



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 27, 2014

Wendell Health Board To Vote On Variance for “Simple Living”

By KATIE NOLAN

The Wendell board of health is boldly moving forward with a conservation-oriented housing variance process that allows for alternative water, heating, and waste disposal systems.

Under the variance process, the board of health could sign off on the building or occupancy permit for an owner-occupied home that meets the standards of the state sanitary code, but lacks electricity or running water.

The board, stimulated by the “simple living” proposal presented by Jonathan and Susan von Ranson of Lockes Village Road, held a public hearing on the new variance process Wednesday.

The variance process allows the board to sign the building permit for a property owner who either meets Title V septic system regulations OR demonstrates water conservation and an alternative system designed to safely handle the reduced flow in an alternative conservation-oriented household.

The von Ransons received approval from the Wendell planning board in 2009 to build an energy-conserving, low-carbon-footprint, non-electric apartment with a

see WENDELL page A5

Local Businesses Double Size of Skate Park Challenge

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

TURNERS FALLS – A number of local businesses, including Australis Aquaculture, Green Fields Market, The Northeast Foundation for Children, Joe Landry Studio, Real Pickles, Montague Webworks, Renaissance Builders and Toby Briggs Carpentry, are doubling the size of a recent \$5,000 matching pledge to the Unity Skate Park campaign.

The Tony Hawk Foundation notified the town last week that they were providing a challenge grant to assist in fundraising efforts to build a seamless concrete skate park at

Unity Park in Turners Falls.

With the new combined business pledges totaling \$5,000, the size of the skate park challenge has now increased to \$10,000. But as with the Tony Hawk challenge grant, the funds will only be available if the skate park committee can receive the same amount from other donors this spring.

Suzette Snow-Cobb, from Green Fields Market, which along with Australis is a major donor to the challenge, commented: “Supporting healthy activities for our young people is one way that the co-op can work toward achieving healthy people and a healthy community.”

“And sure, having a skate park is pretty cool, but it has also been a fantastic community building project and that too is something within the co-op’s mission.”

Although a majority of the money needed to build the new state-of-the-art skate park will come from government grants or the town, the skate park committee, a volunteer project of the Brick House Community Resource Center, has pledged to assist the town in meeting the challenge.

Their goal is to raise an additional \$10,000 in advance of the crucial vote to fully fund the Unity Park skate park. That vote is expected to take place at Montague’s annual town meeting in early May.

see CHALLENGE page A5



Alexander Jackson nose-grabs at a Skate Greenfield event last April.

Bad News, and Good News, for the Strathmore... Again

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – As it has so often over the last decade, the future of the Strathmore mill complex dominated the February 24 meeting of the Montague selectboard.

The mill is sometimes considered the key to the ongoing redevelopment of downtown Turners Falls. But the town, which now owns almost all of the 230,000 square foot complex, has struggled to develop the property. It is currently only occupied by one business, an electrical generating company called Swift River Hydro which actually owns one of the smaller component buildings.

The Strathmore needs, as they say “a lot of work” (like water, plumbing, electricity and a viable sprinkler system, not to mention a roof that does not leak).

Montague town meeting appears to be tired of pouring money into the building but current estimates of tearing it down (including hazardous waste removal) exceed four million dollars. What to do?

If Turners Falls fire chief Robert Escott had his way, the town would scramble immediately to fix what he believes are numerous hazardous conditions at the mill. On February 19 he hand delivered to town administrator Frank Abbondanzio an “Order of Notice” requiring the town to correct several safety issues.

In his notice Escott demanded removal of “all stored combustible and hazardous materials; close “openings



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

to the weather”; eliminate roof leaks; “make operable fire department connection to system #2”; repair sprinkler system #2; and mark the outside with a red box and white x indicating exterior operations only to all fire departments.

Four of the listed conditions were to be addressed within 48 hours and the rest within 14 days. In an accompanying letter, Fire Chief Escott noted that he had recently inspected the building and found it “in disrepair and declining rapidly.”

He raised the issue of an employee of Swift River Hydro using the building “as a primary residence.” He called the Strathmore “an extreme hazard which will only be worse during fire conditions.”

Escott attended the Selectboard meeting, although he claimed that he had not been officially invited. The board invited him up to the table, along with building inspector David Jensen who presented a point by point response to the Order of Notice.

see STRATHMORE page A5

Greenfield Road Hearing: Twenty-Five Percent of a 36-Ton Bridge

By DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE CITY – “You can’t get there from here.”

That, in Yankee lore, is the best way of handling a traveling tourist’s request for directions to a nearby village. But it might also be the best way of answering the question that has nagged Montague residents since April Fool’s Day, 1999, when the bridge that spanned the railroad on Greenfield Road began collapsing, cutting the main artery north from Amherst and Montague Center to Greenfield neatly in half.

How exactly do you get from Montague Center to Montague City, anyway?

According to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, the best way to do that is to pay for a full-depth reconstruction of Hatchery Road, widening and repaving that side road into a four-tenths of a mile long detour around the severed artery, and leaving a quarter-mile section of Greenfield Road south of the railroad hanging in a permanent cul de sac.

Oh, and if you are riding a bicycle, the Mass DOT will get you there along the old direct route between the western villages of Montague, courtesy of a new pedestrian and bicycle bridge, that would be built strong enough to handle emergency vehicles, but not

cars or trucks.

That was the proposal Richard Masse, district project development engineer for the Northampton district office of the Mass DOT, brought to a crowd of about 20 Montague citizens on Thursday, February 20, at a 25% design hearing at the public safety complex on Turnpike Road.

Back in April 1999, MassHighway spokesperson Jon Carlisle said he hoped the Greenfield Road bridge could be repaired and reopened within weeks. “We certainly don’t want it to be closed for a year,” he added.

When his turn to comment on the DOT’s revised proposal came around, Montague town planner Walter Ramsey explained, “There are four different projects in progress on the west side of Montague.”

From the Montague Book Mill to its dead end at the Pan Am Railroad, the road will be repaved, and drainage improvements will be made.

In the project discussed last Thursday, a pedestrian bridge would be installed over the tracks, and Hatchery Road would be widened to a 26-foot width, with 12-foot traveling lanes, narrowing to 20 feet wide at the end of Greenfield Cross Road to allow for the preservation of an historic barn on the former Bitzer Farm, now owned by

Robert and Lisa Adams of Our Father’s Farm.

In the third project, Greenfield Road from Hatchery north to Montague City would be straightened and completely reconstructed, a project that had already been on the drawing board for more than 20 years back in 1999, at a cost estimated at \$3.2 million.

Those plans were put on hold when Pan Am’s predecessor, Guilford Rail, undermined the bridge abutments and caused the overpass to collapse, in a failed bid to lower the rail bed and allow double-decker box cars to pass beneath it.

The fourth project, Ramsey said, involves “crossing and transit improvements” to Montague City Road, to better connect the canalside bike path to the south side of that busy road. In the end, “You’ll be able to safely ride a bike from Montague Center to the rail trail without ever having to worry about traffic,” he added.

Susan Conger, who commutes from Montague Center to Greenfield by bicycle, said she was “super duper thrilled” at the proposal for the bridge, and for bike lanes on a widened Greenfield Road.

But John Burek, a resident of Burek Drive in Montague

see BRIDGE page A5

GCC Conference Targets Heroin Crisis

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GREENFIELD – State Senator Stan Rosenberg stood at the podium in the transformed dining commons at Greenfield Community College on Monday afternoon, February 24, facing a room filled with overflowing, to talk about the growing crisis of heroin addiction in Massachusetts. He told the crowd, “Drug addiction needs to be treated as a disease.”



ELLEN BLANCHETTE PHOTO

State senate majority leader Stan Rosenberg spoke at the conference.

The conference, “Heroin: A Community Response to a Community Crisis,” was presented by Opioid Education and Awareness Task Force of the Franklin, Hampshire and Quabbin Regions.

In the audience were legislators, law enforcement, educators, professionals from drug treatment programs and social service agencies and concerned members of the community.

The call was being made

to change the approach from criminal to medical in order to better deal with the issues of drug addiction.

The presenters all spoke of needing a new approach that includes more beds for detox and drug treatment, higher reimbursement rates for providers, and looking at drug addiction as a chronic disease like diabetes, not as criminal behavior.

Rosenberg said people in crisis need to go right into a

sachusetts Trial Court, told those gathered that heroin affects all levels of society, and that we need to treat each addict with an eye to the underlying issues of addiction.

She said they are proposing eight drug courts. She also spoke of the need to involve veterans’ services since many soldiers come home with addictions and in need of help.

Carey also addressed the need for beds: “We know when a person comes before our court, we have a short window of opportunity to get them the services they need.”

She emphasized that if addicts have no program, no detox bed, no treatment facility, no room at the hospital, then they go back out on the street. The next place they may be in is the morgue.

Hilary Jacobs, Director of the Bureau of Substance Abuse, spoke about the state’s need to provide treatment and support for people when they come out of treatment. More needs to be done, she said, with prevention programs and education. Jacobs said that the younger children are when they start drinking alcohol, the more likely they will develop a substance abuse problem as they grow older.

She also noted robust treatment programs are in place

see HEROIN page A6

The Montague Reporter

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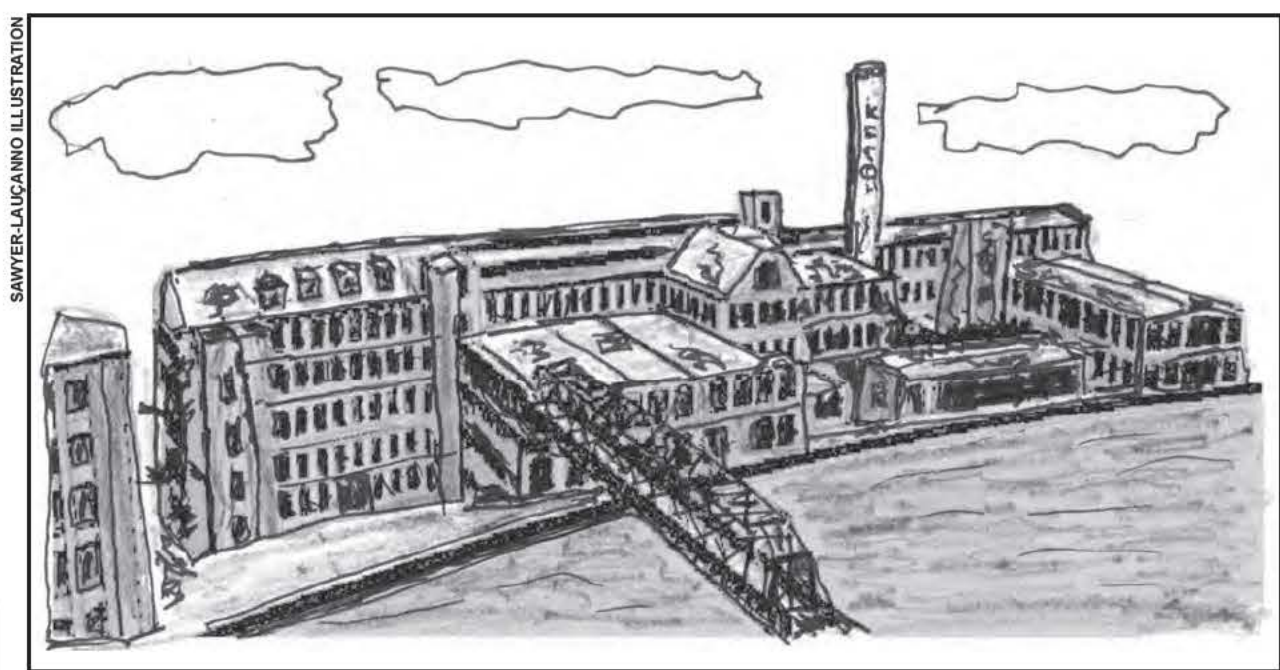
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The Jewel of Montague?

The Strathmore... Again

We still remember quite vividly that August day in 1994 when International Paper announced it was closing the Strathmore Mill in Turners Falls. Our concern at the time was for the 97 hourly and 26 salaried employees who had earned a reasonably good wage at the mill. Many, we knew, had worked there for years; a few were even second- and third-generation Strathmore (or Keith Paper) workers.

International Paper stressed at the time that they were not closing their mill down the road, the Millers Falls Paper Company, and hinted that some of the employees would be offered positions there. By 2003, of course, that mill was also gone and few, if any, had been able to find another job there.

So begins the recent history of the Strathmore, where both villains and heroes have had large roles. International Paper certainly takes fairly high honors in the villain category. Not only did they close the plant, they also refused to sell the facility to the workers who were hoping to start an independent company of their own.

When it became clear that the mill would not be able to continue operations, a group of artisans began to lease space in the now-vacant mill. By 1996, a variety of businesses had set up shop there, including a dog obedience school, a photographer, a nozzle-testing lab, an electronic research company and a puppet maker.

These heroic small companies invested about \$250,000 of their own cash into renovating and upgrading the space. They dubbed the old mill "Canal Road Arts and Industries Building." The future looked promising.

But I.P. again pulled the plug. In 1996, they gave these investors 15 months to move out. IP management decided to mothball the mill and perhaps put it up for sale.

During the "Canal Road Arts and Industries" period, the Town of Montague was heroic. They worked with the incubator businesses, created the historic-industrial district designation, and even amended the zoning bylaws to allow for more flexibility (including, by special permit, living spaces).

But once I.P. decided to pull out, the town made its first bad Strathmore decision: It turned down I.P.'s offer to sell the entire complex to the town for \$10. The reasoning at the time was that the town did not want to become involved in the property management business.

In 2003, a paper recycler, Jerry Jones struck a deal with I.P. to buy the entire mill for \$40,000. That same year, the town commissioned a feasibility study to determine how best to market the facility. Again, some hope began to form in the minds of at least a few that something positive could happen. Meanwhile, Jones offered to sell the buildings to the town for \$100,000. But town meeting rejected the offer and Jones continued to pile up paper in building after building.

And then came the fire in May 2007 that completely destroyed Building 10. Again, there were heroes, particularly the Turners Falls Fire Department who managed, with the assistance of fire companies from almost every town in the valley, to limit the major damage to just one building.

Another firestorm arrived shortly afterward in the form of John Ancil, who bought the increasingly derelict Strathmore from Jones, and announced that the complex would soon become a major film institute. Despite some high hopes, the project proved far too ambitious. Three years later, in 2010, the town took back the property.

And then the marketing resumed. But the years of neglect, not to mention the difficulties of both pedestrian and vehicular access to the property, have made the property a difficult sell.

Last year, a couple of groups came forward with ideas for redevelopment. The town rejected a proposal by the Threshold Cooperative to coordinate a coalition of local businesses, nonprofits and artists to fill Building 11. Instead they opted to lend the entire complex to a group from elsewhere.

Predictably, within six months, they too had abandoned ship.

Now, the town is once again sending out a request for proposals, hoping that perhaps this time, the right developer will come along.

We applaud the effort. We applaud the diligence of town planner Walter Ramsey, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio and building inspector David Jensen in their preparation of a biddable document.

Despite the setbacks, the wrong directions, the bad luck and the economic downturn, we still believe in the potential of the mill.

It is a gem – although blackened and rough – waiting for someone or someones with both vision and cash. May it happen.



Thanks

Many thanks to Lance Rice for his articulate honesty, and for being willing to share his story of addiction and recovery in the pages of your newspaper.

Thanks also to *The Montague Reporter* for providing a space in which the powerful disease of addiction can have a face, rather than just a bunch of statistics.

Mr. Rice's story provides the alternate account to the blurbs of the police report, and helps us all become more compassionate toward our neighbors struggling in the grips of addiction.

Joanna Frankel
Gill

GUEST EDITORIAL In Defense of the Ceremonial Hill Designation

By DOUG HARRIS

I find it difficult to understand the source of Mr. Singleton's apparent anger. At least six times he cites "rock formations" as the focus of his concerns. There are no rock formations on the hill. To my understanding, a rock formation is rock or ledge shaped by Nature with no human assistance.

At the Turners Falls Airport, what the Tribes are asking for under the National Historic Preservation Act is a permanent commitment that protects the Ceremonial Hill at the Airport and its ancient man and/or woman made ceremonial stone groupings, ceremonial stone row and related effigy stones.

All of these are components of an ancient Tribal ceremonial stone landscape calendar that identified when to do ceremonies that assisted certain spirits of the deceased as they made their journeys to Kautantowitt's House in the southwestern celestial sky.

Near the Hill, archaeological evidence indicated the presence of a camp site that was used in events

Hidden Costs of Natural Gas

I agree with the Feb 13 editorial that it's a complicated proposition to tell our urban neighbors that we don't want a gas pipeline in our backyard.

However, I'm skeptical of the idea that, from a climate change perspective, it makes sense to rely on natural gas as a "transition fuel".

Natural gas is far from a clean fuel, particularly given the large quantities of methane leaked during drilling and production. Methane is 30 times more potent a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.

And, given the urgency of the climate change situation, there really is no time for transition fuels anyway.

The only potentially suitable argument in favor of building a new gas pipeline would be this: If we, as a society, are going to continue to do next to nothing to slow climate change (a bad idea, to be sure), then we indeed need to increase our capacity to burn fossil fuels.

Yet, even then, there are still good reasons to raise a stink about the gas pipeline plans.

Kinder Morgan should not be

building pipelines over drinking water supplies. Nor should pipelines be running through wildlife management areas.

Natural gas (as with all fossil fuels) is a whole lot more expensive than its selling price suggests. The cost of accelerating climate change doesn't show up in the price of gas, for example.

There are also hidden costs when, say, a leaking gas pipeline contaminates a drinking water supply.

Regardless of whether Kinder Morgan *should* build their pipeline, it is entirely appropriate for our community to step up and demand that it be built in a way that protects the common good.

If, as a result, the pipeline becomes more expensive to build and the gas it transports more expensive to buy, so be it.

In the grand scheme of things, "cheap" fossil fuels – with their hidden costs passed off to rural communities and to future generations – are a help to no one.

Dan Rosenberg
Montague

the Mashpee accepted the F.A.A.'s (Federal Aviation Administration) challenge to submit the archaeologist's findings and the Tribal findings for a judgment by the National Register of Historic Places. We felt if fairness was a factor, we had a chance.

By federal law, this division of the National Park Service is the final arbiter of what is or is not considered "significant" by U.S. standards of historic preservation and therefore "eligible" for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

We, as Indigenous Americans, are seldom surprised when treaties are broken and promises of fairness are not kept.

Our Tribal histories with the U.S. have taught us that rulings from Washington regarding Tribes are expected to have some form of setback or trickery attached.

I was shocked when I read the fax on December 11, 2008 detailing that the Keeper of the National Register had ruled that the "Turners Falls Sacred Ceremonial Hill Site" was eligible for placement on the National Register and therefore was worthy of preservation.

Only months before, the Hill was destined to be bulldozed as a cheap
see NPS next page

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Compiled by Don Clegg

Join Paul Wanta on Saturday, March 1, from 9 a.m. to noon for an **animal tracking workshop** around the Fiske Pond Conservation Area in Wendell, where we will search for, identify and interpret tracks of the forest animals inhabiting our landscape.

Depending on weather, wear boots (snowshoes optional) and warm clothing/wet weather gear.

Space is limited, contact Ray DiDonato to register (*rdidonat@hotmail.com*). Priority will be given to residents of Wendell.

Fresh vegetables, squash, root vegetables, apples, cheese, canned preserves and pickles, meat, eggs, bread, baked goods, and more are available at the **Greenfield Winter Farmers Market** at Greenfield High School located at 1 Lenox Avenue, on Saturday, March 1, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m..

Urban Wildlife Rehabilitation is holding a **skating party fundraiser** on Sunday, March 2, at the UMass Mullins Center in Amherst.

This fundraiser is to help prepare for the incoming small mammals

they treat during the year. Spring is a time for babies and animal activity, and often parents are injured or killed while searching for food and shelter. Urban Wildlife Rehabilitation provides medical care, food, and shelter for injured and orphaned wildlife.

The event costs \$6 for children, UMass students, and season pass holders, and \$10 for adults.

A **senior symposium entitled Gun Culture: A Hunter's Perspective** will be presented by Amherst College sociologist and avid hunter, Jan Dizard at the GCC Downtown Center, 270 Main Street, Greenfield on Wednesday, March 5, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Now that hunting has been separated from its agrarian roots for over a century, the gulf between hunters and non-hunters has widened.

The relationship between hunting weapons and military or paramilitary weapons has been contested ground since the original debates that led to the drafting of the Second Amendment. Dizard will reflect on the ways in which hunting traditions and the gun control debate

have figured in politics over the past two decades.

Jan Dizard is Professor of American Culture and co-chair of Environmental Studies at Amherst College. He is widely published on the topics of wildlife, conservation, animal rights, and the ethics of hunting.

Parents of Leverett Elementary students in Grades 4, 5, and 6 are invited to a conversation about Social Networking on Wednesday, March 5, beginning at 7 p.m. in the school library. The evening will begin with a presentation on Internet Safety and then move into an open discussion of the implications for our LES students. All interested members of the school community are most welcome to attend.

The Carnegie Library in Turners Falls will host an **informal gathering of local genealogists** on Thursday, March 6 at 6 p.m. There will be access to computers to follow some leads, or just converse about where research is headed.

Everyone has successes and dead ends. Come and share yours! Updates are found at *genealogygathering.blogspot.com*.

Meeting Yourself in the World is a free four-week workshop that will run on Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon starting March 7 at Turners Falls Women's Resource Center, 41 Third Street in Turners Falls.

Facilitator Kathleen Bowen will use artistic exercises to awaken and deepen in participants a renewed

interest in the world around us, especially in the people we meet.

Space is limited so please call Christine, TFWRC Program Coordinator at (413) 863-4804 ext. 1003 to register.

The Rotary Club of Franklin County offers an evening of food, fun, and **fundraising to benefit Ice Stars for Wounded Warriors** on Friday, March 7, starting at 6:30.

Enjoy a fun filled evening of wine tasting, music, appetizers, socializing, a cash bar, and many great raffles! Prizes include tickets to the World Champs Boston Red Sox. Live music by George V. Corsiglia, Scott Kuzmeskus and Chris Croteau. Wine tasting with Tom Bresciano. \$20 per person in advance, \$25 at the door!

For tickets contact Tim at Gilmore & Farrell Insurance, any Rotary Club member, Penni Menard, Penny Ricketts & Kerry Togneri. Space will be limited. Held at the Country Club of Greenfield located at 130 Country Club Road in Greenfield. (413) 433-7170.

Montague Elementary School is hosting **Dr. Seuss Night** at the Hillcrest building on Monday, March 10, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. All are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

There will be art/literacy activities in various rooms, refreshments, and a book give-away at the end of the evening.

Send your local briefs to *editor@montagureporter.org*.

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Tough Fiscal Times for Schools

By DAVID DETMOLD – After insisting that the elementary school committee keep their budget increase below 2% this year, the selectboard did not blink when regional school committee representative Kip Fonsch told them on Tuesday that the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District was planning a 1.8% budget increase for the coming fiscal year, even though that increase will come with a 4.29% hike in the town of Leverett's assessment.

Departing school committee chair Catherine Brooks held the line at a \$3,188 (1.94%) increase in the elementary school budget earlier this month, turning down a request to add \$1000 to the library's budget in order to keep the bottom line increase below 2%.

On Tuesday, Fonsch told the selectboard the preliminary budget request for the regional school would add about \$60,000 to last year's assessment for the education of students in the upper grades.

Selectboard member Peter d'Errico referred to reports projecting the loss of regional school staff positions to attrition, as a reflection of austere budgetary conditions, saying, "At least at the regional level we are seeing that; we haven't seen that yet at the local level. The budget we are being given [by the region] not only reflects the tight fiscal times, but also the creative thinking to best utilize the resources that are available."

Fonsch told the selectboard that regional school enrollment, which had peaked during the early years of the 2000s, has now declined to levels last seen in 1990. Earlier this month he told the elementary school committee that "the discussion has been raised" of whether it may soon be advisable to close the regional middle school and consolidate all the upper grades in the high school building.

Asked to detail the region's capital spending proposal for the coming year, Fonsch said, "You never want to sacrifice the instructional program," in favor of capital upgrades to the facility. He said the region planned to offer a long term capital plan to help "create a greater degree of certainty," for member towns.

The selectboard said finance committee chair Tom Powers was supportive of this approach.

A review of the region's FY'15 budget document shows \$225,000

in proposed capital spending for the middle school, for such projects as re-grouting the swimming pool, upgrading the pool's heating system, renovating the boys' locker rooms, and installing security cameras.

The selectboard criticized the process by which the region approved capital outlays last year, which included a \$306,000 renovation to the middle school tennis courts.

Boiler replacement at the high school is estimated at \$600,000 in FY'15, and board chair Rich Brazeau asked whether Green Communities funding for some of the member towns could help with that.

When talk turned to the budget process in light of declining elementary enrollment, Fonsch said Leverett Elementary faced an "existential crisis." "The town has to have a serious conversation about that, and allow all stakeholders to participate.... Despite how I feel about school choice...we could open up the doors to more school choice kids."

D'Errico responded, "We'd still have an existential crisis: 'Is this a Leverett elementary school, or an elementary school in Leverett?'"

In the past, Fonsch has likened the school choice program, which brings \$5,000 in state aid along with each student who chooses into LES, to a narcotic. He has called on the selectboard and the school committee to halt school choice, calling it detrimental to neighboring school districts struggling with the same demographic trends as Leverett.

Fonsch said the Leverett Elementary School building was a beautiful facility, but too large for the current population of students, which fill it to only about half the capacity it was designed to hold.

Half jokingly, D'Errico commented, "It would be a good senior center."

But if Leverett's current demographic trends continue, his words may prove prophetic.

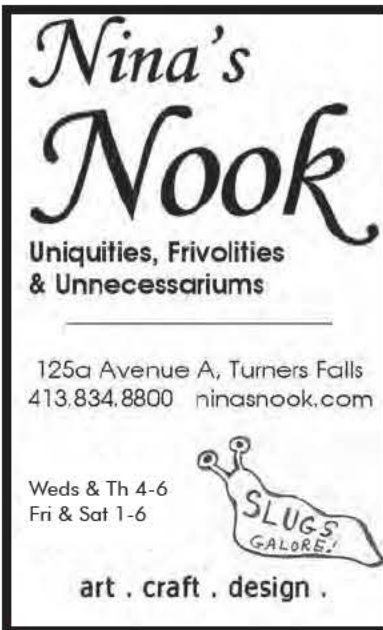
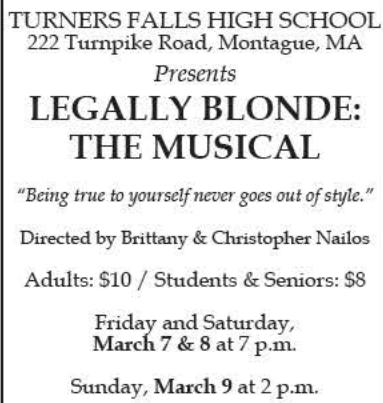
CPC Proposals

On the brighter side, selectboard member Julie Shively said the Community Preservation Committee will meet at 7:30 on April 2nd to discuss a number of spending proposals to draw upon the balance in its discretionary fund, which has risen above \$850,000, at last report.

Among those proposals is a plan to spend about \$150,000 to purchase and prepare for building two acres of **see LEVERETT page A6**



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MILLERS FALLS VILLAGE CENTER SLUM AND BLIGHT DESIGNATION INVENTORY

NOTICE OF INFORMATION SESSION

The Town of Montague will be conducting a **Slum and Blight Inventory in the center of Millers Falls**. The study area includes approximately 22 contiguous parcels on or around the intersection of E. Main St, W. Main St, and Bridge Street. The completion of the inventory and designation by the Town and State will allow Montague to apply for funding to revitalize the area over the next 10 years. Potential activities would include a façade and signage improvement program, infrastructure improvements, public parking, housing rehabilitation and other activities that support neighborhood revitalization. Interested parties are encouraged to attend to learn more. Questions can be directed to the Montague Planning Department at (413) 863-3200 x 207.

WHERE: Millers Falls Library, 23 Bridge Street

WHEN: Wednesday, March 5, 2014 – 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

NPS from previous page source of sand fill under an FAA sponsored runway extension.

At the heart of our success had been a warning by Elder Narragansett Medicine Man Lloyd "Running Wolf" Wilcox, "Don't use Tribal oral history and lore as the main defense for this site. They (archaeologists and public nay sayers) will try to deny the oral history. Instead, let the landscape speak for itself. And let the oral history and lore stand as its witness."

Through observation, identification, documentation and GPS mapping this ceremonial landscape taught us how to listen and it did speak for itself.

The mapping revealed that it was a central component of a 20 mile radius ceremonial district. On the Ceremonial Hill there is an observation position (a break in a ceremonial stone row) where the viewer stands and can witness the sun set in a notch in the horizon line that extends across the top of Mount Pocumtuc 15-½ miles away to the west.

This sunset in the notch is the ceremonial landscape calendar indicator that heralds the coming of the highest concentration of meteors to pass from the north east across the night sky into the south west around August 11, 12 or 13 during the month long Perseid Meteor Shower.

To the Tribal ancients those meteors represented the spirits of special persons who had passed away during the previous year and were at this time making their journey to Kautantowitt's House in the celestial southwest.

Continuing along the sunset line

three-quarters of a mile further west beyond the notch in Mount Pocumtuc are the well known standing stones at Burnt Hill in Heath, MA.

In the radius between the Ceremonial Hill at the Airport and Mount Pocumtuc more than 80 ceremonial landscape clusters have been documented.

Much of this is detailed in Smithsonian filmmaker Ted Timreck's 83-minute film, "Great Falls – Discovery, Destruction & Preservation in a Massachusetts Town".

The Pocumtuc People and the regional neighbors they annually welcomed to take part in ceremonies were intimately connected to the spirit of Creator, to the spirit of our Mother the Earth and their many celestial (astronomic) relatives.

In 1524 explorer Giovanni da Verrazano and later in the 1600s colonist Roger Williams commented that even the Tribal children they encountered among the Narragansett could identify the stars.

Mr. Singleton, skeptics are abundant, but what I hope is not scarce in Franklin County are caring citizens who are willing to step forward in the absence of the Pocumtuc People and be good stewards and protectors of what is left of the spiritual places of the Pocumtuc ceremonial legacy.

Tau botdan tamock wutche wame (We are giving thanks for all things).

Doug Harris is Preservationist for Ceremonial Landscapes and Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office (NITHPRO).



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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

The Former Usher Mill And Its Smokestack

By KATIE NOLAN

"...it is our opinion that the site and its components comprise an appreciable redevelopment opportunity that does not appear to be exceedingly impacted by regulatory or environmental restraints."

"Its location along the Millers River and proximity to East and West Main Street provide a desirable opportunity to create useable and attractive space for local commercial, professional or river-dependent recreational uses."

— Letter from land planning consultants R. Levesque Associates, Inc., to the Erving selectboard.

At the February 24 selectboard meeting, the Usher Mill Re-Use committee presented the board with a plan for repairing the smokestack on the Mill's former boiler building and provided the preliminary Levesque report to help provide context for why they want to save the stack.

In November, after bricks were observed falling from the upper part of the smokestack, the town put up fencing to prevent access to the site and hired NCM Contracting Group of Westford to inspect the stack and report on its stability.

In January, NCM recommended removal of the stack to the roofline of the building and estimated the cost at \$66,000. At the January 27 selectboard meeting, Re-Use committee members argued for saving the "iconic" stack rather than removing it. The board asked the committee to return on February 24 with specific plans for the stack and for the site.

On Monday, committee member Jeff Dubay presented the committee's recommendations for the smokestack, including removing the top ten feet of the stack, rebuilding the original head of the chimney and reconstructing as required, installing a steel-reinforced chimney cap, cutting out defective brick and mortar, restoring the lightning protection, and waterproofing the entire chimney.

He said that the town should seek out contractor bids with this scope of services. He said that saving the stack is worthwhile to save and preserve Erving's history.

Committee co-chair Jeanie Schermesser called the stack "an integral part of the historical value of the structure."

Highway/water/wastewater director Paul Prest noted that NCM's report recommended removal of the stack and that the town has concerns about safety at the site.

Selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin suggested that Prest and the committee work together to develop a scope of work for the stack, soliciting help from Franklin Regional Council of Governments

(FRCOG).

The board agreed to review the scope developed by Prest and the Re-Use committee and solicit bids for the work on the stack based on that scope.

Selectboard member Margaret Sullivan agreed to the plan, but expressed frustration because the town had been "wavering too long" and not making decisions about the site.

Selectboard member Eugene Klepadlo asked the committee, "Is anyone interested in the property at all?" He observed that the former International Paper Mill site did not have any interested developers after Montague had invested much time and money in it.

Schermesser countered that the former Usher Mill was very different from the IP property, because it has "lots of developable land" and is not "trapped on an island with no parking."

Schermesser emphasized that redevelopment is a multi-year multifaceted process and promised that the committee would find developers once the regulatory and planning steps were complete: "I will have a list for you — I guarantee that."

According to a letter from committee co-chair Jeanie Schermesser, the next step for the committee is to file an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) with the town conservation commission or the state Department of Environmental Protection.

In addition, Schermesser wrote, "We look forward to working with FRCOG to develop conceptual design plans for the site and take advantage of their consulting services to assist us."

New Fire Truck Specifications

Fire chief Philip Wonkka told the selectboard that, after consulting with department officers and a fire truck sales representative, the department had revised the specifications for a new fire truck.

The May 2013 annual town meeting approved \$490,000 for a new pumper/tanker. Wonkka said that the cost under the revised specifications would be \$320,000. He said that the truck would be a pumper with a 500-gallon tank and a smaller wheelbase than under the original specifications. The smaller wheelbase would make the truck more maneuverable on smaller town roads.

Goodwin said he was happy to hear that the department was interested in buying a smaller truck.

New Deputy Emergency Manager

On Wonkka's recommendation, the selectboard appointed Donna LaClaire of Forest Street as deputy emergency management director.

Cloud-Based Email System

Jacqueline Boyden of Northfield Road told the board that the town was ready to "go live" with a cloud-

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Singleton Wins Approval For Chapter 70 Statement

By CHRISTOPHER
SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

While news about the Strathmore dominated the February 24 selectboard meeting (see page A1), there was another agenda item: a request by Jeff Singleton for the board to approve a statement he wrote regarding Massachusetts Chapter 70 school funding.

Singleton had prepared a letter he was hoping would persuade the state legislature to reconsider the Chapter 70 formula. Singleton said he was specifically asking the state to initiate "a broad review of Chapter 70."

In his letter, Singleton wrote, "Such a review should consider the adequacy of the foundation budget but also the other elements of the formula. It should also consider state fiscal capacity and the impact of future increases in Chapter 70 on other state-funded programs, including other forms of local aid."

Singleton said the reason for his request was that at present the state was focused primarily on tinkering with the "minimum contribution portion of the formula."

He noted that when this formula was adjusted in 2007, the majority of school districts in any given year were not entitled to state aid increases under the core formula.

"In most cases," Singleton argued in his letter, "the state has simply ignored the formula, held

these districts 'harmless,' given them a small increase per student. This year seventy-five percent of the districts in the state are not due to receive increases through the core formula under the Governor's budget.

"Indeed many of these districts would be facing massive and unsustainable cuts in Chapter 70 if the formula were actually implemented."

Singleton explained that he was going to attend a special session of the Massachusetts House Ways and Means Committee at UMass Amherst on Tuesday, February 25 and another meeting on Friday, the 28th of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, and that he was hoping the board would back him up.

He also said he would be bringing his letter to the GMRSD school committee and to the Montague finance committee.

Singleton said he didn't expect the selectboard to sign on to the letter he had prepared, he was simply hoping they would "generally agree with what [he] was saying."

The board was eager to do so. Chair Mark Fairbrother told Singleton: "No one is better qualified to speak on this than you are."

The other members agreed. They unanimously endorsed Singleton's letter, not by a formal vote, but by giving him unqualified support through "a sense of the board."

based email system March 1.

She asked the board to approve one of two draft email policies. One of the draft policies allowed no personal use of the town email system at all. The second draft policy allowed some personal emails with supervisor permission under certain circumstances.

The board voted for the stricter policy after discussion centered on protecting both the town and employee privacy. All town emails are official town business and are part of the public record.

The board also clarified that town computers are assigned to individuals for town business and are not to be used by people without assigned access.

Tree Warden

The board considered increasing the tree warden expenses line item from \$8,500 to \$10,000 based on additional tree trimming and cutting projects proposed by Prest.

The board declined to appoint an interim tree warden, noting that a new tree warden will be elected in about eight weeks and that the highway department can fill that role until town voters select a tree warden.

Town clerk Richard Newton said that three people have asked for nomination papers in order to run for

tree warden: Chad Gagne of North Street, Jeremy Klepadlo of Prospect Street, and William Lemieux of High Street. Completed nomination papers are due to the town clerk by March 17.

Lame Duck

Calling himself a "lame duck" because he is not seeking re-election, Goodwin said he felt free to say that the selectboard stipend should be increased from approximately \$3,000 per year to \$6,000 per year. Goodwin said that he feels that selectboard members put in a lot of time and effort and that the compensation should be increased.

Newton reported that there have been no requests for nomination papers for the selectboard seat.

COLA

The board set the cost of living adjustment (COLA) for town employees and elected officials at 2%, based on the recommendation of the finance committee.

FRTA

The board voted to send a letter to Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) expressing their concern for a lack of openness on the part of FRTA.



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WENDELL from page A1

composting toilet. The couple plans to move from their current house on the property and live in the apartment once it is approved and built.

Like other applicants for building permits, the von Ransons need to get signatures from town and regional boards and inspectors. These include the conservation commission for potential wetland issues, the fire chief for fire safety concerns, the board of health for the waste disposal system and other sanitary code features such as heat and hot water, the building inspector, the plumbing inspector, and the electrical inspector.

If the conservation-oriented housing variance process is adopted by the Wendell board of health, the board will be able to review the von Ranson's waste disposal, heat and hot water design and, potentially approve it.

This is a bold step for the board because the variance process could lead to a potential "home rule" conflict with the Commonwealth. Although the proposed variance process requires that the alternative system must meet or exceed the standards of the state sanitary code, it does not require the system to include specific elements listed in the sanitary code, such as electricity or hot and cold running water.

Massachusetts is a "home rule" state, where the Home Rule Amendment (1966) states that its purpose is to "grant and confirm to the people of every city and town the right of self-governance in local matters." However, in the past, judicial rulings have given state officials and agencies broad powers to preempt local ordinances and regulations.

Under "home rule" principles, the 1981 Wendell town meeting voted to regulate the use of pesticides not used for domestic or agricultural use, in effect putting limits on utility companies spraying along power lines in the town.

The state Attorney General sued the town, and the Supreme Judicial Court ruled in 1985 that the Pesticide Control Act preempted the local bylaw, by implication, even though the Pesticide Control Act did not specifically allow towns to regulate pesticides more strictly than the state under "home rule."

At a meeting of the Wendell climate change group last December,

selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser said that town officials met with state representative Steve Kulik three or four years ago, "trying to do this on the up and up." At Kulik's suggestion, Wendell petitioned the state legislature for home rule authority to allow a "simple living" residential option. That bill was voted favorably out of committee, but has not been acted on by the legislature.

Pooser reported that the von Ransons and other Wendell citizens met with the state department of public health staff two years ago and helped "shift their thinking" about alternative housing systems. The Wendell group was told that new sanitary code regulations were being drafted that would allow energy conserving alternatives such as owner-occupied "simple living." They were also assured that DPH would publish the new regulations promptly. However, those internal DPH drafts have not even been released for public comment.

Board of health chair Amy Simmons told the hearing, "The state said, wait, we'll update the code... but it's been years. In the meantime, we're going ahead. We're going forward with every consideration for public health and safety."

Simmons cited several sources that inspired the board to develop the variance procedure, including the state Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008, which states, "In...issuing permits and other administrative approvals...the respective agency, department, board, commission or authority shall also consider...climate change impacts..."

The Wendell special town meeting vote of November 18, 2009, states, "The voters hereby recognize the right of its citizens to live using little or no manufactured fuels or electricity, reminding all of us that there are safe technologies for living a healthful, fully integrated life in the community that minimize cost and known, harmful environmental impacts."

The dozen citizens attending the hearing suggested clarifications to language in the proposed variance procedure, but there were no comments opposing it. The board will vote on the proposed variance procedure at its next regular meeting on March 10.



STRATHMORE from page A1

Jensen's response, for example, argued that there were no combustible or hazardous materials stored in the building except paper in one area where the sprinkler system had been modified to accommodate the materials. A fire department demand that all openings below 24 feet be "secured" was not, Jensen argued, within its purview under Mass General Law.

The demand that the fire department mark the structure as indicating exterior fire operations only was, according to Jensen, "premature and a serious matter." On several other points Jensen agreed with the Department's conclusions but suggested the town had not been given sufficient time to remedy the problems.

In the ensuing discussion Escott suggested he would not have issued the order had he been able to consult with the town to reach an agreement on the safety issues. He also felt that it was not the right time or place to discuss the fine points of his order or Jensen's response.

Selectboard chair Mark Fairbrother called on town officials to meet with Escott within the week to address all outstanding issues and report back to the board.

"The goals of the fire department and the town are the same," said Jensen. "We don't want it to be dangerous for anyone, including the fire department."

Swift River Hydro Expansion

Not all the Strathmore news was

bad. Davis Hobbs, the owner of Swift River Hydro, appeared before the board to discuss expanding his operation. Swift River actually owns building number 9 and would like to expand into building Number 5. They would construct some new walls, doors, and extend electrical wiring into the space. Hobbs wanted to see if the town looked favorably on the idea before he moved forward with more specific plans.

Montague town administrator Frank Abbondanzio raised "process issues" given the fact that Montague was moving forward to sell other pieces of the Strathmore (to be discussed later). That said, he emphasized he did not want to discourage Swift River Hydro from expanding but was concerned only about "timing."

Hobbs stated he did not want to get in the way of the town's plans to increase use of the mill but could not afford to expand his operation and then be required to leave the space after a few years.

At this point Montague Selectboard chair Mark Fairbrother expressed a very favorable opinion of the Swift River proposal and suggested that the town could "cut building 5 out of the RFP" (the Request For Proposals to sell other parts of the Strathmore). Abbondanzio seemed to agree with this and the discussion ended on a favorable note.

New RFP Issued

Next Frank Abbondanzio presented Town Planner Walter Ramsey's

proposal to issue a Request For Proposals seeking expressions of interest from development teams or private industries regarding the acquisition and redevelopment of the Strathmore.

Ramsey's proposal is actually the "re-release" (with some changes) of a 2012 RFP.

Under the new proposal the Strathmore would be divided into three sections. The first is Building 11, which is 20,000 square feet and is assessed at \$73,200.

The next parcel is Buildings 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6, together valued at \$139,600. Presumably the inclusion of building 5 would be reconsidered based on the outcome of the discussions with Swift River Hydro.

Finally, developers could choose to bid for Buildings 3, 7 and 8, which total 25,000 square feet and are assessed at \$73,500.

Abbondanzio stated that the RFP would be released in mid-March with proposals due in mid June. Jean Golrick asked about the status of the footbridge over the canal. Abbondanzio replied that it is still owned by the First Light Electric Company.

The Selectboard approved the RFP.

The Strathmore's ten buildings are isolated on an island between the Connecticut River and the adjoining power canal. Originally called the Keith Paper Company (KPG still appears on one smokestack), the mill complex was built to make paper in the late 19th century.



CHALLENGE from page A1

To help offset the gap between private donations, Walter Ramsey, working with the skate park committee, is also applying 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 the town and skate park committee must still come up with 30% in matching funds.

The Montague selectboard and the Montague parks and recreation commission have unanimously endorsed the Unity skatepark project, which will have a final price tag in excess of \$250,000.

The town is working with archi-

tect Peter Wells of the Berkshire Design Group to implement cost savings in the architectural plans, and determine the final price tag for the project. When built, the new skate park will be the first permanent skateboarding facility in Franklin County.

"The leadership of the small business community in Montague has been instrumental in bringing this important project to within sight of the finish line," said Unity Skatepark Committee member Nancy Holmes.

"Now, with this exciting pledge, these leading local businesses have doubled the size of the Tony Hawk challenge, and have called on the rest of the community to step up

and do their part.

"Together, we will turn the long held dream of our community's youth into a permanent recreational and economic asset for our revitalizing downtown."

To help the Unity Skatepark Committee meet the \$10,000 challenge with a tax deductible contribution, go to: unityskatepark.com and make a donation using the convenient and secure Paypal button, or send a check to the Brick House, P.O. Box 135, Turners Falls, MA 01376, with the words "Unity Skatepark" in the memo line.

For more information, contact skatepark committee members Brian Dolan or Sara Pearson at (413) 548-0827.



BRIDGE from page A1

Center, was unimpressed.

"How about doing what's right?" he asked the DOT representatives gathered at the front of the room.

"We had a good road. Hatchery Road is just a connector. I sense someone has told you not to give an inch. I'd like to see that bridge put back the way it was. Use some common sense."

Arguing that the hydrogeology of the embankments on either side of the railroad cutting would make the construction of a 36-ton bridge capable of holding truck traffic as well as cars prohibitively expensive, Kim Armstrong, project engineer for the design group Greenman-Pedersen, Inc., displayed an architectural drawing of the sleek, 200-foot bicycle and pedestrian bridge the DOT

proposes in its place.

Officials came up with this plan in response to a public hearing five years ago, with the selectboard of Montague in attendance. At that hearing, district highway superintendent Al Stegemann told the town the state would not accept the liability for a reconstructed, full-width overpass on Greenfield Road, in the event the abutments failed again, due to the complications of the water table at that site.

When Burek demanded to know why the state couldn't simply put a pier in between the railroad tracks to support the middle of a 36-ton bridge, Masse told him the railroad would not permit it.

Burek asked, "How did the railroad get away with knocking down our bridge? If you or I knocked

down a bridge we'd be in jail." Masse made no direct reply.

Building inspector David Jensen said, "I have not met a person in town who would not prefer to see that bridge put back."

DPW superintendent Tom Bergeron spoke of the challenges of building a full-scale bridge on the site. "The issue is the water table, for the footings... We discussed an elaborate drainage system. The town would need to be responsible if it washed out again."

Burek responded it would be possible to construct what he called "cantilevered footings" without compromising the deeper hydrology of the area, which is characterized by an artesian system in the subclay stratum.

Burek said cantilevered footings

could be constructed at a shallower level, and held securely in place by backfilling the embankments around the footings.

"You people are ruining our infrastructure by not putting our bridge back," Burek concluded.

"The town and state made an honest effort to rebuild that bridge back in 2001," Ramsey said, after the meeting. "The town invested over \$100,000 in design and permitting, but residents and agricultural preservation restrictions on the south section of the road stopped that from happening."

At that point, he said, the DOT decided to consider that section of Greenfield Road a "local road," not qualified for funding through the FRCOG's Transportation Improvement Program, and Hatchery Road

the "rural collector."

Residents of Hatchery Road, including Robert and Lisa Adams and Abigail Merriam, expressed concerns Thursday about widening the pavement on Hatchery Road, so traffic could travel even faster.

"People do 50 to 60 [miles per hour] as it is. With wider, smoother pavement, that's going to be scary for pedestrians and children."

Cal Ewell asked the DOT representatives to "do the math," and let the town know what it would cost to replace the bridge for truck and car traffic, as opposed to what it would cost to complete a full depth reconstruction of Hatchery Road and construct a 200 foot bicycle bridge.

Masse promised he would do that and get back to Montague officials with the comparison.



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HEROIN from page A1

but that they can't keep pace with the large heroin addiction problem. She said we have recovery support, parent support groups, and peer-led support. She pointed to the Recovery Project in Greenfield as a program offering these services.

She said there is education for medical providers and drug turn-in locations to discard unwanted medicines.

Opiates in the medicine cabinet are part of the problem and adults need to be aware that keeping old prescriptions that can be abused is a danger to their children.

Addressing the growing number of overdoses, Jacobs said Massachusetts has the Good Samaritan Law that encourages people without penalty of arrest to call for help when they are with someone who is suffering an overdose.

The Honorable William Mazanec, First Justice Greenfield District Court told the conference that in the past five years, he'd seen this problem "overtake our community."

He said he hears one to three cases a day, all involving heroin use, mostly in the 18 to 22 age bracket. Mazanec stressed that education needs to be started much younger. He also emphasized that parents need to know the signs of drug abuse and be well informed.

Greenfield Community College President Robert Pura introduced the second panel, members of the Heroin Education Awareness Task Force (H.E.A.T.) from Woburn, Massachusetts.

The task force is made up of a police chief, two probation officers and a drug treatment professional. They collaborate with each other to deal with the heroin addiction crisis in their community.

Robert J. Ferullo, Jr., Chief of Police of Woburn, spoke frankly about the problem. "Heroin knows no boundaries. We're ahead of the curve. We have drug courts and a

strong community. I tell my officers every interaction with the police doesn't need to end in arrest."

Michael Higgins, Probation Officer, of Woburn District Court said they work in collaboration with the DEA and pharmacists to create awareness of how pain medicines can end up in the hands of young teens, who go from inhaling crushed pills to injecting heroin.

Higgins also said shame is one of the biggest obstacles to getting timely treatment for kids who are in trouble because parents are embarrassed to admit they have a child with a drug problem. He says, "Parents need to get over it. When you wait too long you go to wakes and funerals."

Vincent Piro, Chief Probation Officer of Woburn told the audience: "There's no recipe, we don't have answers. We answer calls, we screen, we work with families. Post-detox is crucial, 3-5 days, then get out. What then? This is when we see a lot of overdoses."

Piro also described how a young athlete, through treatment for an injury, could go from medical treatment to heroin addiction: "The prescription ends and in no time, they are shooting heroin."

John McGahan of the Gavin Foundation, providing drug treatment in South Boston, has been working since 1994 to move the criminal justice system towards decriminalization of addiction.

He recommends starting early, paying attention to use of alcohol and marijuana at a young age and working through the schools.

McGahan then spoke directly to those who have family members dealing with addiction. He said, "Nobody does this alone. Don't give up on your family member. They do get better."

"It takes time. Seeking outside support is important for family members well being. There is hope!"



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**LEVERETT** from page A3

land offered at a bargain rate by the owner on Cave Hill Road, across from the Peace Pagoda. That amount would also cover the cost of installing water, septic and driveways on the property, which would then be made available to Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity to build two single family homes, Shively said.

The CPC is mandated to set aside for affordable housing at least 10% of its funds.

Another proposal the CPC will consider on that date is a request to repair leaks in the roof at the Field Museum, maintained by the town's

historical commission at the small common in the center of town.

The selectboard discussed this building briefly at Tuesday's meeting, in the context of a request for a \$1,068 reserve fund transfer to help pay for oil to heat the building, which has no water pipes, and is open to the public only on Saturdays or by appointment. Still, town administrator Margie McGinnis said the town is paying about \$2500 a year to maintain the building including a monthly electric bill of between \$40 and \$50.

Reached after the meeting, caretaker Edie Field said she too would like to see energy improvements

made at the building. She is meeting with a representative of WMECo this week to discuss a program to save on the electricity there. She said the dehumidifier in the basement is one obvious suspect in the high energy costs.

Expressing frustration with the uncertain status of the building, the selectboard asked McGinnis to prepare a warrant article for town meeting to consider selling the building, with a view toward transferring ownership to the historical society, or some other entity.

Field said the building was built in 1916 by Elizabeth Field in memory of her father, Bradford, who was

appointed the town's postmaster in 1863 by Abraham Lincoln, and served in that capacity for 50 years.

Though it lacks indoor plumbing, the building housed the town's library for more than eight decades, and now holds an historical collection including papers, photographs, hand tools, and small farm equipment, among other items.

FRIA

The board instructed McGinnis to draft a letter calling on the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and the Franklin Regional Transit Authority to support a more open and inclusive planning process before instituting changes to their

fixed route bus service.

Leverett now joins Wendell, Erving, Gill and Montague in calling for more transparency in the planning process for the county's public funded system.

Police Officers Complaint

The selectboard entered into executive session to discuss "a complaint against two police officers." Asked whether the complaint regarded the job performance of the officers, the selectboard declined comment.

Reached for comment after the meeting, police chief Gary Billings said, "I haven't heard anything about this."



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CYBERBULLYING

By SAMANTHA KOLODZIEJ

GILL-MONTAGUE – One Wednesday morning at 8 o'clock, a group of middle schoolers gather in the library conference room. Each of the kids are working together for one main goal: to help end cyberbullying and raise awareness to peers about the cause and effects of this internet-based form of bullying.

Cyberbullying has proved itself to be a big problem now that there are more modernized devices and social media websites. The bully can get to their victim no matter where they are. This makes the victim's safe spots no longer safe.

Luckily, there are some who are stepping up to the plate and trying to find some solutions. And these middle schoolers are trying to make an impact.

Every student in the Cyberbullying Awareness Committee, a club at Great Falls Middle School, is in a work group with their own job. These work groups focus on different ways of getting the word out.

The Cyberbullying Awareness Committee is planning on hosting a parent night on March 13. Their goal in doing this is to inform parents about safety online.

There will be a presentation by a guest speaker, MA State Trooper Christopher Ware, an active member of the Internet Crimes against Children Task Force. The Committee plans to have a free dinner, raffles and free childcare. Members will be talking to parents at each table during dinner about internet safety.

Aside from parent night, the students will be doing a presentation to their peers in the middle school. Included in this presentation will be a skit, a PowerPoint and much more.

see CYBER page B4

WEST ALONG THE RIVER:

UPRISING AT PESKEOMSKUT

By DAVID BRULE

GREAT FALLS – There are stirrings out there, out beyond our living rooms and comfortable chairs, on the other side of our storm windows where spring awaits in frigid air.

The river, frozen on-again off-again in deep winter, is free of ice this week. From the French King down to the Wequamps Sugar-loaf in South Deerfield, there are stirrings.

Not just the stirrings of wintering-over diving ducks, the mergansers, who are courting, displaying, and mating in the dusk hours, not just the primal reawakening of lethargic prehistoric sturgeon in the depths of the Connecticut River.

No. There are stirrings going on in another dimension, in a place to which few of the contemporary inhabitants of our river villages ever give a second thought.

Some of us however, are witness to the stirrings of the ancient peoples, long silent, who inhabited our river shores and woodlands, fields, pine barren plains, even our backyards for 10,000 years.

If you consider entering that par-

allel dimension, if you look for the clues that show you how, you will see a valley full of people, many thousands strong, living, working and dying on this landscape that is so familiar to us.

You will see wigwams and wetus, homefires and lodges, men and women loving and raising children, living out their lives. You will see a place, foreign to many now, where all objects have lives and meaning, where nothing is inanimate, where all human beings, animals and objects are interconnected in the past, present, and future simultaneously, where prayers are embedded in stones.

You will see that. Or maybe you won't.

Those spirits are stirring, are demanding attention, demanding to be recognized, to be validated.

Some of us hear this message, others are in deep denial.

Those of us who do hear, are doing something about it. We are keeping our minds open. We are joining the ancient ones, ancestors for some of us, in demanding respect, recognition, and acceptance

see WEST ALONG page B6



A manitou stone creates a distinct presence on the ceremonial hill.

Image used courtesy of Ceremonial Landscapes.

MEMORIAL

The Inimitable Gilmond Lamore

By JOSEPH PARZYCH

The Lamore family held a memorial at the Moose Hall in Greenfield on Sunday, February 23, for Gilmond Lamore. The hall was packed beyond capacity with people who knew and loved Gilmond. His wife Nancy and sons Mark and Brian were there to greet people who'd come to offer condolences.

Everyone, it seemed, had a heartwarming story about Gilmond. Slide shows of photos depicting his life flashed on screens both front and rear.

The pictures and warm memories of saddened friends and family filled the hall with his presence.

Gilmond and I, both, had operated excavating businesses at one time. When I'd sold my bulldozers, I called on Gilmond from time to time. He, in turn, hired me for backhoe work. We also referred customers to each other. I could be confident he'd be honest and do a good job.

I got Gilmond a job, one cold winter, running a crusher when the frost was nearly 5 feet thick and no work in sight. The union hall was packed with operators looking for work. But no one knew how to run a Yumbo, a machine imported from France.

When the owner of Eastern Equipment who owned the machine, couldn't find anyone to operate the French machine, his salesman, Clinton May, called to ask whether

I could run a Yumbo. I said, "Sure! I can run it."

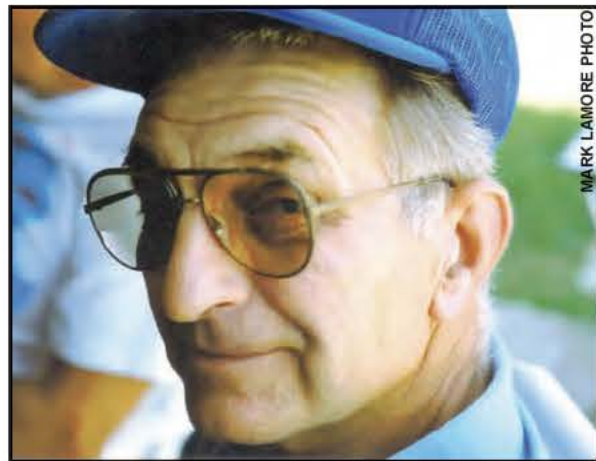
"What was that all about?" my wife asked.

"I just got a job running a Yumbo."

"What's a Yumbo?"

"Beats me. Sounds like a candy bar. But I'm not working, and the worst they can do is fire me."

My job was to feed a crusher



MARK LAMORE PHOTO

boney gravel pushed up to me by a bulldozer. When I got to the gravel pit in Ludlow, it was so cold the crusher wouldn't start. But the Yumbo started, and I began pulling levers and pushing foot pedals to figure out the function of each one.

The Yumbo was primarily a hydraulic swing shovel with a scoop on the front, a copy of Koehring's Scooper. Pretty soon I was scooping up loads of air, swinging and dumping them.

Clint May came over to me. "The boss is very irritated and wants to know what the hell you're doing."

"Tell him I'm warming up the hydraulic oil."

The controls were a little tricky, because the swing and bucket tilt were on the same hydraulic circuit.

see LAMORE page B4

Dear Clio,



My husband and I date other people, with each other's permission. This hasn't led to any problems open and honest communication couldn't resolve – until this winter.

I have started spending time with a wonderful, hard-working, single man who takes care of, and lives with, his mother. Neither of them can afford to live alone, and she has little other support network. A depressed, older woman in recovery, she has made a recent turn toward religious belief, and is adopting some quite old-fashioned views.

"Dave" is hesitant to tell her he is in an increasingly serious relationship with a married woman, but I worry she'll see me out and about with my husband, and put two and two together. We live in a small town.

Clio, what should we do? We don't want to shock her or make her feel disrespected, but we also don't believe we are doing anything wrong. For now we're just skirting the issue in her presence. Will this make it worse down the road? Should one or the other of us feel responsible for telling her?

Yours,
Met A Guy... It's Complicated.

Dear Met A Guy,

I can see that it would be tempting to choose the easy route and avoid the subject.

But as you pointed out, you probably cannot avoid it forever. Sooner or later Dave's mom might say something like, "When are you two going to get married?" even if she does not see you out with your husband and put it all together for herself.

You don't want to end up in a situation where you are lying to Dave's mom on a

regular basis. To me that seems more disrespectful than telling her something she may not like to hear.

Also, the longer you wait to tell her, the more she may feel that she has been lied to.

I work with teenagers, and often they are afraid they will shock me by talking about sex. I always think that is funny.

They seem to think that sex and relationships were recently invented – like the smartphone. Dave's mom may be less shocked than you think. She has probably seen all kinds of relationships in the years she has been alive.

As you said, you don't feel like you are doing anything wrong. Maybe Dave's mom can come to appreciate your point of view. Dating a married woman may not be her first choice for her son, but she can probably understand that no one is lying and no one is getting hurt.

My guess is that Dave's mom will need a little time to get used to the idea. He should probably be prepared in case she tries to convince him to get out of the relationship.

This can also happen to people when they come out as gay to their families, for example, or introduce a partner of a different race. Family members can disapprove when a couple has a baby and chooses not to get married, or when one partner is older than the other.

My point is that families can find lots of reasons to disagree with a person's choice of partner. In almost all of the cases I know of, however, the family has come to accept the

see CLIO page B4

The Jolly Stone Carver:

Recalling a Visit to Tim DeChristopher's Studio

By QUICKCHANGE

TURNERS FALLS – I went to visit my friend, the sculptor Tim de Christopher, to film him carving stone in his studio on Third Street in the winter of 2011.

I intended to ask questions as I filmed but I mostly filmed in silence, just noticing the sights and sounds around me as he worked – the fine, white, limestone dust sprinkling his work bench, the echos when he adjusted the position of his chair on the concrete floor.

Intense expressions flashed across his face as he carved a tiny detail on one of his miniature "three kings of Christmas" or as he worked to put finishing touches on one of the many pieces that had already been sold during a recent open studio.

Periodically I moved away from his hunched frame to scan the studio, now and again stopping to focus on each of the many sculptures scattered throughout the spacious room.

Once, upon focusing the camera on him again, I heard someone cry out, "Oh!" from somewhere inside the

old building which had once been an automotive garage.

De Christopher, hearing it, too, sprang from his chair to look around. In mutual wonderment we agreed that we must have heard a ghost, and he resumed his carving.



ARIEL JONES PHOTO

De Christopher at work in his former studio in Chick's Garage, now home of River Station.

De Christopher asked me to film him sharpening a tool which had fallen on the floor, saying brightly, "Come over here! You should film this!"

He explained that a tool can lose its sharpness from being dropped just once.

Later, taking a break from

the intensity of carving, he ventured over to a tall, wooden shelf on which sat several more "three king" sculptures, each one unique.

Playfully he picked up each one, arranging them in different ways and making them talk in funny, irreverent tones.

"That's a word you can't say on YouTube," I cautioned him once or twice as he got swept up in his own brand of playful drama. "Oops!" he replied, replacing the offending word with a more acceptable one.

As he presented the impromptu puppet show, I filmed the action from various angles, capturing now and again his breaking from serious form to erupt in peals of contagious laughter.

Finally, with several clips in my camera, my feet tired and frozen from standing on the concrete floor, I thanked de Christopher and excused myself to go.

Turning to take one last look, I saw de Christopher seated at his work bench again, head bent low as he resumed the delicate work.

Sensing that I had been in the presence of creative genius, I turned to walk home.

Pet of the Week

I am a small, 2 year old ing and french horn lessons. ball of energy, a happy boy. Whoever adopts me will be When I am done playing I often settle in for a snooze.

I thoroughly enjoy having my back scratched, as I am unable to do this myself.



“SPARKY”

I am young, so I will need some loving guidance with manners, housetrain-

ing and french horn lessons. Whoever adopts me will be given a discount towards the Dakin training classes in Leverett, Springfield and Hadley.

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

Senior Center Activities March 3 through 7

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 3/3

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

Tuesday 3/4

AARP Tax aid by appointment
NO Chair Yoga
Noon Lunch
No COA Meeting

Wednesday 3/5

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 3/6

NO Tai Chi
10:30 a.m. Brown Bag
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 3/7

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 3/3

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

Tuesday 3/4

8:45 a.m. Aerobics
9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure
12:30 Painting

Wednesday 3/5

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo

Thursday 3/6

8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Muscles
12:30 p.m. iPad Class

Friday 3/7

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 LIBRARY NEWS

Lego Lady

March is Lego Madness Month at the Wendell Library! LEGO Lady, Jean Daley, has thousands of LEGO bricks, 250 Lego people & loads of other fun elements for kids (and sometimes their parents) to play with.

Build a castle, a space station or a world of your own! The LEGO Lady will also offer participants a “challenge of the day.”

The program, which is free, is intended for children five years of age and older. Swift River School students can get off the bus at Library! Please be sure to make arrangements with the school. No registration required.

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION



By FRED CICETTI

Q. What is the leading cause of brain injuries?

About 1.4 million people suffer a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) each year in the United States. Half of all TBIs are caused by accidents involving automobiles, motorcycles, bicycles, and pedestrians. These accidents are the major cause of TBI in people under age 75.

Falls cause the majority of TBIs in people 75 and older; this group has the highest rates of TBI-related hospitalizations and death.

[A note to older people who suffer a blow to the head: If you are taking a blood thinner such as Coumadin, get immediate attention from a healthcare provider to check for internal bleeding.]

Symptoms of a serious head injury may include: headaches, vomiting, nausea, sleepiness, convulsions, dilated pupils, slurred speech, weakness or numbness in the arms or legs, loss of coordination, confusion, agitation, bloody or clear fluids emanating from ears or nose, blurred vision or seeing double, diz-

Call For Artists

RiverCulture is looking for ART. Painting, Video, Performance, Photography, Sculpture, Poetry, Music and Sound! Exhibit your current work, create new work or collaborate on a project.

Spring Third Thursday Themes:

Thursday, APRIL 17

TrollFest, A Celebration of the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge

Images of the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge, mythical/fantastic creatures, folklore and monsters.

Thursday, MAY 15

The Nature of Things, A Closer Look at Our Environment

This theme investigates how things work, the small, overlooked, intense, intriguing, textures and the properties of nature (geology, flora, weather etc.) This theme extends to the landscape of emotion.

Thursday, JUNE 19

Knights Camera Action! A Medieval Festival and Photo Exhibition

Photographs will be hung in downtown businesses. The theme of the photography is open.

Contact Suzanne LoManto with your Ideas

Modest money for materials is available.

(413) 835-1390 or email riverculture@montague-ma.gov

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Brain Injuries; Lovemaking

ziness, respiratory failure, paralysis, slow pulse, ringing in the ears, inappropriate emotional responses, and loss of bowel or bladder control.

Anyone with signs of moderate or severe TBI should receive medical attention as soon as possible. Because little can be done to reverse the initial brain damage caused by trauma, medical personnel try to stabilize an individual with TBI and focus on preventing further injury.

Q. How much love-making is going on among seniors?

A recent survey of 3,005 U.S. adults between 57 and 85 published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* found that there's a lot of love after the bloom. Here's a breakdown of those reporting that they were sexually active:

- * 73% between 57 and 64
- * 53% between 65 and 74
- * 26% between 75 and 85

But, hey, the sex wasn't always easy. Half of the survey respondents reported at least one problem.

The leading obstacle for women was low sexual desire (43 percent). The top problem for men was erectile dysfunction (37 percent).

But there's more. As a woman ages, her vagina becomes thinner, less flexible and drier, so intercourse can be painful. Older men suffer from reduced libido, too. Both men and women can have trouble climaxing.

Fortunately for seniors today

there is better sex through chemistry. Men can treat their erection problems with drugs such as Viagra, Levitra and Cialis. Women can make sex more comfortable with over-the-counter lubricants, vaginal inserts and hormone supplements.

Q. Can you get cancer from eating fish that contains mercury?

High levels of mercury exposure can harm the brain, heart, kidneys, lungs, and immune system of people of all ages. There isn't enough human data available for all forms of mercury to conclude that it causes cancer.

However, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that methylmercury is a possible human carcinogen.

Mercury, a liquid metal also known as *quicksilver*, combines with carbon to make organic mercury compounds; methylmercury is the most common one. Methylmercury is made primarily by microscopic organisms in water and soil.

Methylmercury builds up in the tissues of fish. Larger and older fish tend to have the highest levels of mercury. Research shows that most people's fish consumption does not cause a health concern.

Contact your local health department to check local advisories about the safety of fish caught in nearby waters.

Questions? Send them to fred@healthygeezers.org.

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- Gary and Nancy Malen



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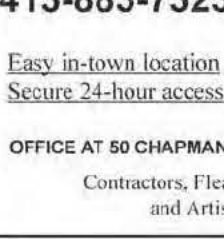
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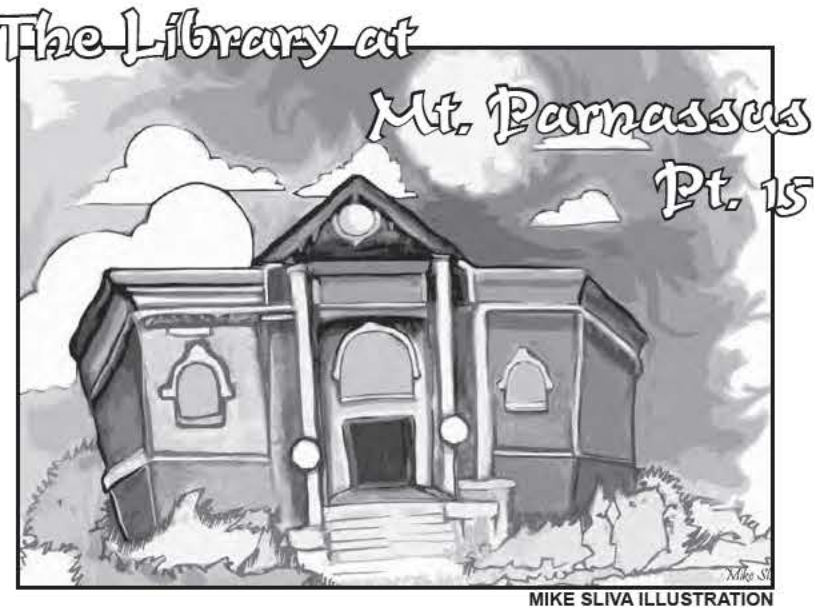
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With the sound on the TV hanging in the corner turned down low, Zero, bartender at the Golden Mean, supplied his own running commentary on the ugly scene unfolding on the small magnetic screen.



By DAVID DETMOLD

“Pre-emptive strike,” said Zero, nodding toward the smoke rising from the ruin of the parliament building of the Peoples Republic of Skopje. “We had to go in. To root out government corruption.”

He kept on with the bar rag, polishing the shot glasses as he talked.

“The National Intelligence Service found out Skopje has been in the habit of selling weapons on the q.t. to fundamentalist brigades. The same weapons we been selling cut rate to their government, supposedly to fight the guerrillas. They been bundling the profits and banking ‘em in Bonn and Zurich.

“Turns out they’ve been double dealing the whole time, working with the guerrillas to import nuclear arms from Islamabad. Sort of an insurance policy, in case we caught on. It’s tradition in the Balkans.”

“So we took out their parliament?”

“Carpe Diem, like they used to say in Vietnam,” said Zero.

He picked up another glass.

“But we’ve spent, what, billions propping up the Skopje government? And how many of our own kids have bled and died defending their democracy?”

“They volunteered, didn’t they?”

“Can I have the lentil stew?” asked Clare.

“Sure thing, pops. You?” He cocked a bushy eyebrow at me.

“Olives with the wine. And feta cheese. And pita. Listen to this guy.”

Zero turned the sound up. A general with ribbons on his chest and a supercilious mien was speaking into the camera. The general’s voice held an air of mild repugnance.

“The only thing that can stop a bad guy with a bomb is a good guy with a bomb,” he said.

The fire in the parliament building burned unchecked. Flames licked the broken window frames, and smoke swirled in the B-roll background.

Zero was a bull-necked man with gray spackled hair and a heavy black mustache. He moved about the cramped arena of the bar with perfect grace, unhurried, with

no wasted motion, wiping down the bar, dumping out the ashtrays, rinsing out the glasses at the sink.

The wall behind him was broken into mirrored alcoves where double rows of green and brown and clear glass bottles shone duplicated in the glow of recessed lights.

A faded cushion, permanently indented, sat at the end of a row of bottles of scotch and rye. This was the perch of Sixto, the Golden Mean’s mascot, a scarred old bruiser of an alley cat with a disreputable orange marmalade coat and the air of a landlocked sea captain.

Sixto was scabrous, overweight and lazy, with immense double paws; he was often the butt of Zero’s profane outbursts, but well loved and pampered by the regulars.

Tonight, Sixto was nowhere in sight.

The rest of the bar was draped in shadow, with rickety wooden chairs and tables at odd intervals and no windows on the alley side.

Given the lack of other light, the regulars generally lined up at the bar, where they could watch the levels drop slowly in the colored bottles, and watch themselves sink drop by drop below the bottle line as the smoky nights progressed.

Badly discolored oil paintings of mountain scenes and harbors hung along the wall on closely spaced squares of unframed canvas that faded into the upper darkness of the pressed tin ceiling.

Zero, back to the bar ringing up a tab on the old brass cash register, met my eye in the mirror.

A bell rang.

Old Clare knocked the dottle from his pipe against the bar rail with a shower of ash and embers.

A plate of steaming lentils appeared in the pick-up window. Old Clare stood up from his bar stool as Zero slid the platter down the bar to him. It came to rest directly in front of his seat.

Clare stuck the bowl of his pipe into the pocket of his sweater and eyed me in a friendly way.

“Join me?” He nodded to a booth in the corner of the room.

“No thanks, Clare. You go on, enjoy your dinner. I want to watch the news.”

Continued next week.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Human Civilization Very Gradually Collapsing

Wednesday, 2/5
1:21 p.m. Neighbor dispute: tenant alleging that other tenants do not remove lint from the dryer and brought cockroaches into the building. Advised of options.

Thursday, 2/6
7 a.m. Four vehicles towed from Third Street lot to allow for snow removal.
9:01 a.m. Three vehicles towed from Fourth Street lot for snow removal.

Sunday, 2/9
11:48 p.m. Alarms at Southworth and Strathmore buildings triggered by water flow issues. TFFD on scene.

Wednesday, 2/12
1:09 p.m. Two reports of pigs loose in Wendell Road. Second caller advised that he was able to get the pigs back to where they belong.
7:25 p.m. Report of water in basement on O Street. Consulted DPW, who advised homeowner to call a plumber.
8:02 p.m. Second report of sewage backup into a different basement on O Street. DPW sending crew.

Friday, 2/14
11:29 a.m. Tractor trailer stuck in snowbank blocking traffic at bridge by paper mill. Report that three truck drivers were arguing outside their vehicles. Drivers had stopped arguing by end of 911 call. Traffic rerouted on Greenfield side until truck was freed.
1:19 p.m. Dispute regarding allegedly intentional blowing/shoveling of snow onto neighboring property.
2:57 p.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery; intimidating a witness; and attempted murder.

4:01 p.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor; operating under the influence of drugs; possessing an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle; speeding; operating to endanger; and a marked lanes violation.

9:02 p.m. Motor vehicle taken from owner on Fourth Street and operated without permission. Vehicle and operator located; vehicle returned to owner.

10:36 p.m. Loud music complaint on Twelfth Street; caller stated that this was an ongoing issue. Quiet upon arrival. Caller advised of options.

Saturday, 2/15
12:39 a.m. Noise complaint on Fourth Street. Music audible from outside upon arrival. Parties advised to turn it down.

9:51 a.m. Report of broken water pipe in basement on Ninth Avenue; caller unable to turn off water. Shelburne Control asked to contact Montague Center Fire Department, who requested control to contact Montague Center Water Department, who advised that the address was in the Turners Falls Water District. TF Water Department contacted and would be sending someone out.

1:53 p.m. Report of breaking and entering attempt at a Federal Street business. Investigated.

4:07 p.m. Avenue A business owner reported that a customer who had been allowed to use the restroom dropped a hypodermic needle on her way out. Needle secured and disposed of.

5:20 p.m. Caller reporting an opossum in a small shelter he built for his cat; worried that opossum may be ill. Referred to an officer.

7:10 p.m. Snowmobile observed traveling on Millers Falls Road toward town at an estimated 85 miles per hour. Unable to locate.

8:57 p.m. Report that railroad crossing arms in Lake Pleasant had been going up and down for past half hour. Pan Am advised.

Sunday 2/16
1:30 a.m. Caller reported that a male had fallen on the sidewalk outside Between the Uprights. Male located and found to be intoxicated and possibly frostbitten. Transported to hospital.

5:06 a.m. Lake Pleasant railroad crossing arms malfunctioning again. Pan Am contacted; tech en route.

8:27 a.m. Vehicle into snowbank then tree on Turners Falls Road. No apparent injuries. Operator stated that he was speeding because he was late to work. Citation issued.

9:30 a.m. Report of multiple sightings of a suspicious auto on Montague City Road over past week. Referred to an officer.

Monday, 2/17
12:19 p.m. Caller reported that private plow driver was pushing snow up against her vehicle. Responding officer spoke with plow driver, who was attempting to deter caller from parking in an area that impedes snow removal. No damage to caller’s vehicle.

6:55 p.m. Unwanted person at Seventh Street apartment. Party transported to his sister’s house.

Tuesday, 2/18
2:23 a.m. Caller from Grout Circle reported leak of water into his apartment from upstairs neighbors’ bathroom; suspected that it might be due to neighbors’ impending eviction. Advised to contact landlord. Officer responded to attempt to ask neighbors to turn off water. Upstairs toilet found to be stuck. Problem resolved.

2:32 a.m. Domestic disturbance on East Main Street. Verbal only.

5:25 a.m. Caller from Pan Am concerned that Lake Pleasant crossing arms may be malfunctioning. Responding officer found no evident damage and gates operational.

6:42 a.m. DPW reporting possible theft of diesel from tank of truck parked on Avenue A.

12:13 p.m. [redacted] arrested, charged with aggravated assault and battery.

2:38 p.m. Vehicle with two small children inside into snowbank on Route 63. No injuries. [redacted] arrested, charged with OUI liquor; operating to endanger; two counts of child endangerment while under the influence; open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle; and having a child under 5 without a car seat.

4:34 p.m. Klonopin reported missing from a backpack in Greenfield. Referred to Greenfield PD.

5:34 p.m. Two week supply of Percocet reported stolen from a locked drawer on Avenue A. Report taken.

9:36 p.m. General disturbance at St. Stanislaus’.

9:46 p.m. Caller from Millers Falls reported that someone upstairs was smoking crack. Upstairs neighbors were asleep, no odors or anything of note found in apartment.

Wednesday, 2/19
7:59 a.m. Vandalism under the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Report taken.

8:29 a.m. Report of shoplifting at Food City the previous evening. Surveillance tape reviewed; possible suspect identified.

9:45 a.m. Vehicle stuck in snow on Oakman Street.

10:43 a.m. Vehicle stuck in snow on Unity Street.

12:58 p.m. Vehicle into snowbank at Lake Pleasant and Millers Falls Road. No injuries; front end damage.

5:08 p.m. Postal truck stuck on South Prospect Street. DPW notified; vehicle freed.

5:23 p.m. Summons issued following a domestic dispute in Turners Falls. Suspect charged with aggravated assault and battery and larceny under \$250.

5:41 p.m. Report of a heated argument taking place between two residents over snow removal in the alley between Fourth and Fifth Streets. Peace restored.

6:38 p.m. Two car motor vehicle accident near F.L. Roberts; multiple children inside one of the vehicles. Towing company advised ½ hour or more ETA; currently winning vehicle out of the woods in Gill. Vehicle removed; report taken.

10:35 p.m. Caller reported the arms at the Lake Pleasant railroad crossing had been down for more than an hour. Pan Am advised.

Thursday, 2/20
1:22 a.m. Loud argument among several parties on Avenue A. Group dispersed upon arrival of MPD.

8:05 a.m. Call from local bank stating that a notorious truck full of junk/trash was in their parking lot and that they do not want it parked there. Owner contacted and advised to clear items out of his vehicle as they could present a hazard when driving. He stated he would be going to the dump today.

12:23 p.m. Crossing arms stuck down, in Lake Pleasant. Truck driver with vehicles in front of him and behind him requested assistance turning around. Vehicles crossing track while arms were down. Pan Am on scene to assist with traffic. Advised train would be coming through soon; in Athol at this time.

1:41 p.m. Report of pothole on Unity Street. DPW advised.

3:45 p.m. Vehicle stuck in snow on Unity Street. Rau’s on scene with winch.

10:11 p.m. Two bottles of Adderall reported stolen from Avenue A apartment.

Friday, 2/21
8:11 a.m. Caller reported a vehicle in front of him hit the pothole on Unity Street and may have popped a tire. Pothole found to be larger than yesterday. DPW advised; MPD asked to call back if it gets bigger or if there are additional problems. Anonymous walk-in reported same pothole. Officer will try to locate a traffic cone to put in the pothole. Attempted to contact DPW again. Cone placed in hole. DPW responded; on scene; calling in second worker due to size of hole. Pothole filled.

11:09 a.m. Report that last night a woman urinated in the Shady Glen park- see MPD page B4

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CYBER from page B1

The PowerPoint will include research about signs of cyberbullying and how to prevent it.

Jenna Jacobsen, Vanessa Moreno, Hannah Welles and the rest of the research and presentations crew have a lot of work to do, but feel as if it's worth it. They hope to teach their peers about the causes and effects of cyberbullying.

This Committee will not only help parents and their middle school peers, but teach upper elementary students that cyberbullying is out there too.

Recently, some of the Committee's participants talked to the principals of Erving, Montague and Gill Elementary Schools. Together, they found two ways of reaching out to students.

This year the Committee plans to create a cyberbullying survey for elementary students. Next year they plan to do a presentation.

Sarah Waldron, Hannah Graves

and D'Ahnee Smith, the public speaking work group, want to keep these young kids safe.

As Sarah put it, she wants to "prepare them for the upcoming years, and tell them it's out there, but not to be brutal about it."

Don't forget to come to Parent Night and support these kids and all their hard work! Registration is required by calling 863-7320 or emailing emily.krems@gmrtd.org. Be sure to provide your name, the number of adults, and the ages of any children attending.

In the end, it's amazing what these middle schoolers are doing for kids all over.

Samantha Kolodziej is in the eighth grade at Great Falls Middle School. She is considering a career in journalism.

Her guidance counselor, Emily Krems, initiated the "Writing for the Reporter" program at the Middle School.



LAMORE from page B1

The machine's house coasted around on the turntable if the tilt lever was engaged when swinging.

I learned to take advantage of the coasting problem by beginning to dump at the edge of the crusher hopper while keeping the reverse pedal engaged. I let the machine coast over the hopper while dumping. As soon as I stopped dumping, the reverse swing kicked in and whipped the machine back in the opposite direction. Once I got it figured out, I could bail gravel into the crusher like crazy.

One day when I couldn't come in to work, another operator from the union hall tried running the Yumbo. He couldn't figure out the crazy swing situation and banged into the crusher's flywheel – a five foot high, cast iron wheel. A flywheel spoke cracked in two places, ready to fly out.

The cost to replace the flywheel was prohibitive and would be a major, time-consuming undertaking. Running the crusher with a huge chunk of iron spoke ready to fly out of the flywheel and kill someone was not an option. They fired the operator, and shut the job down.

I suggested they weld a thick steel plate onto the side of the flywheel, then burn a couple of holes in the plate to allow button welding the plate to the broken spoke. They loved the idea, and it worked out great.

Gilmond's job was to monitor the boulders coming up the conveyor belt. I was in the Local 98 union, though Gilmond wasn't. I'd told him; the less said the better. An oversized jagged boulder had previously torn a belt to shreds.

Gilmond was able to successfully roll oversized boulders off of the conveyor belt in time, or pull the clutch lever to stop the belt. Occasionally, I'd send up a scoop of gravel containing a ball of snakes clustered together underground for the winter. Ludlow residents claimed the snakes were rattlesnakes.

I could tell when a ball of snakes came up the conveyor belt because I could see Gilmond lean back as far as possible away from the bundle of unhappy snakes as they came slithering back to life on their ride past him.

When spring arrived, both Gilmond and I wanted to quit working at the pit to take care of customers who were calling us, even though we were getting union wages.

The pit owner tried his best to

keep us on. Replacements he'd tried out couldn't figure out how to run the Yumbo without banging into the crusher and damaging it. The Yumbo operators also weren't able to make even half as many cycles per minute, and Gilmond did a good job running the crusher. The owner guaranteed me a job in the pit – for life.

"If I had to come to work in this pit for the rest of my stinking life; I'd shoot myself."

He didn't like the answer. Gilmond tried not to smile, but he also refused, with a shake of his head.

He was the best worker I'd ever met. He never needed anyone to tell him what to do.

Another cold and snowy winter, Gil worked for me in Longmeadow when there was no work in Franklin County. I'd negotiated a sub-contract for pipe work on the Connecticut border in Longmeadow, where it was often spring-like.

We laid main lines and stubs for house connections for a new sewer system. The two of us were able to get about 75% as much pipe into the ground as the contractor's crew of fourteen men.

The contractor's crew included the project manager, superintendent, engineer, foreman, grade foreman, time keeper, two laborers, a backhoe operator, a loader operator, a dump truck driver, a mason, a mason tender, and a gofer who went for coffee, materials, and supplies with a pickup truck. Our crew was Gilmond and me. We did it all.

Gene O'Neil, prime contractor and owner of the company, came out one day to talk to his superintendent. He was livid.

"Those two guys are doing almost as much as you guys. And they're doing it right. They're even going behind you to re-lay pipe your crew laid at the wrong grade."

That tirade made Gilmond grin with pride.

He was the best worker I'd ever met. He never needed anyone to tell him what to do.

He always looked ahead, assembling pipe on the ground as I dug the trench. If he saw we didn't have enough pipe or fittings, he'd jump into the pickup and drive to the sup-

ply trailer to get what we needed.

The only time I needed to tell him what to do, was one cold day when a sudden blizzard blew up. It got cold, fast. Snow began coming down hard and the wind was unmercifully sharp. We could hardly see to work.

"This is it, Gilmond, we're going home."

"Shucks, we can get in another pipe."

"Gilmond! We're going home!"

Whenever I left him working alone and a piece of equipment quit, he'd fix it, and keep going.

One extremely cold morning on the way to work, the gas line on my pickup started to freeze up. I bought a couple of cans of Dry Gas and dumped a can in the tank. The truck kept sputtering, and finally stopped.

Gilmond pulled the seat back and unscrewed the elbow at the top of the gas tank. He banged ice out of the elbow and poured a little Dry Gas into the line, put the connections back, the engine started, and off we went, in just a few minutes.

He was an invaluable employee. But he was more than invaluable. He had integrity, was good-natured, conscientious and took pride in his work. Any of his friends, employers, or customers can attest to that.

When working in upscale Longmeadow, the contract called for installing house connections up to the property line. We needed to know where the bathroom was in the house so we could aim the new pipe in that direction for future connection.

While Gilmond was away getting pipe fittings, I went to the house to inquire. Inside the foyer, a painting of a nude hung at eye level beside the front door. The subject was the bust of a woman of admirable proportions.

The proud model for the painting opened the door, wearing a revealing blouse. She smiled happily that I'd shown such studied interest in the artist's work.

When Gilmond got back, I said, "Gil, go rap on the door and find out which side their bathroom's on."

Gilmond came back, red faced, looking a bit shocked. "You son of a gun; she said you already checked."

"I just wanted you to check everything out."

That was one time he didn't say "Shucks."

I'll miss that guy.



LOOKING BACK:
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on February 26, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Turners' Veterans Memorial

The Trustees Soldiers Memorial has raised \$60,000 through letters and appeals to private citizens and businesses, bringing them nearly halfway to their goal of \$135,000, the amount needed to build the new memorial on Avenue A.

To help bridge the gap, the memorial has received \$20,000 in matching funds as a challenge grant from Greenfield Savings Bank.

"We hope to raise the remaining funds, matching this grant dollar for dollar, and get the construction underway. We want to dedicate the new memorial by Veterans Day, 2004," said Mike Cenzano, chair of the Trustees.

The memorial's architect has

Mapping Erving

reduced the length of the memorial wall by one third to reduce costs.

The Erving selectboard heard a presentation Monday on Geographic Information System software that could be installed at town hall for use by both town departments and the public.

Rajin Karlin, president of Full Circle Technologies, outlined possible uses for the system in Erving, including assessment mapping, police use, and access by the public to selected land parcel information.

The software, sold by another firm, was quoted at \$1,200 and is "overlayed" with VectorEyes. A Full Circle Technologies product that permits data manipulation and portal access as designed by the user.

MPD from page B3

ing lot, threw trash out of the vehicle, and drove off. Statement form and CD with surveillance footage dropped off. Summons issued for disorderly conduct and trash, litter from motor vehicle. 1:01 p.m. 911 hangup call; elderly resident had been looking for the phone number for a friend and thought the police might have it. 1:41 p.m. Road rage incident reported on Canal Street. Vehicle cut off caller near merge at traffic island on the hill by Stop and Shop in Greenfield. Driver who cut off caller exited his vehicle and began yelling and shaking his

fists at the caller before leaving. Area search negative. 11:29 p.m. Vehicle into snowbank on Sunderland Road. **Saturday, 2/22** 10:57 p.m. Vehicle into snowbank on Millers Falls Road. **Sunday, 2/23** 1:02 p.m. Report of large icicle pulling away from building on Fourth Street. Property manager advised. 1:13 p.m. Three calls reporting ice falling from roof on Fourth Street and taking phone and cable wires down with it. TFFD and property maintenance staff en route. 3:17 p.m. Mailbox vandalized on Ripley Road;

not first time. 8:52 p.m. Caller stating that there is a Domino's delivery man in her house who is refusing to leave; advised that he put his fingers all through her pizza after she complained about the way the pizza was made. Peace restored. 11:04 p.m. Complaint regarding train idling in place behind a Lake Pleasant residence for several hours. Pan Am contacted; confirmed that train had been there since 9:30 p.m. and would be getting a new crew at approximately 7 a.m. Caller advised that nothing could be done at this time.

CLIO from page B1

relationship. Sometimes it takes a little time.

I think we should give Dave's mom the benefit of the doubt and assume that she can still be loving to her son and friendly to you, even if she does not get to the point where she thinks your relationship is a great idea.

If she never comes around to accepting your relationship, then what? While this might be uncomfortable for the two of you, I am confident you can weather it. Some-

times other people's disapproval can help us clarify our beliefs and values for ourselves.

I don't know what Dave's mother's "old-fashioned views" are, but I'll bet you don't approve of all of her choices either.

I think it's all right for you to disagree, and to explain your views to her. She probably expects that from a younger generation.

I think that she will appreciate that you took the time to be honest with her and that you trusted her to react appropriately.

If she is skeptical at first, she won't be the first parent ever to feel this way about her child's chosen partner.

If those are her feelings, may she find a way to communicate them with the same amount of respect you have given her, allowing the three of you to continue on friendly terms.

Good luck!

Yours,
Clio



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ONGOING:

EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

EVERY 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:

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.

Hampden Gallery, UMass, Amherst: *The War & Peace Project* curated by Trish Crapo and Lola Baltzell. On display through March 16th.

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 27

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Food For Change* film showing, a feature-length documentary film focusing on food co-ops as a force for dynamic social and economic change in American culture. 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Book of Love: A Magnetic Fields Cover night*, proceeds to Anthony's fund, \$, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Surly*

Temple, celebrate Tommy's 60th (Ouch!) Birthday with Jim Henry, Guy DeVito, Doug Plavin and of course Tommy Boynton! 9 p.m."

Route 63, Millers Falls: *Scream To Be Heard*, all ages, multiple bands, \$, 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Strippmall Ballads*, lo-fi cinematic folk, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

Fiske Pond Conservation Area, Wendell: *Animal Tracking Workshop*. Join Paul Wanta for a tracking workshop around the Fiske Pond. Search for and identify and interpret tracks of the forest animals inhabiting our landscape. Space is limited, contact Ray DiDonato to register rdidonat@hotmail.com. Priority given to Wendell residents. 9



Anika Nailah presents excerpts from her National Liberation Poetry Tour Experience, film and discussion, 10 a.m. at the First Congregational Church, Greenfield. See Saturday, 3/1 listing.

a.m. to noon

First Congregational Church, Greenfield: *National Liberation Poetry Tour Experience with poet/educator Anika Nailah*. Interactive mini-performance with facilitated discussion about how we can interrupt racism in our own lives. 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. RSVP for childcare. email@massslaveryapology.org or (413) 625-2951.

Pushkin, Greenfield: *Music Jam, Dance Party, Yoga, Meditation for children large and small*. With Marcy Gregoire and Emily Sat Akal Misbaugh, for ages 2 and up. Play an instrument of ours or bring one of your own, \$, 10:30 a.m.

Memorial Hall Theater, Shelburne Falls: *Metropolitan Opera*

live broadcast, Borodin's Prince Igor, \$, noon.

Montague Community Hall, Montague Center: *Square Dance* to live old-time music. \$, 7 p.m. All are welcome.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Starcash* film showing as part of the Science Fiction/Fantasy and Horror/Monster movie series, 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Jo Henley*, roots rock, 8 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Jazz Plus with Juke Joint Jazz and Free Range Cats*. The Cats are a horn fronted, instrumental group of veteran valley musicians playing groove, soul, jazz, rock, Afro beat and funky New Orleans, \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Wildcat O'Halloran Band*, 9 p.m.

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

Trinity Church, Shelburne Falls: *Hilltown World Folk Concert & Community Sing with Amandla*. Free, 2 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

Sunderland Library, Sunderland: *Food For Change* film showing, and discussion with the filmmaker Steve Alves, www.foodforchange.coop, 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

Gallery A3, Cinema Complex, Amherst: *Gloria Kegeles - Un Voyage Au Dollarama*. Opening reception for this Wendell photographer. Amherst Art Walk night, 5 to 8 p.m. Work on display through March 29.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series* featuring Karin Gottshall & Joan Larkin, 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Fall Town String Band*, 8 p.m.

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

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Blind Owl Band*, \$, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Greenfield Com-*

munity College Chorus preview concert: *Songs of Nature*. Under the direction of Margery Heins, with Marilyn Berthelette, accompanist, and with soloists drawn from the chorus, 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.

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

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



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TRUTH THAT CHANGES

In our time we find ourselves questioning what was considered the truth. Those truths we might have learned from our parents, grandparents, or even our friends.

One pre-conceived idea is that the Bible was written by mere man and is unreliable. Before agreeing, consider the internal evidence such as archaeology that is so accurate; historic content is of high value as well. Most important is what the Bible says for itself.

The Bible says:

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."
(2 Timothy 3:16)

The Bible as the true word of God becomes clear when we apply its truth in our lives and we are totally transformed by it.

It is God's Word and it is alive.

Read your Bible daily.

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

WEST ALONG from page B1

for our role here, and for the ancient places in this landscape.

There is a growing coalition in this Valley seeking to rediscover and restore the balance to this river that drew us here. Some of us are renewing our connection with this ancient landscape, and our numbers are growing.

The Nolumbeka Project volunteers are restoring trails and replanting gardens on the mist-shining hill of Wissatinnewag, that some know as Canada Hill and Mackin's Ridge. They are fighting a dysfunctional city government in Greenfield, trying to protect the final resting places of indigenous peoples, fighting to accord them the same respect accorded to Christian or Jewish cemeteries.

Investigative journalists like Gary Sanderson, and local historians like Bud Driver are fighting bureaucracies and vested interests to help us better understand and protect our public heritage. Karl Meyer is keeping watch over the migrating multitudes of shad and other fish species, who are finding themselves decimated by the power canals and selfish policies of the hydroelectric companies.

Joe Graveline and Howard Clark patiently persevere in efforts to convince the hydroelectric giants to respect and protect Native American vestiges and sacred sites in the relicensing process for the dams built up and down the river.

People of good will up and down the Valley from Sugarloaf to Northfield are fighting the good fight, demanding respect for sites populated by thousands of people over 10,000 years before Europeans settled

here.

We have had to fight our own State of Massachusetts Historical Commission for information about our own history! We have had to fight our own Town of Montague Selectboard chairman for a simple vote to support a grant project application to investigate and gather data about the Peskeompskut massacre of 1676, the fight that gave the village of Turners Falls its name!

Even in these pages, just a week ago, another writer tried to revive an argument over the now-accepted Ceremonial Hill on the edge of the Montague Plains. Jeff Singleton felt he had to be the apologist for Chairman Mark Fairbrother, who is still carrying around anger over the decision to list the Ceremonial Hill as eligible for the National Registry of Historic Places.

It seems that Singleton and Fairbrother continue to be upset over that 2008 decision. Singleton writes that "Native American activists blocked the runway extension."

First of all, these were not "Native American activists" which seems to suggest some starry-eyed do-gooders from the fringe, but in fact the Tribal people who intervened were Tribal Historic Preservation Officers of the Wampanoag of Gay Head (Aquinnah) and the Narragansett Indian Tribe, who have federal status and are required by statute and tribal imperatives to oversee and protect ceremonial sites.

The tribes really couldn't care less about whether or not there was a runway extension, in fact they are supportive of current plans for just such a project. However, they did not want the Ceremonial Hill to be

bulldozed, removed, and used for fill under the runway extension. Fill could be brought in from elsewhere, and the extension would have been built. The Tribes had no issue with that.

Singleton goes on to lament the lack of hard scientific archaeological evidence, which if cited would appease his sense of outrage over the NPS report. He mocks Native American and White oral tradition as vague and based on second-hand hearsay.

He falls into the Eurocentric trap of Western thinking that science, and only science, equals knowledge, that hard, scientific evidence is the only valid source of knowledge.

I would suggest that Msrs. Singleton and Fairbrother procure a copy of "Indigenous Archeologies," published in 2010, sponsored by the World Archeological Congress and edited by Leverett resident H. Martin Wobst, in collaboration with Margaret Bruchac and Siobhan Hart.

This would provide Jeff Singleton with clues to new and evolving concepts in the field of archeology, where Indigenous ways of knowing can reveal new holistic knowledge to the purveyors of Western reductionism such as our Mr. Singleton who accepts only "hard, scientific evidence".

The NPS report he cites was published in 2008, more than five years ago. All parties involved on both sides of the argument, including the FAA, have accepted the findings of the NPS report as a fact of life, and have moved on.

I suggest that our friends Singleton and Fairbrother do the same.



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Vouchers for Woodstove Replacement

The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, with support from the state Departments of Environmental Protection and Energy Resources, launched a third round of the Woodstove Change-Out Program on Feb. 18. They offer incentives to assist residents in replacing non-EPA-certified woodstoves with cleaner, more efficient wood or pellet stoves.

Applications will be accepted through March 4.

All MA residents operating a non-EPA certified wood-fired stove or fireplace insert are eligible for vouchers of \$750 off the cost of replacing them. Low-income applicants who meet certain requirements are eligible for vouchers up to \$2,000. Vouchers may be redeemed at a

participating stove professional for an instant rebate off purchase and installation cost.

Please note that funding is limited and, if a high volume of complete applications is received, MassCEC will implement a randomized selection process to ensure fairness.

Details of the program, including info on performance standards and guidance on determining if your existing stove is EPA-certified, and online applications, are at CommonwealthWoodstoveProgramProcessing.com. Online application is encouraged, but paper applications are available on that site, or can be requested by contacting biomasssthermal@masscec.com or calling (617) 315-9340.

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