee cover 30% of the project's cost in matching funds.

Ramsey noted that if the PARC grant came through, the difference between the PARC funds and what the skate park committee raised would have to be appropriated by town meeting. In the past, town meeting has been very supportive of the skate park.

The Tony Hawk Foundation, a

non-profit organization, was established in 2002 by its namesake, professional skateboarder Tony Hawk, to promote and provide funds for high-quality public skate parks in low-income areas.

Since then, it has awarded over \$4.5-million to 537 communities, and has provided critical technical assistance to skate park projects, focusing on working with local officials and grassroots, community-based organizations.

Last Friday and Sunday night, twin benefits were held at the Rendezvous in Turners Falls. (See story, B1.) Friday night's donation bucket was stolen during the show.

Below is an excerpt from committee member Bryan Dolan's speech at Sunday's poetry reading:

"Last Friday, the Rendezvous hosted a concert with proceeds to be donated to the Unity Skatepark effort in memory of our dearly loved and sorely missed 15+ year OG skatepark supporter, Greg Ellis.

"The room was electric. Beer flowed, smooches were given and received, everyone danced, and people dug deep to fill a big silver tureen with sweet, sweet cash for the skate park.

"It was reverie of the highest order until around 12:30 when the whole thing came to a screeching halt. Someone had stolen the donated money.

"We came together in that nocturnal congregation to celebrate life, to enjoy one another, to honor our departed friend, and to work toward a goal that none of us can reach alone: to turn Unity Skate park from dream to reality, and someone walked off with the collection plate.

"Someone stole from the Voo, stole from the bands, stole from the donors, stole from Greg, stole from our faith in humanity, stole from our kids, stole from me, stole from you, and stole a little piece of skatepark from the world.

"I would like to believe that it was someone from out of town who

had no idea what was going on, who wandered in, saw a bowl of money, and grabbed it. But the consensus seems to be that it was one of our own whose opiate addiction has numbed his sense of right and wrong to the point where the only good is getting the fix and the only evil is not getting it.

"Heroin is in ascension from Brattleboro to Springfield, and Turners has its own thriving cottage industry in the procurement and resale of prescription narcotics.

"In the past 40 days, nine people have fatally overdosed on heroin and other opiates in Franklin and

Hampshire counties. In the first two weeks of 2014 we saw an eight-fold increase in ODs from the same period last year.

"Three of the kids who were 14 or 15 when we started this project in 2009 are already addicts.

"When I talk about the skatepark project, I usually try to keep it light and brief, but it's an emergency in downtown Turners. Kids have difficult home lives. Boredom is epidemic. Hopelessness and disenfranchisement are built into the culture. Despite the best efforts of many of us, opportunities for kids to engage in positive healthy activities

are outweighed by opportunities to pick up habits that most won't recover from.

"This is why I haven't given up on the skatepark over the last five years. We need it. We need it and 100 other things like it. It won't solve the problems, but it will make a dent, and that's worth it.

"That night, after it was determined that the money was gone for good, a guy – not a rich guy, a guy who works with youth – handed me a \$100 bill. With guys like that around we can't fail. We're going to build this park and we're going to make a difference."

FREE Checks!



when you open a new personal checking account, at our newest location!* Includes online banking & debit card too!

**176 Avenue A
Turners Falls**

right next to the Post Office

413 512-5012



Julie Avery, Teller / Brenda Denison, Manager
Ingrid Zimmerman, Teller / Angie Marvell, Head Teller

Ask about our NEW NO FEE Business Checking & Safe Deposit Boxes too!



Lobby & Drive-up
Mon. ~ Thurs. 8:30am - 4:30pm
Friday 8:30am - 6:00pm
Saturday 8:30am - 12 noon
24 Hour Drive-up ATM

BestLocalBank.com



* Free initial order of standard checks when you open a new personal checking account at GCB. Available at any GCB location for your convenience. \$10.00 Minimum deposit to open account. Offer as of 1/10/2014, subject to change without notice.

MEMBER FDIC
MEMBER SIF

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$12.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Turners Falls Pizza House
Family Owned & Operated
Serving Turners Falls area for 40 Years
Dave Argy, Family & Staff
**PIZZA, GRINDERS,
DINNERS, SALADS, BURGERS**
www.turnersfallspizza.com
119 Avenue A, Turners Falls (413) 863-8000

**TURN'S
LAWN CARE**
Landscape Design & Maintenance
Accepting New Plow Customers
Within 7 Miles of Montague Center
522-2563
www.TurnLawnCare.com

GREAT FALLS HARVEST
fresh, local, creative cuisine

**COME CHECK OUT
OUR UNIQUE
BRUNCH!**

SUNDAYS 10:30 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

Open Thursday through Saturday 5 - 9pm
Sunday 10:30 - 2pm Dinner 5 - 8pm
Join us for three course Thursdays \$25
863-0023
located at 50 Third Street Downtown Turners Falls

COLDWELL BANKER
UPTON-MASSAMONT REALTORS

Donald J Mailloux
GRI
Recognized Top Producer

(413) 665-3771 x104 Office
(413) 665-3772 Fax
(413) 834-1524 Cell
(413) 423-3810 Home
don@cbumr.com E-mail
4 Elm Street, South Deerfield, MA 01372
www.cbupton-massamont.com

Your Local **STIHL** Dealer
413-367-2481

Sirum Equipment Co., Inc.

Sales, Parts & Service
310 Federal Street (Route 63)
Montague
Weekdays: 8 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Serving Home Grown
Farm-inspired Food & Drink

H & O

44 Hope Street, Greenfield, MA 01301
Ph 413 774 3150 | hopeandolive.com

Mary Lou Emond
Certified Residential Specialist

COHN & COMPANY
Real Estate Agency

117 Main Street • PO Box 638
Greenfield, MA 01302-0638
413-773-1149 x142 • CELL: 413-772-9279
EMAIL: MARYLOU@COHNANDCOMPANY.COM

Nichols Vision
Now in Turners Falls

Free, "no pressure" consultations
Bring your prescription in today!

PROVIDERS FOR
EYEMED, DAVIS VISION, AARP, CELTICARE, & others

296 Avenue A (Beside the United Arc)
Turners Falls, MA 01376
(413)863-0100

MoRe

YEAR 12 – NO.18

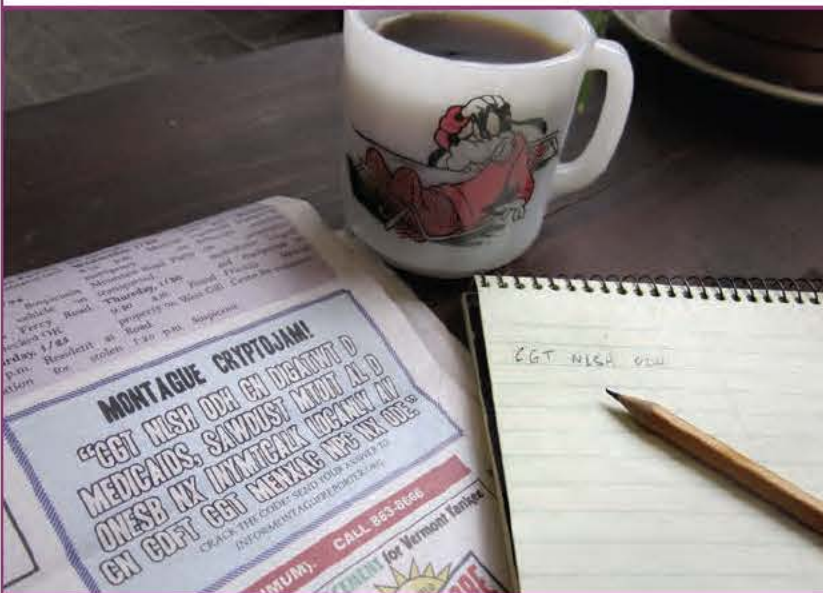
B1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

FEBRUARY 20, 2014

So What's This MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM?



By REPORTER STAFF

LEVERETT – Nearly every week since the middle of October, tucked away somewhere in our *MoRe* section, readers may have noticed a box containing a rude garble of capital letters, along with a solicitation to “crack the code.”

Thus far, seven readers have risen to the challenge, including one, Deb Brazeau, who has correctly answered all 13 puzzles so far.

Eight of those times, Deb has beaten all other players to the punch, though two strong contenders for the crown have emerged: Jill Palmer, and Martin and Jude Wobst. All are from Leverett.

(The Wobsts have both sent several solutions, but never for the same puzzle, so we have so far considered them to be effectively working in cahoots.)

The puzzle is a simple, one-word-substitution cryptogram. Each letter of the alphabet has

been systematically replaced by one other, arbitrarily chosen, letter.

The trick to solving such a cryptogram is either to load the thing into a readily available online solver, which we sure hope nobody is doing, or to make a few educated guesses, based on patterns in the letters’ occurrences, and then hack away the rest through trial and error.

“It provides a nice little break in my week,” writes Wendell’s Chris Wings. “I look at the one- and two-letter words, and the first few words, and make a guess about how the sentence might start...”

“I try to avoid getting stuck at the letter level. It’s much quicker for me to get the gist of a sentence, and guess at what the words might be.”

Easy to create, generally slower in its solving, and well-suited to plug an odd little gap during our **see CRYPTOJAM page B4**

There’s A Thousand Right There: Two Weekend Events At The Voo Drum Up Cash For The Skate Park

By MIKE JACKSON and CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

TURNERS FALLS – Last Friday night’s “Anti-Valentine’s Day” show at the Rendezvous was a benefit for dual causes, seeking to raise a donation to the Montague skate park fund in the memory of Greg Ellis, a longtime skate park proponent who died in a car accident last month.

At the front of the room, Anja Schutz was running a “Heartbreak Photo Scape,” in which photographs of subjects taken in one set would pose wistfully, holding framed photographs – of themselves or loved ones – taken at a “happier time” in an adjacent set.

The headliners were two Greenfield bands that have been frequently pairing up for shows: Holy Vex and Rebel Base. Both are hard-hitting rock’n’roll two-pieces, and they complement each other well.

After a raw but earnest opening set by Mr. Blizzard, Holy Vex guitarist-singer Dylan Kingsolver and drummer Al Goodwin took to the stage.



Both members of Holy Vex would later describe last Friday night’s set as their best show yet.

The duo’s trick is to run a number of expertly groomed, familiar, heavy garage rock sounds – the guitar a showy squall of effects, throaty vocals skating through reverb – through a disorienting sequence of back-to-back tempo shifts.

As soon as a given boogie gets the audience’s heads banging along, it breaks and scatters in all directions, like mercury whacked with a hammer.

It’s an acquired taste, this brazen deconstruction, cutting retro sonic textures into long strips and sewing them edge-to-edge with irregular time signatures. Math for math’s sake will never hold a crowd.

But the internal logic, and momentum, of the band’s compositions have been growing stronger, month by month, and both musicians would later describe Friday’s set as their best show yet.

Energies ran high, and friendly rough-housing pervaded Holy Vex’s set. At one point, an exuberant fan accidentally upended the ice bucket full of the night’s donation cash all over Kingsolver’s array of effects pedals. Nobody found this foreboding.

Anyone frustrated by the Vex’s rock puzzles found a proper release in Rebel Base. Their sludgier, scuzzier, Southern-fried stomp may have come with a wink, but that did not undermine its populist appeal.

Guitarist JD Hairston and drummer Anika Balaco-



Emily Bourque remembers time spent with a happier Emily Bourque.

nis are known locally as the proprietors of the Brass Buckle restaurant on Greenfield’s Main Street, and more than one of their own employees were spotted in the mosh pit, setting the bar impossibly high for cool-boss hopefuls everywhere.

Late in the set, the curtain of riffs was pulled back by a Fugazi cover which failed to capture the skittering anxiety that drove the original forward. The misstep highlighted the challenges the band faces in moving beyond the boundaries of its comfortable, overdriven party metal.

Calamity broke out at the end of the night when the donation bucket was discovered to be missing.

Showgoers scoured the snowbanks, hoping to at least find the empty bucket, but it seems that someone made off with a fairly large, and uncounted, quantity of cash in the late Greg Ellis’ name.

Between additional donations made after that sad fact, and the photo booth take, the event’s contribution to the skate park campaign was a still-helpful \$208.

Not to be deterred, the skate park committee was back to the Voo on **see BENEFITS page B3**



By FRED CICETTI

Q. Do we lose our sense of taste as we get older?

In general, sensitivity to taste gradually decreases with age. But there are some whose taste isn’t affected by getting older.

The ability to taste food and beverages means a lot to seniors. Let’s face it; we lose a lot of the pleasures of our youth, but eating well isn’t usually one of them.

Taste also has a major impact upon our physical and mental health. Our sense of taste is especially important if we have to stay on a diet.

If food loses its appeal, we may eat improperly and put ourselves at risk for heart disease, stroke and diabetes. Loss of taste can lead us to overeat, undereat, or add too much salt or sugar to our food.

While taste is important, we recognize flavors largely through our sense of smell. Try holding your nose while

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Our Sense Of Taste

eating. Smell and taste are closely linked in the brain.

It is common for people who lose their sense of smell to say that food has lost its taste. This is incorrect; the food has lost its aroma, but taste remains. Loss of taste occurs less frequently than loss of smell in older people.

When an older person has a problem with taste, it is often temporary and minor. True taste disorders are uncommon. When a problem with taste exists, it is usually caused by medications, disease, or injury.

In some cases, loss of taste can accompany or signal a more serious condition, such as diabetes or some degenerative diseases of the central nervous system such as multiple sclerosis.

There are several types of taste disorders.

You can have a persistent bad taste in the mouth. This is called a *dysgeusia*.

Some people have *hypogeusia*, or the reduced ability to taste.

Others can’t detect taste at all, which is called *ageusia*.

People with taste disorders experience a specific ageusia of one or more of

the five taste categories: sweet, sour, bitter, salty and savory.

The most common complaint is “phantom taste perception,” which is tasting something that isn’t there.

If you think you have a taste disorder, see your doctor. Diagnosis of a taste disorder is important because once the cause is found, your doctor may be able to treat your taste disorder.

Many types of taste disorders are reversible, but, if not, counseling and self-help techniques may help you cope.

If you cannot regain your sense of taste, there are things you can do to ensure your safety. Take extra care to avoid food that may have spoiled.

If you live with other people, ask them to smell and taste food to see if it is fresh. People who live alone should discard food if there is a chance it is spoiled.

Questions? Send them to fred@healthygeezers.org.

If you would like to read more columns, you can order a copy of “How To Be A Healthy Geezer” at www.healthygeezers.com.



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

By LESLIE BROWN

AJJIJC, MEXICO – On Sunday we awaken to caterwauling cats, crowing roosters and the call of the church bells. It is eight o’clock and time for coffee on the upstairs porch. Soon we begin a stroll down the hill towards the lake when we are arrested by the sound of horses and a marching band.

FIESTA!

We reverse direction in time to join the fun and several costumed and masked “women” begin dancing through the streets, throwing flour and eggshells full of confetti.

Close behind are trumpets, clarinets and a large drum; then the beautiful dancing horses. These animals are so well trained most of the riders do not need to use a bit and just control these delicately moving animals with their heels and a rope as they prance their way up and down the cobbled streets.

We learn that Wednesday the fifth is Constitution Day, and apparently the celebration has begun already. In fact, it lasts until the wee small hours of Monday morning.

Again it is a beautiful sunny day. It’s spring in Ajijic. The Bougainvillea, roses, frangipani, hosta and other tropical plants I can’t name are in bloom. It is mild, probably in the seventies. We

THE TRAVELER’S COMPANION

Morning at La Casita

continue our stroll downwards.

The lake has shrunk. There is at least another five or six feet of shoreline and vegetation sprouts two feet above the surface. The pelicans glide like swans in the shallows, plunging their necks in now and again.

Children troll in the low water; you could wade in for a long way before standing in water up to your knees.

There is a strange nostalgia about expecting things to have held in place while you were gone. It is much like the surprise of seeing a young child after an absence: they have grown often beyond recognition.

We ask about the lake. Guadalajara is the culprit: the city is draining the two rivers which feed the lake, eager for greater supplies of water.

The expansive Capitan who ferried us across to San Luis last year, regaling us with stories and offers of tequila no longer plies his trade in these waters; they are too shallow.

The government has begun construction on a four lane highway to circle the south end of the lake.

We learn that historically Lake Chapella has risen and fallen as its feeder waters have been dammed or set free. In fact, at one time

see TRAVEL page B4



JIM COOK PHOTO

Pets of the Week

I'm Ray. I'm trying to find a home for my son Jay and me, to keep our guinea pig family together. We make a handsome pair and seldom quarrel.

We became homeless because of allergies – not our own.

Why that person didn't move instead



"JAY and RAY"

of us, I will never know.

We are social fellows who enjoy each other's companionship, especially after all the transitions we've been through.

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

Senior Center Activities February 24 through 28

GILL and MONTAGUE

Gill / Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted.

Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

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

Monday 2/24

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
12:45 p.m. Pot Luck and Bingo
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 2/25

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Lunch

Wednesday 2/26

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Monthly Health Screenings

10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Lunch

Thursday 2/27

NO Tai Chi

Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 2/28

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Writing Group

WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call

Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at (413) 423-3308, for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call the Center to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out when is the next blood pressure clinic.

Monday 2/24

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
Tuesday 2/25
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Greenfield Savings Bank Craft Project

Wednesday 2/26

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

Thursday 2/27

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

Friday 2/28

9 a.m. Bowling

LEVERETT

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

Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$5 (first class free).

Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

WENDELL FREE LIBRARY NEWS

"Starcrash" Film Screening

Saturday, March 1, 7:30 p.m.

While running from the authorities, a pair of smugglers pick up a castaway, the only survivor from a secret mission to destroy a mysterious superweapon designed by the evil Count Zartham.

The smugglers are soon recruited by the Emperor to complete the mission, as well as to rescue the Emperor's missing son.

A short film, Episode 3 of "The Phantom Empire": "The Lightning Chamber" will be shown before the feature.

This is another film in the

monthly series of Science Fiction/Fantasy and Horror/Monster movies at the Wendell Free Library in the center of Wendell. Free Admission.

For more information about the Wendell Free Library visit its web page at www.wendellfreelibrary.org or call (978) 544-3559.

Upcoming movies in this series:

Apr 26: "The Giant Gila Monster", starring Don Sullivan, Lisa Simone, and Shug Fisher.

May 31: "The Giant Behemoth", starring Gene Evans, Andre Morell, John Turner, and Leigh Madison.

Wendell Animal Tracking Workshop

On Saturday, March 1, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Paul Wanta will help participants search for, identify and interpret tracks of the forest animals inhabiting our landscape at Fiske Pond Conservation Area.

Depending on the weather, trackers should wear boots (snowshoes optional) and warm clothing/wet weather gear. Space is limited. Contact Ray DiDonato to register at rdidonat@hotmail.com.

Priority will be given to residents of Wendell.

WENDELL CHAMBER CONCERT

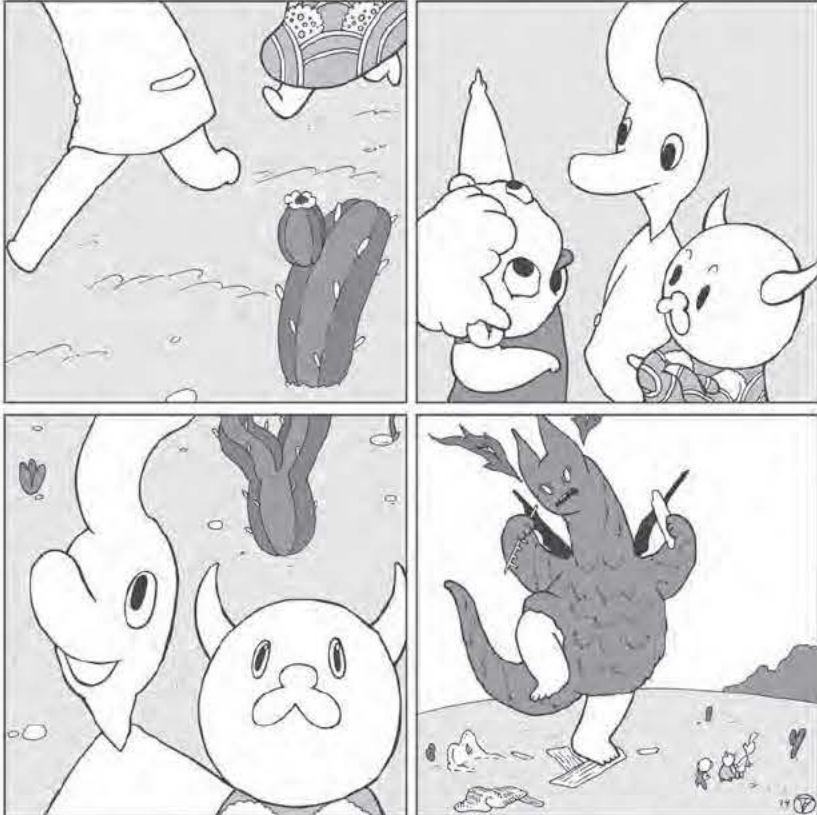
Sunday, February 23, 3 p.m.

The concert will feature music by Mozart, Poulenc, Hovhaness, and Mabel Wheeler Daniels. Performers are Jessica Murrow, oboe; Karen Bressett, clarinet; Karen Horton, French horn; Diane Lipartito, bassoon and Alys Terrien-Queen, piano. 99 West Street, Wendell.

Light refreshments and snacks will be served following the concert (BYOB). All are welcome, but please reserve at classicsinthewoods@crocker.com.

Donations of any amount will be gratefully received.

WEIRD HEALING by OVERTURE



Overture is based in Shelburne Falls. Check out opertura.org.

Leverett: Collage Event Celebrates Trails



Valley families are invited to gather at Leverett Crafts & Arts, 13 Montague Road (next to the Town Hall), on Saturday, March 1, from 1 to 4 p.m. to make collaborative collages with local artists to celebrate Leverett trails.

Please bring trail treasures such as leaves, berries, ferns, pine cones, and/or poems, personal statements, photos, paintings.

On hand will be poster board, markers, scissors, glue, fabric.

The resulting collages will hang in the Leverett Library during March and April.

American Illustration in the Civil War: Slideshow & Talk



As part of "Celebrating the Civil War Era in Leverett," the Leverett Historical Society and Commission invite you to a talk by local illustrator, designer, and educator Frederick (Rick) Schneider.

Rick teaches the History of Illustration at the Lesley University College of Art and Design (formerly the Art Institute of Boston) and at Parsons The New School for Design, in New York.

This digital slide show and talk will present the artists and correspondents of the Civil War era as they portrayed a variety of subjects and issues in the publications and prints of the day. Methods of reproduction will be explained.

The event will take place Sunday, March 9, 2 to 4 p.m. at the Leverett Library.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$9.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

PARTRIDGE-ZSCHAU



25 Millers Falls Road
Turners Falls, MA 01376

(413) 863-4331
www.pzinc.com

Service 7 days a week, visit www.pzinc.com

INSURANCE

Overwhelmed by stuff? Try Franklin County's Most Convenient

IN-TOWN SELF STORAGE

UPPER END OF WELLS STREET, GREENFIELD

413-883-7323

Easy in-town location
Secure 24-hour access

VARIETY OF SIZES
THE BEST PRICES



OFFICE AT 50 CHAPMAN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA

Contractors, Flea Marketers, Tradeshow Vendors and Artists encouraged to inquire

Negus & Taylor, Inc. Monuments

People often come to see us because their parents and their grandparents did. We're proud to have that kind of loyalty, and we work hard to keep it.

- Gary and Nancy Malen

"The perfect remembrance"



MAIN OFFICE 773-9552
10 Mill Street, Greenfield, MA

Hampshire Hearing Services

established 1984



Glenn T. Shinner, AuD

Hearing and Hearing Aid Technology Shaped by Clinical Knowledge Blended with Care & Patience To Optimize Social Interaction

As an Audiology practice, it's who we are and what we do

241 King Street, Suite 119 [Pot Pourri Plaza] Northampton • 413-586-9572
it's all about communication

Renaissance Excavating, Inc.



COMPLETE SITE WORK

Septic & Drainage Systems | Sand, Gravel & Loam

Main Road, Gill
Douglas Edson 413.863.4462



Hartnett Plumbing

Water Heaters, Drain Cleaning, Remodeling, Repairs

"We give you a place to go"

184 Jacksonville Road
Colrain 413-624-0044

Serving all of Franklin County

Mass. License #13175



Power Town Apartments

152 Avenue A
P.O. Box 48
Turners Falls, MA
413-863-9433

professionally managed by:

HallKeen Management, Inc.

rental office on the corner of Ave. A & 4th St.

Sharon Cottrell
Property Manager



REAL PICKLES

Naturally Fermented & Raw



Available at
Old Depot Gardens,
Uppingil, and Food City!

www.realpickles.com
(413)774-2600 Greenfield, MA



Montague WebWorks .com

make the web work for your business

michael muller
owner
413.320.5336

28 Center Street
montague, ma 01351
info@montaguewebworks.com

We arrive at the Golden Mean in...



By DAVID DETMOLD

Tony lived on the third floor of an old brick building that once housed a thriving hardware. Now, lawyers' offices occupied the graceful first floor storefronts with their worn marble doorsteps. Just beyond, a long low building had been tacked on to the east wall of the commercial block.

I thought about this secondary construction as we passed its darkened, cobwebbed facade in the night.

It had been a shoestore once, long ago, hadn't it?

It had that down at the heels look of an old shoestore, one that peddled its wares in a village where everyone worked hard in all weathers, and everybody walked to work, along the steep, rough concrete sidewalks that angled down the slanting hills and sleet slick alleys, jumping off the electric trolleys in the predawn sizzle of rain and booting it through the slushy windrowed snow to the footbridges that crossed over the power canal to the mills.

Cadmus and I walked carefully on the crackling, rock salt lesioned snow.

As we passed by the empty parking lot where once the strip joint had beckoned, before the boiler in the basement exploded and burned it down, I looked back at the long, low shoebox building and said to Cadmus, "That used to be the laundry."

"Yeah? I could of made some use of that."

"It was nothing fancy, really."

I remembered it mostly as convenient, right across the street, half the dryers out of order, but still with clouds of rich, detergent scented steam pouring forth from the grilled exhaust vents.

It was the place to go to find out who had walked out on whom the night before, who had a new used car to borrow to get the kids to the movies or the doctor, who was sick at home and failing, unlikely ever to be seen bundling their dirty clothes into this temenos of absolution again.

Gradually, the washing machines tumbled into irretrievable despair, and the felted skeins of lint and mouse leavings and shreds of last week's news gathered into

shawls and drifted across the concrete floor beneath the washers' off-balanced feet until a day came when the door was locked.

It stayed that way, until one long ago spring morning when suddenly a soft serve ice cream stand swirled into being in the twin front windows of the abandoned laundromat, with its basement rooms still cluttered with old lasts and cobbler's tools, empty shoeboxes and, as I recalled, a treadle operated cast iron sewing machine that looked like a truncated Picasso bull.

Long lines of cheering children, bubbling like little steam kettles, formed on opening day, waiting for a bell to ring somewhere high above their heads, perhaps high up on the Mountain, and for the windows to slide open and the first sprinkled whorls of melting vanilla in sugared horns to be reached across the opening and placed into their expectant hands.

Cadmus and I wandered on down the Avenue to the Golden Mean.

The place was fairly quiet. Zero was behind the bar, polishing a shot glass. He did not look up as we walked in.

"What'll it be, gents?"

"Retsina," said Old Clare, trying to unwind his muffler.

"Two," I said, holding up two fingers.

On the TV, suspended from the ceiling in the corner of the room, a short, avuncular man with a gray goatee was speaking into a microphone in front of the smoking ruins of a multistory, brutalist structure that had the vague pedigree of a Soviet housing block. The squat, concrete building, void of ornamentation, now featured a jagged crater blown more or less through the middle, with swirling dust, smoke and flames pouring from the roof. The sound was off. A caption crawling in red type at the bottom of the screen identified it as the parliament building of the People's Republic of Skopje.

"Partisans?" I asked Zero, pointing at the screen.

"Not this time. Looks like we blew it up ourselves."

"But... I thought they were our allies?"

Continued next week.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Coyotes Baited; Possible Ghost Horse Sighted; Adult's Parents Confiscate Laptop

Friday, 2/7

11:07 a.m. Car into tree on Lake Pleasant Road; operator transported to hospital.

1:06 p.m. Caller concerned that a construction crew working in a high tension area above Turners Falls Road has erected a wall that is now covered with snow; people on ATVs, snowmobiles, or trucks may not see the wall and hit it. Officer spoke to workers, who said that they would make the wall clearly visible.

3:08 p.m. Homeowner reported sewage backing up into basement in Millers Falls. DPW notified.

6:19 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

Saturday, 2/8

5:55 a.m. Upon call back to abandoned 911 call, male party answered and advised that he had been attempting to report that a white horse was loose in his backyard on Turners Falls Road. Officer contacted female believed to own horse; female reported that she could see her horse where it should be on her property. Will check for any breach in fence line.

9:54 a.m. Report of shoplifting at Food City. Investigated.

4:18 p.m. Grey mountain bike with studded snow tires reported stolen from a hallway on Third

Street. Investigated.

4:29 p.m. Report of assault between known parties on Avenue A. Investigated. Parties advised to stay away from each other.

8:53 p.m. Call from 21 year old reporting that his parents stole his laptop computer. Father, put on phone, confirmed that caller's mother was unhappy about some sites being looked at by the caller and took the laptop from him. Laptop returned to caller.

Sunday, 2/9

1:07 a.m. Caller from Second Street felt unsafe going from her vehicle to her residence due to a number of males outside her vehicle, some knocking on her window. Responding officers advised males to take conversation inside and escorted caller to her residence.

1:11 a.m. Vehicle doing donuts in Unity Field lot. Occupants identified and sent on way.

9:05 a.m. Complaint regarding ongoing problem with loose dog on G Street. Advised to call back should this happen again.

2:46 p.m. Two vehicle accident at Willmark Avenue and Bulkley Street. One party transported to hospital.

(Gap in logs provided by the Montague PD.)

complaint on O Street. Advised of options.

9:26 p.m. Report of possible drug activity on Fourth Street. Area checked; unfounded.

Tuesday, 2/11

9:09 a.m. Caller reported ongoing harassment by a neighbor, possibly in retaliation for asking neighbor not to walk her dog on caller's property. Referred to TRIAD.

10:30 a.m. Caller from Pleasant Street reported that her neighbor feeds stray cats and that a coyote had just caught one of the cats and was now eating it a short distance down the street. Caller concerned that by continuing to feed stray cats, neighbor would be providing a regular food source for coyotes, enticing them to remain in the neighborhood. Referred to Environmental Police/Fish & Wildlife.

10:34 a.m. Summons issued in response to a domestic assault in Turners Falls.

2:00 p.m. Caller reported that a man pushing a shopping cart near the Carnegie Library struck his vehicle and damaged a side mirror. Report taken.

6:31 p.m. Officers responded to an alleged assault between known parties on Fourth Street. Parties advised of options.

9:21 p.m. Complaint that noise from snowmobiling neighbors was keeping caller awake. Unable

to locate.

10:49 p.m. Report of laundry stolen from dryer at Suzee's Laundromat.

Wednesday, 2/12

4:46 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Hatchery Road. Investigated.

8:17 a.m. Report of young child (estimated age 7) walking in Millers Falls Road near Winthrop Street; caller concerned that child could be struck by a passing vehicle. Area search negative.

(Gap in logs provided by the Montague PD.)

Thursday, 2/13

3:38 p.m. Credit card reported stolen; unauthorized charges of \$400.00 made since yesterday. Investigated.

Friday, 2/14

2:19 a.m. Report of vehicle abandoned in middle of road in Greenfield. Referred to Greenfield PD.

(Gap in logs provided by the Montague PD.)

Sunday, 2/16

11:28 a.m. Minor two car accident on Third Street involving driving school vehicle and parked car. Report taken.

11:51 p.m. Caller reported that while checking her horses, she noticed a possibly rabid raccoon in the yard. Raccoon dispatched.

BENEFITS from page B1

Sunday, February 16. This time, the event was a well-advertised poetry reading to benefit the skate park: Montague Poets for a Montague Skate Park.

That poetry could raise money for any cause is, of course, a stretch. As "Mr. Nixon" (no relation to Richard M.) tells the young poet in Ezra Pound's 1920 poem "Hugh Selwyn Mauberly," "...And give up verse, my boy. / There's nothing in it."

But as it turned out, both Mr. Nixon and conventional wisdom were wrong. The well-attended reading put almost \$800 more in the skate park's coffers.

The benefit was a great variety show, with poets reading from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Acclaimed poets such as Paul

Mariani, who was awarded the 2009 John Ciardi Award for Lifetime Achievement in Poetry by the Academy of American Poets, teamed up with those just beginning their forays into verse such as Luke Buckham and Nick Picarelli.

Also reading were U.Mass M.F.A. graduates in poetry Janel Nockelby, Kristin Boch, and Chris Janke. David Detmold, Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno, Allen Fowler, Kevin Smith and Edite Cunha rounded out the bill.

In between poetry sets, Rob Skelton's Pitchfork, an eclectic post-punk, deep-backwoods ensemble provided splendid and spirited music to keep the spirit moving.

Along with significant donations from the rapt audience, many of whom stayed for the full four hours,

the Voo graciously donated ten percent of the food and drink proceeds to the cause.



Turners poet Allen Fowler reads from his work at Sunday's event.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$9.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Doug's Auto Body
Doug Smith - Owner

PRECISION REPAIRS

MA Reg. #RS2190

Ph. (413) 863-2785 39 Center Road
Fax: (413) 863-0120 Gill, MA 01354
FREE ESTIMATES FREE LOANER CARS
REPAIRS ON FOREIGN & DOMESTIC CARS AND TRUCKS

413-256-6217

fine instruments bought and sold repaired and restored

Fretted Instrument Workshop

49 So. Pleasant St., Amherst, Mass. 01002

BUY, SELL & TRADE

Madison On The Ave

Arts, Collectibles and the Unexpected

102 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA
413.522.7743

DOLAN & DOLAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

174 AVENUE A
TURNERS FALLS MASSACHUSETTS
01376
413-863-3133

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

KUSTOM AUTOBODY
MA Reg #RS2066

48 Randall Road
Montague
Phone/413-863-3780

Mike Fuller, Owner

NEEDFUL THINGS

SELLING QUALITY USED FURNITURE AND COLLECTIBLES

~ NEW ITEMS ARRIVE WEEKLY! ~

Open Monday-Saturday • 413-774-7430
199 Deerfield Street (Rtes. 5& 10), Greenfield

CRYPTOJAM from page B1
layout shift, the Montague Cryptojam is the perfect puzzle for a weekly local paper on a shoestring budget.

Our eventual ambition is to add a few more such games. For now, we invite you all to try a shot at the one we've got.

This week, at the request of frustrated puzzlers, we will include the answers to all previous Cryptojams, as well as both an easier and a harder puzzle.

Congratulations to Deb, Jill, Jude, Martin, and Chris, as well as Nancy Holmes and Ray DiDonato, for their correct solutions to these puzzles!



PAST ANSWERS

- October 17: *This week the code was made by shifting each letter right one key on my keyboard.*
- October 24: *Kudos to last week's winner, Deb Brazeau of Leverett. Will Deb make it two in a row?*
- October 31: *Doubt is not a pleasant condition, but certainty is absurd.*
- November 7: *Ray DiDonato joins Jill and Deb in our code breakers' circle.*
- November 14: *A poet can survive anything but a misprint. - O. Wilde*
- November 21: *Our office is inundated with fruit flies. Send us flypaper!*
- December 5: *James, while John had had "had", had had "had had"; "had had" had had a better effect on the teacher.*
- December 19: *Maybe Christmas, the Grinch thought, doesn't come from a store.*
- January 9: *Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect.*
- January 16: *We do not provide cryptogram service to Leverett.*
- January 30: *Instruction does much, but encouragement everything! - Goethe*
- February 6: *An injury to one is an injury to all! - Old I.W.W. Slogan*
- February 13: *The only way to achieve a practical, livable peace in a world of competing nations is to take the profit out of war.*

LOOKING BACK:

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on February 19, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Cell Tower

The zoning board of appeals has determined that AT&T's proposal to install cell phone transmitters on the Locke Hill Road tower in Wendell does not require a variance from the setback requirements in the town's wireless communications bylaw.

The contentious variance request was prompted by an error in the copy of the zoning bylaw given to AT&T by the town offices which contained a reference to 'dwellings' in error.

The town's attorney, Bill Solomon, said the proposed modification of the structure was legal under the town's bylaw. Regardless, resident Robbie Leppzer presented a petition from residents who oppose granting a variance to the town's bylaw.

Ice Fishing Derby

The third annual Triad Ice Fishing Derby was a success, with close to 100 people scattered across a thoroughly frozen Barton Cove.

"It's a blue-sky, high-pressure day, which makes for bad fishing," said game warden David Unaitis, "but it's a beautiful day for a derby. You can't complain."

Unaitis' daughter, Elizabeth, was one of many young people who walked away from the day with trophies for their efforts, having caught an 8 1/2" perch that landed her in 2nd place.

Library Grant

The Montague Public Library was one of only four public libraries in the state to receive a highly competitive Department of Conservation and Recreation grant to conduct forestry education programs.

The total award, \$5,000, represents twice as much money as was awarded to any other library.

It will be used to support guided walks on the Montague Plains and the Sawmill River access area, a first ever Cherry Blossom Festival, Arbor Day and Earth Day activities, and enhanced audio/video resources at the library on topics such as trees, forests, and woodlot management.

Land Conservation

The Montague selectboard voted unanimously to add their support to a letter to Douglas Foy, chief of Commonwealth Development, asking for the state's help in preserving a parcel of land in Montague Center considered sensitive to the town's aquifer.

Board member Pat Allen also read excerpts from a letter from the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture responding to citizen complaints about Northeast Utilities' herbicide spraying last summer along the power canal in the Patch. The letter asserted that the spraying had been conducted within legal regulatory guidelines.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Two Missouri Warrants

- Tuesday, 2/4**
9:15 a.m. Report of erratic operation on Route 2A. Operator found to be tired.
- Friday, 2/7**
7:30 a.m. Motor vehicle crash, North Street, Erving Center. Report taken.
- 11:21 a.m. Report of hit-and-run at Erving Post office. Vehicle hit Recorder box. No damage.
- 4 p.m. Report of a loose and aggressive dog at Mountain Road residence. Owner advised of town leash bylaw. Dog restrained.
- Wednesday, 2/5**
8:10 a.m. Motor vehicle crash, Route 2, Farley area. Report taken.
- Thursday, 2/6**
10:50 a.m. Report of suspicious male subject at French King Bridge. Same fled prior to arrival.
- 12:40 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle at Old State Road. Towed.
- 7:30 a.m. Motor vehicle crash, North Street, Erving Center. Report taken.
- 1:45 p.m. Vandalism reported at Pratt Street residence. Report taken.
- 4 p.m. Assisted on scene of motor vehicle crash on North Street and Gulf Road in Northfield.
- 5:50 p.m. Arrested [redacted], as a fugitive from justice on two extradition warrants from Missouri.
- Tuesday, 2/11**
9:15 a.m. Report of two loose dogs on Lester Street. Picked them up and brought them to shelter.
- Thursday, 2/13**
5 p.m. Motor vehicle off roadway, Route 2, Farley Flats area.
- 10 p.m. Alarm at French King Entertainment Center. Same secured.
- Friday, 2/14**
1:05 p.m. Assisted disabled motor vehicle on Route 2 at Old State Road.
- Saturday, 2/15**
1:40 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle area at Route 2 rest area. Moved along.
- 8:01 a.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle on a suspended license.

EASIER CRYPTOJAM!
'FQR ZIFFIL FE ABMI KEMP
BSP KERF FABS SIMIL FE
ABMI KEMP BF BKK.
- BKDLIP, KELP FISSURES

CRACK THE CODE? SEND YOUR ANSWER TO:
INFO@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

HARDER CRYPTOJAM!
PBR YJC CBI ARGY WE CBI
ARGY ALB ARGY ALB ARGY?
- ALOOF GLEE & CBI BLURT

CRACK THE CODE? SEND YOUR ANSWER TO:
INFO@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

TRAVEL from page B1

there was no lake and this expanse below the rings of mountains was populated by farms and cattle. There chain link fences still lurk below the water's surface imperiling low riding craft.

And then there was the lake and it defined the towns around for fifty long miles. As industrial areas built up, the factories poured their waste waters and chemicals into the quiet water until there rose up such a cry about pollution and the loss of fishing that a great effort was made to clean it up. And then it was beautiful again.

An architect is proposing construction of a large complex of living spaces on an open area of the shore. Who will come if there is no lake? If we return next winter, we will see the next chapter in the tale.

ing off for their girlfriends.

We sit and listen to the roving musicians, a drum, and an accordion and, leading the pack, a tuba which is being played with the lightest touch we've ever heard. For many measures it sounds an oompah beat, but this is followed by runs down the scale and trills dancing up and down. Such a light and happy sound that soon couples begin to dance.

Later we climb the hill towards the casita and stop in the plaza to

with garlic and olive oil and spicy pork, toasting another lazy, happy day. As usual we have walked a few miles over uneven cobblestone and done a mile or so on the embarcadero along the lake so our ankles, knees and lower backs are sore but well exercised.

So far, we have: seen and followed two parades, met friends for coffee, gone to a roving studio walk of local artists, explored shops and street vendors of local artisans, begun to choose a few things to bring home and read a couple of books each. We keep track of family, friends, the news and weather on the Internet daily.

I am delighted that my one semester of elementary Spanish has allowed me to tease our coffee vendor about whether he sleeps right there in his truck and to understand the lengthy response he gave me about living several streets away, keeping the shop open from 7-9, but not before running until he breaks out in a sweat because he is beginning to have circulation problems in his legs.

I find it much easier to understand what I hear than to speak at any length. Everyone is always pleased to have visitors try to connect with their native language and all, especially the school children, enjoy showing off the English they know. The days pass, and already, we have been here two weeks.



JIM COOK PHOTO

Evening at Lakeside

The sun slips slowly behind the mountains, leaving the sky and the clouds first gold, then orange, then pink. It is Sunday, and since afternoon whole families have gathered at the lakeside park bringing chairs, cooking equipment, coolers of beer and food and toys for the children.

The traveling vendors trundle their wheelbarrows and carts selling sweets, steamed corn, tortillas, ice cream and soda. The cooking fires smolder as the light weakens. The lake is burnished with gold and pink.

Children run in the sand pulling kites, swim in the shallows and skip rocks. The skate park is full of the more adventurous teenagers show-

admire a dance class around the bandstand.

Six brave couples are being instructed in the steps to a traditional dance which looks a bit like a cross between a waltz and a tango. It is formalized though and the teacher stops the pairs often to count out loudly and ask them to start again. The small crowd of observers claps appreciatively. The usual assortment of street and pet dogs run randomly through and around the action.

As the darkness falls, we finish the walk home. The dark sky is bright with a growing moon, with Jupiter and Orion stepping to the fore. Upstairs on the porch we enjoy a light meal of vegetables, pasta

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$9.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Renaissance Builders
Quality, Craftsmanship, Original Thought
www.renbuild.net
863-8316

WANTED!
Kawasaki
3- and 4-Cylinder Motorcycles
1969 TO 1976
In Any Condition
Call Joe
(978) 760-5042
(508) 481-3397

COUTURE BROS.
Since 1910
Professional Painting & Decorating Contractor
Commercial • Residential • Industrial
"SERVING WESTERN MASS FOR OVER 100 YEARS"
www.couturebros.com
400 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA • 413-863-4346

Pipione's
SPORT SHOP
• Fishing supplies; Live bait
• Fishing & Hunting Licenses
• Paintball & CO₂ Refills
• Guns & Ammo
Open 7 am 7 days a week
101 Ave A, Turners 414.863.4246

Simply Computing
Onsite Software Support on PCs and Macs from Windows to Office to QuickBooks

Debbe Dugan
863-5030

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
DOORS & OPENERS
Devine Overhead Doors
Gerry Devine
106 West Street Hampshire: 586-3161
Hadley, MA. 01035 Franklin: 773-9497

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

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 TUESDAY

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

EVERY FRIDAY

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

ART SHOWS:

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

University Museum of Contemporary Art, UMass, Amherst: *Lynne Cohen: False Clues*, displayed through March 14.

Augusta Savage Gallery, UMass, Amherst: *Kelly Popoff: Rock & Doily*. Displayed through March 14.

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

CALL FOR POETRY:

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

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Augusta Savage Gallery, UMass, Amherst: *Kelly Popoff: Rock & Doily*. Opening reception, 5 to 7 p.m. Display through March 14th.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Greenfield Garden Club Presents: *The Smith College Botanic Garden: Past, Present and Future*. Guest speakers: Cynthia Boettner of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge, update on new invasive species to and Michael Marcotrigiano, Professor of Biological

Sciences and Director of the Botanic Garden at Smith College. 7-9 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault Trio*, Acoustic Rock, with *Sturgis Cunningham & Klondike Koehler*, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Looney Tunes Cartoon Festival*, \$, 7:30 p.m. with music before the movie at 7 p.m.

Wendell Free Library, Wen-

before the movie at 7 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Wistaria Presents: Cafe Buenos Aires*. Music by Jobim, Pujol, Villa-Lobos, Cortes, Guastavino, and Lezcano. Chamber music for guitar, harp, flute, bassoon, cello & piano, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Santina King with Zoë Sundra*, singer/songwriters. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nobody's Fat*, Jazz Trio, 9 p.m.

Route 63, Millers Falls: AfterGlo, current and classic hits, \$, 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shatterack*, alt/country/rock, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Hampden Gallery, UMass, Amherst: *The War & Peace Project* curated by Trish Crapo and Lola Baltzell. Opening reception 2 to 4 p.m. On display through March 16th.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Rick Murnane*, singer/songwriter, 2:30 p.m.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, 13 Montague Rd, Leverett: *Danse Café - French & Breton Dance*. Dancing, instruction, live music, French café ambience. \$, 3 to 5:30 p.m. Info: cynthia@crocker.com

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Moonlight & Morning Star*, new & old rhythm blues, 8 p.m.

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Joliti's Wide Open Microphone*, 8 p.m. with sign-ups at 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Arts Block, Greenfield: *ABCD Jam (ARTS Block Contact Dance Jam)* w/ featured musician Tony Silva, \$, 8 - 10 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Greenfield Community College, Main Campus, Sloan Theater: *Amilcar Shabazz: Civil Rights in America & The Journey toward a More Civil Society, 1964-2014*. UMass Professor of Afro-American Studies Dr. Amilcar Shabazz explores the history of equal rights for all in this presentation, 12:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blue Pearl*, blues & jazz, 8 p.m.



Santina King with Zoë Sundra, singer/songwriters, Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls on Saturday, February 22, 8 p.m.

dell: *Visioning a Solar Future in Franklin County*. Claire Chang and John Ward, anti-nuclear activists, Solar Store, Greenfield owners. Chang and Ward share their experience as educator-entrepreneurs, the rise of local interest in solar energy, and the obstacles - economic and philosophical - they have encountered, 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *M.R. Poulpoulos with special guest Dan Johnson*, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Mud, Blood & Beer Band*, Johnny Cash and much, much more! 9 p.m.

Route 63, Millers Falls: *Sledge*, classic rock, \$, 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Street Change & Lexi Weege*, indie/singer-songwriter, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Looney Tunes Cartoon Festival*, \$, 7:30 p.m. with music

THE LADY KILLIGREW:
Awesome Beer
Amazing Food
Amazing, Awesome Employees!
440 Greenfield Rd, Montague MA
7 Days / 8am - 11pm (at least)
(413)367-9666

Memorial Hall Theater
POTHOLE PICTURES
Fri. & Sat., February 21 & 22, 7:30 p.m.
LOONEY TUNES CARTOON FESTIVAL
Music at 7 p.m.
Friday: *Dick Moulding*, rompin' rags & piano Americana
Sat: *Daniel Hales & The Frost Heaves*
51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls 625-2896

The Brick House COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER
24 3rd Street, Turners Falls
Teen Drop-In Center
Tues.-Sat., 2:30-6:00 p.m.
For information:
www.brickhousecommunity.org
(413) 863-9576

Deja Brew Café & Pub
Draft Beer Fine Wine Great Food
Friday, 2/21 9 p.m.
Josh Levangie & The Mud, Blood & Beer Band
Saturday, 2/22 9 p.m.
Nobody's Fat, Jazz Trio
Sunday, 2/23 8 p.m.
Moonlight & Morning Star
978-544-BREW
57A Lockes Village Road
Next to the Wendell Country Store
www.DejaBrewPub.com

The Rendezvous
Voo Burger
THURS 2/20 7:30pm FREE
Half Shaved Jazz
FRI 2/21 9:30 FREE
Lexi Weege -- Street Change (alt-folk/singer-songwriter)
SAT. 2/22 9:30 FREE
Shatterack (alt-country)
SUN. 2/23 9pm FREE
TNT KARAOKE
MON. 2/24 8pm FREE
Joliti's Open Mic!
78 THIRD STREET
TURNERS FALLS, MA
RENDEZVOUSTFMA.COM
TEL:413-863-2866

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$9.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

DILLON CHEVROLET INC.
54 Main Street
P.O. Box 729
Greenfield, MA 01302

Avalanche • Colorado • Suburban • Tahoe • Equinox • Traverse • Vans
JOHNNY AUSTIN
Sales Representative
Bus. Phone (413) 773-3678
Fax (413) 774-5746

Brian R. San Soucie Locksmith - CRL
Serving the Area for over 25 years. Certified • Bonded • Insured
We Install all Types of Locks & Entry Devices for Businesses and Homes
28 Montague Street
Turners Falls, MA 01376
Beeper 290-1162
863-2471
Fax 863-8022

- Dead Bolts
- Household Lock Sets
- We Master Key & Re-Key
- Safe Combinations Changed

432 Greenfield Road
Montague, MA
Right next door to the Bookmill!
Call (413) 687-2126 to schedule an appointment today.
Nancy Paglia
Massage Therapy
Yoga Classes & Private Yoga Sessions
Women's Yoga Circles
Workshops & Retreats
Montague, MA
Gift Certificates, Wellness Packages and On-Site Classes and Services available.
Ask us about our discounts for new clients this fall!

FOUR WINDS SCHOOL
The strengths of the one-room school meet the challenges of the 21st Century.
nurturing each student's strengths and curiosity, challenging every student every day, helping students develop the determination and the basic skills they need to follow their own inspiration
413 863-8055 www.fourwinds.school.info

Bryan G. Hobbs Remodeling Contractor
Blown Cellulose Insulation • Airsealing • Energy Audits
Replacement Doors & Windows • Roofing • Siding
Home Repairs • Spray Foam Insulation
Call Now for a Free Energy Audit: (413) 775-9006
Bryan G. Hobbs
346 Conway St., Greenfield
bryanhobbsremodeling@gmail.com

THE HARP IRISH PUB
GREAT SEAFOOD & GOOD TIMES
Irish Seisun Music
Thursday 4 to 7
Friday 9 to 1
163 Sunderland Rd. • Amherst
(413) 548-6900

[Pam Veith REALESTATE]
Barbara A. Edson-Greenwald
REALTOR, ABR, CRS, e-PRO, GRI, SRES, CBR
Office: (413) 498-0207 x2
Cell: (413) 834-4444
Home: (413) 863-9166
Home Fax: (413) 893-0218
bedson1@comcast.net
75 Main Street, Suite 105,
Northfield, MA 01360
www.PamVeithRealEstate.com

TNT PRODUCTIONS
DJ & KARAOKE SPECIALISTS
"We Know Entertainment"

www.tntprodj.net
413-522-6035

CRUISE & TRAVEL COMPANY
30 Montague St.
TURNERS FALLS
413-863-3143 | 888-763-3143
www.cruiseandtravelcompany.com

YOU ASKED FOR IT, YOU GOT IT:
HONOR
 78 3RD STREET
 TURNERS FALLS
 (413)863-2866
 THE RENDEZVOUS IS OPEN DAILY 11:30 A.M. - 1 A.M. FOR EVENTS CHECK OUT WWW.RENDEZVOUSTFMA.COM

FORGETFUL

As adults, we have become firm in our belief. Growing out of our generation is the belief that I do not have to go to church to worship God. I can do it anywhere. I myself believe I can worship God everywhere. One such place is the great outdoors. To me it is God's masterpiece made for me to enjoy, not worship but enjoy.

I wonder how many of us use this as an excuse to get out of going to church.

The Bible says:

"not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."
 (Heb. 10:25)

Just as solitude and separation from the crowd has many benefits, so too does being with other Christians. It is in church we are built up in Christ. It is in church we can experience God's great blessings.

Set aside those preconceived ideas and go to church.

This is as written.
 We are Calvary Baptist Church in Turners Falls.
 God's blessings are yours.



Right: Swift water breaks over the rock dam on the Connecticut River on a chilly day last week.

Left: The old toboggan run at Unity Park in the 1920s.

MONTAGUE REPORTER

Our January 30 edition spreads across the Western Hemisphere!

At right: The Reporter has found its way to the Isla Mujeres on the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. It was read by Edward Schiebler of Montague, who was there with his wife, Joann, celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary.

ON THE ROAD

Mark Wisniewski peruses the Reporter in El Valle de Cocora, Colombia.

Jill Palmer solved this week's Cryptojam from Hawaii!



MAURE BRIGGS-CARRINGTON PHOTO

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$12.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

SCAPES BUILDERS & EXCAVATION, LLC.

New Construction Renovation Site Work

P. 413-665-0185 www.scapesbuilders.com
 110 N Hillside Road South Deerfield, MA 01373

Diemand Farm Mormon Hollow Road, Wendell

Great Homemade Soups, Made With Bone Broth!

(978) 544-3806
 Farm Store Hours:
 Mon. - Sat. 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Closed Sundays Jan-March
 "Come See What's Cooking!"

Your REPLACEMENT for Vermont Yankee

SOLAR STORE
 413 772 3122
Advice, Design & Installation
 www.SolarStoreofGreenfield.com

Dennis L. Booska Phone & Fax
 Dennis L. Booska, Jr. 413-863-3690

Booska's Flooring

169 Avenue A, Turners Falls **Tile Lino Carpet**

Member The Flooring Network.

The Gill Tavern

Come For a Drink, Stay For a Meal
Now serving Sunday Brunch! 10am-2pm

www.thegilltavern.com Open Wed - Sun at 5 PM
 326 Main Road, Gill, MA 413-863-9006

SHANAHAN CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY CO. INC.

SCSC "Rock solid service with level advice"

Regency Fireplace Products
 Come see our full line of pellets, wood, gas stoves, inserts & fireplaces today! Our Fireplace Design Center makes it easy to choose the right unit to suit your lifestyle.

www.shanahansupply.com
 529 S. Main St., Brattleboro • 802-579-1800
 298 Avenue A, Turners Falls • 413-863-4322

magpie • Pizzas
 • Entrees
 • Salads
 • Full Bar & Patio

magpiepizza.com
 21 Bank Row, Gfld.
 413-475-3570

woodfired pizzeria

Serenity Home Organizing
 decluttering, downsizing, deep cleaning

Jill Bromberg
 Montague, MA
 413-367-9959

clear your space, clear your mind

LOOT
 found + made

Hours: Wed 11-5, Thurs-Sat 11-6, Sun 11-5

413-863-9500 • loottheshop.com
 62 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Peter Waters Painting Services

Interior/Exterior
 Custom Residential
 Fully Insured

Office: 978-544-6534
 Cell: 413-461-5172
 Wendell, MA
 peterjwaters88@gmail.com

Geri Johnson, Realtor
 ABR, CRB, CRS, GRI, SRES
 413-863-9736 • GeriJohnson@Realtor.com

Don't settle for less
Choose a CRS (Certified Residential Specialist)

Only 4% of all REALTORS hold this prestigious designation. The CRS is my badge of expertise and your shield of assurance. Put your trust in the best to get the job done. Whether buying, selling or retiring, always choose GERI JOHNSON, CRS 30 years of experience.

Gerri Johnson & Associates REALTORS 66 French King Hwy., Gill
 (413) 863-9736 • WWW.GJAR.COM

TURN IT UP!

MUSIC & MOVIES

BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309