

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

YEAR 12 – NO. 12

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 9, 2014

Montague Sets 2014 Tax Rates – Gears Up For FirstLight Battle

By JEFF SINGLETON

On December 23 the town of Montague set the FY 2014 tax rates, producing declines in both rates and tax bills for many homeowners. But these reductions were financed by a large increase in the valuation and tax payment for the FirstLight Power Company, which owns the so-called “power canal” and a plant on the Connecticut River. This valuation could be challenged in state tax court.

In addition, lower rates for residential property were financed, in part, by a shift of the tax burden to commercial and industrial property, under Montague’s “split tax rate.”

The 2014 residential tax rate, as approved by the Selectboard, will be reduced from \$17.04 in 2013 to \$16.34, a reduction of 4.1%. According to calculations produced by the Montague Assessors Department, this would lead to a reduction in the annual tax bill for the “average” single family home from \$3,125 to \$2,987 (-4.4%).

However, this reduction is primarily achieved by an increase in the assessed value of FirstLight from \$73 million to \$117 million. According to assessor Barbara Miller, the higher property value will produce a tax increase for the

see TAXES page A5

For Painting Company, End to a Retail Era



Chris Couture has consolidated the family business' operations at this building at the far end of Avenue A.

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – New Year’s Eve marked the end of an era for a longstanding family business. Facing a decline in effective demand, Christian Couture, third-generation owner of Couture Bros., has closed the company’s retail outlet at 187 Avenue A in order to focus on contracting.

“My intention has been to get everything under one roof,” said Couture, who is regrouping the company’s operations into his warehouse facility at 400 Avenue A, along the power canal and bike path, and between the Department of Public Works headquarters and

Black Jungle Terrarium Supply. “I’m ready for a new venture.”

The painting business dates to 1910, when Couture’s great-uncles, William and Raoul Couture, founded the company at 168 Avenue A, the former Bartlett building.

Their brother, Samuel H. Couture, bought out Raoul in 1926, and William in 1930, building a 2,500-square foot building across the street from the post office in 1933.

The company’s operations peaked in the 1940s and ‘50s, when commercial clients included many large gas and oil companies,

see COUTURE page A6

Community Raises Funds for Family after New Year’s Tragedy

La Comunidad recauda fondos para familia después de una tragedia de Año Nuevo

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

Por CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

TURNERS FALLS – Alberto Martinez, 25, a resident of Turners Falls, tragically lost his life in the early morning of New Year’s Day, when he fell down a flight of cellar stairs and struck his head on a cast iron waste pipe.

Martinez, originally from Chiapas, Mexico, moved to the United States about four years ago. He first resided in Springfield, but a year ago moved up to Turners Falls with his wife, Damaris Morales Martinez, and their newborn daughter, also named Damaris.

Two months ago the couple had a second baby, Andrew. In Turners, Martinez also had other family, including a sister.

Life was going well for Martinez, described by friends and family as a wonderful man, devoted to his wife and children, outgoing, hardworking and respectful of others.

He greatly enjoyed playing his guitar, and had a fine singing voice. He also loved playing soccer, and in the warmer months, in the short respites from work, could often be found organizing an impromptu soccer game.

Martinez was employed on

see FUND page A8

TURNERS FALLS – Alberto Martinez, de 25 años, residente de Turners Falls, perdió trágicamente la vida en la madrugada del día de Año Nuevo, cuando se cayó por las escaleras del sótano y se golpeó la cabeza en una tubería de desagüe de hierro fundido.

Martínez, originario de Chiapas, México, se mudó a los Estados Unidos hace unos cuatro años. De primero residía en Springfield, pero hace un año subió a Turners Falls con su esposa, Damaris Morales Martínez, y su hija recién nacida, también llamado Damaris.

Hace dos meses, la pareja tuvo un segundo hijo, Andrew. En Turners, Martínez también tuvo otras familiares, incluyendo a una hermana.

La vida iba bien para Martínez, descrito por amigos y familiares como un hombre maravilloso, dedicado a su esposa e hijos, saliente trabajador y respetuoso con los demás.

Él disfrutaba mucho tocando su guitarra, y tenía una voz para cantar bien. También adoraba jugar el fútbol y en los meses calientes, en sus breves respiros de trabajo,

ver FONDO pagina A8

Changing Climate, Changing Lifestyle?

By KATIE NOLAN

WENDELL – “Why not just do it?” someone in the audience asked Jonathan and Susan von Ranson as they explained their quest for “simple living”. Thirty or more people came to the December 20 forum, presented by the Wendell Climate Change Group, to consider the couple’s saga.

The von Ransons have been trying to complete legal construction and occupancy of their “simple living” apartment for five years.

As designed, the apartment attached to their barn in the center of Wendell will not be wired for electricity, will be heated by a masonry wood stove without a fossil fuel backup system, will get its water supply via hand pump and its hot water from the stove, and will include a composting toilet.

However, the Massachusetts state sanitary code, 105 Code of Massachusetts Regulations 410.750 (A-O), absolutely requires, without variance: electricity supply to the house if it is within 600 feet of an electric pole, on-demand availability of hot water at 110 degrees, toilets and sewage disposal, and heat in every habitable room of the house. The sanitary code considers lack of these features as “conditions deemed to endanger or impair health or safety”.

Unless their apartment meets 105 CMR 410.750, the couple will not be able to occupy it legally.

Jonathan said that he and Susan want more than just the ability to finish building their apartment and move in. They want to push the state to change its regulations, to allow

“a legal, dignified, authorized, simple way to live.”

The von Ransons contend that “simple living” will make their lives safer and healthier.

Climate change group member Alistair MacMartin introduced the forum by saying that every culture has an underlying story, and that our culture’s story – that humans are separate from each other and from the rest of creation – “is no longer working” and “is the underlying cause of climate change and environmental degradation.”

MacMartin sees “simple living” as a new story about who we humans are and how we can be connected to the environment and the earth. It would be a step away from destroying the world.

Jonathan traced his interest in simplicity from his strange vision at the age of 6, imagining he was looking down at himself from a perch on the moon, to his teenage dream of living in a cabin in the woods, to a midlife interview with permaculture activist Bill Mollison, who told Jonathan, “If you want to understand the world, think in energy terms.”

Jonathan said he decided that humans are part of a larger living energy system and that “attention to the earth yields the greatest health and healing.”

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser concurred, saying, “our health and the health of the ecosystem are connected.” Pooser disagrees with the sanitary code and its “legal obligation to increase our [carbon] footprint.”

Although people are responding to this restrictive code

see CLIMATE page A6

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

FRTA Chief: We “Cannot” Provide Bus Service To Leverett

By DAVID DETMOLD

Even though Leverett is still, at last check, a town in Franklin County, and even though it has had a fixed-route bus line crossing north to south through its midsection, en route from Greenfield to Amherst, for the last 40 years – a route administered by the Franklin Regional Transit Authority since 2006 – Leverett “cannot” join the FRTA.

Nor can the town enter into any advisory board discussions on the fate of that bus line, as long as it remains a member of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority.

That is the flat assertion made by Franklin Regional Transit Authority administrator Tina Cote in a letter dated December 19, 2013 to Roy Kimmel, the selectboard’s appointed representative to the PVTA.

Leverett pays an annual assessment of \$154 to be a part of PVTA’s demand response van service for elderly or disabled citizens to points in Hampshire County.

“Service for the elderly and disabled is really needed,” Kimmel told the selectboard on January 7. He said they use the demand

response service for medical appointments and shopping trips; the selectboard has expressed no interest in canceling that service.

and, in a bid to increase ridership, to see if the current fare of \$3 for a one way trip could be reduced to \$1.50.

That fare would be in line with the rest of the FRTA’s long distance routes. For example, the longer bus route from Greenfield to Northampton costs \$1.50 each way.

But Cote’s letter threw cold water on those hopes.

“I am in receipt of your letter dated December 16, 2013, regarding the town asking for you to represent the town of Leverett on our Board,” Cote wrote.

“Per our previous emails, Leverett cannot” [emphasis in the original] “belong to two transit authorities. “Currently you are receiving services from PVTA and paying an assessment to them. Please contact them to discuss how they would like to see the services enhanced for your town as it relates to fixed route.”

Commenting to the selectboard about that letter, Kimmel said, “Tina’s tone, in general, is frankly, ‘Get Lost!’”

Reached by phone the next day at the FRTA, Cote said state statute prevents a town from being a member

see BUS page B5

“Tina [Cote]’s tone, in general, is, frankly, ‘Get Lost!’” – Roy Kimmel, Leverett



The Montague Reporter

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One Resolution, and Wishes for 2014

We have just one resolution here at *The Montague Reporter*: to continue to bring you, as well as we possibly can, the news of your towns each week. This has been our mission from day one but we're hoping in 2014 to strengthen our depth and breadth as the "voice of the villages." We promise not to run a single story about Miley Cyrus, Phil Robertson or the Kardashians.

We also have a few wishes for 2014.

We're wishing all of the towns we serve ongoing prosperity and revitalization, as well as all good things for all in their communities.

For Montague we are hoping that this new year will continue to bring prosperity in the form of new businesses to the town. We're looking forward to seeing ground breaking on the new industrial park. We're happy to welcome Kali B's and Alpha Stone to Montague.

We're delighted that RiverCulture is vigorous and thriving and feel quite confident that 2014 will see even more events and activities downtown. We couldn't be happier about the redevelopment efforts ongoing in Millers Falls and are excited about the future for this village. We are also hoping this is the year for the skatepark to get its funding. And we're sending all our best wishes for a successful outcome to the Battlefield Grant.

A year without a major sewer break would also be very welcome.

We are hoping in 2014 that the citizens in the towns in the Union #28 school district can resolve the

issues relating to regionalization. It is certainly true that the population in Leverett and Wendell, as well as elsewhere, is "graying," and we know that this has a very real impact on the elementary schools.

We also are aware of the pedagogical evidence that supports small, local schools as ideal.

We send our best wishes to Leverett for their new fire hires and for a coming together of the town over issues relating to growth, energy, prosperity and even an amicable understanding over the gravel pit.

For Gill we are hoping for continual prosperity and a successful negotiation with Montague over sewer rates for Riverside users. We also hope that your ardent greening efforts will continue and thrive.

We are sending our best to those in Erving for another prosperous year and with hope that 2014 will be free of controversy and divisiveness. We wish Chief Philip Wonka good luck in rebuilding the Erving Fire Department. We send the Conservation Commission and the selectboard our best wishes for a final resolution for the Usher Mill.

We wish those in Wendell another good year full of "greening" and working together to make your special town special. We send our best wishes to Jonathan and Susan von Ranson. May this be the year that at long last they are able to get the go-ahead from the state to put their noble notion of simple living into place.

And to all our readers we hope that 2014 will be a year of rewards, excitement, and progress.



SAWYER-LAUCANNO ILLUSTRATION

Letters to the Editors



Thanks Due for Race Help

On Wednesday, January 1, Montague Parks & Recreation held their Annual Sawmill River 10K Run in Montague Center. Approximately 163 runners from Minneapolis to Maine participated in this major fundraising event that supports our Sponsor-A-Child Scholarship Program.

The race would not have been possible without the investment of time, energy, resources, and funding from many within our fine community.

We would like to thank A.H. Rist Insurance Co., Turn It Up Music, Greenfield Savings Bank, Renais-

sance Builders, Judd Wire, Red Fire Farm, and The Rendezvous for their generous financial support. We would also like to thank The Montague Common Hall, Foster's Supermarket, Stop & Shop, the Sugarloaf Mountain Athletic Club, and the First Congregational Church of Montague Center for much needed supplies, materials and other services.

As many of you know, volunteer assistance is essential to the success of an event of this magnitude. Therefore, considerable appreciation goes out to the Montague Parks & Recreation Commissioners, The

Franklin County Amateur Radio Club, the Montague Highway Department, Montague Police and the countless number of volunteers who spent a good portion of their New Year's Day helping us out during registration and at the finish line.

Finally, we would like to thank the runners who participated in the Sawmill Run.

We appreciate your support of MPRD programs, and look forward to seeing you in 2015!

Sincerely,

Jon Dobosz, CPRP

Director of Parks & Recreation
Town of Montague

Watch for Stolen Tools

Dear friends, neighbors, and my new community:

As we celebrated the beginning of a new year, the house that I am building on Jennison Road was vandalized. My builders' tools were stolen.

I feel shocked, devastated, and violated by these events that have taken place.

Among the tools that were stolen: Milwaukee Hole Hawg drill in

metal case, with auger twist bits, 2", 1 1/2" 7/8"; Dewalt 8-1/4" skillsaw and blade; Ridgid 5" sander, Ridgid 6" sander; four 25' extension cords; two 50' extension cords; Makita router and fence; Bosch router and fence, and many router bits. In the almost thirty years they have been building in the Valley, this has never happened before.

If you have any information about these tools, please contact

me. Anonymity will be respected.

I understand these are difficult times. My hope is that the tools will be returned, no questions asked, so that I can return to the dream of building my house in our beautiful woods of Wendell, and regain my peace of mind.

Gay Roberts

Wendell

gayaroberts@yahoo.com

Why Was the Grant Bumped?

I am quite surprised and concerned to see that the Battlefield Grant application was suddenly removed from Monday night's agenda.

The deadline is next week, and everyone has been working very hard to get it fine-tuned and worthy of receiving a grant.

I believe this first grant, which is admittedly limited in scope to King Phillip's War and the Falls Fight, could be a catalyst for our town and the surrounding communities to develop a more enlightened approach to historical study - a study which could include all the people who have dwelt in a locale, such as Franklin County.

In addition it will lead the way

to Montague becoming a stronger tourist and research destination.

As written, this grant will not cede any of the town's rights to any tribe nor to the National Park Service but will continue a dialogue and collaboration which we in Montague have been at the forefront in creating.

I believe we will be approached by others around the country who would like to emulate our efforts.

Studying the partners and advisors on this grant, I see an involvement by many significant historical organizations in Franklin County and New England: 1) as partners the Historical Commissions of Montague, Gill, Deerfield, and Greenfield;

The Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head / Aquinnah, the Nipmuck Tribe of Massachusetts, and the Narragansett Indian Tribe; and 2) as advisors: Historic Deerfield, Inc; Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association; the Nolumbeka Project; The Mohegan Tribe of Uncasville, CT; The Wampanoag Tribe of Mashpee; the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe of Mahican Indians; and the FRCOG.

I hope we continue to look forward and work towards the development of this project, which could be very powerful and fulfilling for all of those involved.

Patricia Allen
Montague

Postal Woes

I am writing to share my disappointment in the way a certain recent late fee situation was handled by the Post Office.

Since moving to Montague Center in 1996, I have received my mail in a PO Box located around the corner from my house. I live on the wrong side of the road to have a curbside mailbox, and installing one across the way would mean defacing my neighbor's flower garden. Like many on our street, she prefers the fresh air and sense of community afforded by a daily walk to the Post Office. She also loves her garden, and has not installed an eyesore mailbox in its midst. I would never think of imposing one of my own.

Before home delivery was offered, the box was free. Now, it

costs \$44 a year. I've been paying this fee without complaint, in bi-annual installments, since it first was instituted.

In early December, after the stress and rush of Thanksgiving celebrations, I realized, a day late, that my fee for the next six months was overdue. I immediately sent in a check for \$22, and assumed all would be well. Instead, I was dismayed to find the following evening that my box was empty, my mail being held.

I would have gone in to talk to the clerk face to face, but since morning and afternoon hours at the Post Office were cut last year and I commute to work on weekdays, I can only do business at the desk on Saturday. So I phoned the Montague Center Post

WOES continued next page

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No paper last week of December.
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LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Celebrate the release of two new albums, "Dreaming For Hours" by Mystics Anonymous and "Contrariwise" by Daniel Hales and the Frost Heaves in the beautiful, historic Shea Theatre on Friday, January 10, from 7 to 11:30 p.m.

You'll be dreaming for hours afterward, feeling like you just walked out of Wonderland. Lights, video projections, and inter-dimensional portals will be utilized throughout the show.

The New Renaissance Players will reprise scenes from their production of "Alice In Wonderland" (directed by Jillian Morgan) during the Frost Heaves set. Lefty's will be brewing up a special batch of "Jabberwocky Double Bock" and selling it at the show.

Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls is offering a healthy start to the New Year on Saturday,

January 11, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. If good health is a New Year's Resolution, happiness also comes hand in hand. Please come and join Colleen Campbell as she presents Body Balance and The Metabolism Boosting Kit. Ms. Campbell is a consultant who will share the scientific approaches brought forward by these revolutionary concepts.

From dealing with food cravings to helping with some ailments, Ms. Campbell will provide samples, hand-outs and general information as all these products work together along with a healthy diet and exercise choices to show proven results in 3 weeks. As always, consulting with personal physicians is strongly recommended. Light healthy refreshments will be provided by GSB.

The Knights of Columbus' free throw contest is Saturday, January 11, from 1 to 3 p.m. Boys and Girls ages 10 to 14 compete separately,

and by age category, to make as many free throws as possible.

Winners advance to a regional competition. Participation is free.

Held on the hardwood floors of the Sheffield Elementary School Gym, Turner Falls. Sort of looks like one of those old gyms in the movie "Hoosiers". Registrations are accepted day of event.

On the topic of basketball, Sem Kroon, a senior at Northfield Mount Hermon, has been nominated to play in the 2014 McDonald's All American Games. We wish him luck. He and two other boys from Western Massachusetts - Dimitri Floras, of MacDuffie, and Goodluck Okonoboh, of Wilbraham & Monson Academy - are among 984 prep school seniors selected.

The final roster of 24 boys and 24 girls will be announced on January 29, and the 13th Annual Girls Game and 37th Annual Boys Game will both be played on April 2 in Chicago. The games will broadcast on ESPN.

The Salasin Center in Greenfield runs a Women's Art Group, which starting this month will run on a new day, Mondays, at the same time, 1 to 3 p.m. All programs there are free to attend.

We're heading into the middle of winter; the days may be getting longer, but they sure feel cold! Here's

a great way to get through those long winter evenings. Head over to the Greenfield Garden Cinemas for the GBA's 2014's Midwinter Movies series, Reel Musicals!

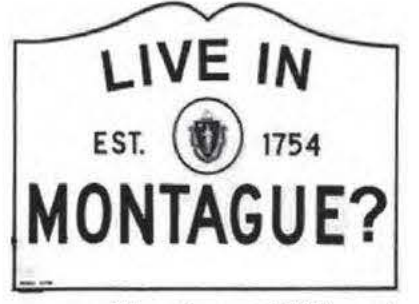
Held on Tuesdays in January starting at 7 p.m. Only \$5. All proceeds go to support the GBA's Holiday Lights program. January 14 features West Side Story, January 21 is Cabaret and on January 28 the Muppet Movie.

Join William Dean, author, amateur photographer, and nature enthusiast, at Northfield Mountain Recreation Area on Wednesday, January 15, from 7 to 8:30 pm for an amazing look at the Barton Cove eagle nest during the 2013 breeding season.

For the first time since the nest was constructed 25 years ago, three eaglets successfully fledged from the nest. This program will provide a beautiful look at the Barton Cove eagles with a photo and video presentation, interspersed with stories and observations.

Mr. Dean enjoys sharing his passion for these remarkable birds that he has photographed and observed for the past seven years. Please visit his website at www.cutloosewildlife.com.

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New Workshops at Turners Falls Women's Resource Center

The Turners Falls Women's Resource Center, located at 41 Third Street, is starting the new year off with a series of free art and craft workshops on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. called "Playing Hide & Seek with Your Creative Side".

Creativity can change a person's perceptions of their world. It can help change one's attitude, emotional state, and pain perception. It can create hope, positivity and healing. Art can help people cope with difficulties, and can transform a person's outlook and way of being in the world.

A variety of arts and crafts workshops are offered on most Fridays by women in the community to small groups of 6 to 8 women. In these workshops different aspects of yourself are explored through art using a variety of materials including watercolor, acrylics, collage, oil pastels, assemblage & up-cycling with found objects. Space is limited, so women are encouraged to call early to register.

Learn how to make **Piano Hinge Books** on January 17. These artful blank books can be used for journaling, sketching, scrapbooking, photo albums, or given as gifts - the possibilities are endless.

On January 24, create a **Get-Away Guidebook** using collage, a technique where the artwork is made from an assemblage of different materials that include newspaper and magazine clippings, ribbons, bits of colored or handmade papers, portions of other artwork or texts, photographs and other found objects glued to a piece of paper or canvas, thus creating a new whole. Comb through books of maps, travel brochures and magazines to create your own picture guidebook of imaginary mini-vacations from stress.

On January 31, identify and explore the various roles you play in life in **All That You Are** and create a paper quilt square symbolizing each role. Once the squares are complete, sew or glue all the pieces together to create a

Vacancy on Gill Finance Committee

There is a vacancy on the Town of Gill's Finance Committee. Residents of Gill who might be interested in serving on this committee should contact Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Town Clerk, at 863-8103 or townclerk@gillmass.org.

Lynda will put you in touch with John Zywna, Town Moderator, who will be making the appointment. To allow time for all

residents to consider this opening, no appointment will be made until after January 15th.

The Finance Committee acts in an advisory role on all financial matters considered at Town Meeting. Most of the group's meetings occur in the late winter and spring months, providing review and input on the Town's budget for the next fiscal year.

visual representation of the whole you.

For more information or to sign up for a workshop contact Christine, the Programs Coordinator at TFWRC, at 413.863.4804 ext. 1003, email christine@mcsmcommunity.org or stop in during Open Hours on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. TFWRC is open to all women and is a program of Montague Catholic Social Ministries.

You can find out more about the Turners Falls Women's Resource Center at www.mcsmcommunity.org/programs/turners-falls-womens-resource-center or www.facebook.com/TFWRC.

The Reporter
Wishes to Welcome
Eleanor Ramsey
to Town
12/12/13
And Congratulate
Her New Parents,
Walter and
Shannon Ramsey

WOES from previous page

Office from work the next day to see what the problem was.

The clerk explained that although he had received my check, "the system" automatically shut down my box when payment was not entered on the exact due date. I now had to cough up a \$20 late fee on top of the \$22 I'd just supplied, effectively doubling the cost of my box for the next six months.

I asked the clerk if he could please waive the late fee, considering my check was in the mail only one day late. He was sympathetic but denied my request, indicating that his hands were tied.

So I called his supervisor, Shane Emerson, the Postmaster in Turners Falls, to see if he could help me out.

Alas, Mr. Emerson, while nice enough, seemed equally powerless, or unwilling, to waive the fee. He explained that doing so would put

him in the position of having to justify his forgiving act to "them".

The sense I got was that "they" - formally described as Middle Management - would not look kindly on the Postmaster of the Montague Post Office waiving a \$20 surcharge on a payment of \$22, received approximately 48 hours behind schedule from a local homeowner. At Christmas time.

I have to assume that the only reason "they" would be unhappy in this scenario is because "they" are in a similar boat as both my local clerk and Postmaster Emerson.

Being only middle management, "they" would need to explain this reckless act of late-fee-waiving to their upper management supervisors - presumably a heartless lot of stone-faced meanies.

What is this world coming to?

I grew up having only the highest respect for the Postal Service. I

always considered it a noble institution - with romantic roots in the Pony Express, conceived in honor and service to the people, "neither snow nor rain..." etc. Imagine a fearless, windswept Pony Express rider withholding holiday packages and greeting cards!

I know from experience that even credit card companies will happily waive a late fee for a first-time delinquent offender.

For my local US Post Office branch to be less forgiving than a faceless credit card company, digging its heels in to punish a loyal patron with a stiff fee for being slightly behind in a payment - well, it just feels wrong.

Despite the bitter taste left in my mouth from this experience, on a positive note, I have developed sincere sympathy for all the good people who work at the Post Office.

Everyone has the right and need

to feel empowered in their jobs.

When superiors rob underlings of the freedom to make intelligent value judgments, to behave in a kind and understanding way, to be forgiving, exercise fairness and give individual, case-by-case attention as called for, the dignity of all parties is compromised.

I still had a merry Christmas - though I had to beg for my presents at the desk on the Saturday after the holiday, back when I was hopeful that things still might go my way.

Now I know better. I paid my double-rate, \$42, in time to hold on to the PO Box I've had for 17-plus years. And I learned from my mistake. Better late than never.

Diana Allen
PO Box 333
Montague



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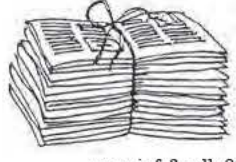
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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Taxes to Go Up

By JOSH HEINEMANN

On December 18, the night of the Wendell selectboard's final meeting of 2013 and the start of the winter holiday season, the selectboard table had four platters of cookies and treats. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich brought in the largest platter with the greatest variety, but selectboard chair Christine Heard brought a plate with chocolate chili cookies and cheese bars.

Selectboard chair Dan Keller brought in Black Oxford apples which are not pretty (their skin looks like potato skin) but they have a delightful spicy crisp sweetness even in December and January; he cut them into slices and the slices kept disappearing.

On the other side of the town office building, the kitchen planning committee was meeting, and there the chair, Judy Hall, had suggested that members bring in cookies as well. No one working in the building that evening had an excuse to leave with an unsatisfied sweet tooth.

Simple Living Developments

But treats did not get in the way of business. After the selectboard finished approving payment of bills, the board of health and interested citizens met to update them on developments of the simple living effort in town.

Although people in Wendell have chosen to live quietly, and away from attention, in homes heated with wood and unserved by either electricity or standard plumbing, Jonathan and Susan von Ranson, whose home is in the town center, questioned why state building code forces people to consume more than they might want and so to increase their carbon footprint.

To address that question Jonathan designed for one side of their renovated barn an electricity free apartment with a hand pump for water, a masonry wood stove for heat with a reservoir to keep water warm, and a two section composting toilet. When one side has reached its capacity, users change to the other side allowing the first side to develop into useable compost.

More to the point, the von Ransons went through the standard procedure for getting a building permit which requires approval from the board of health, the building inspector, and the planning board.

Citing the state code and saying they had no other option, the board of health denied their first attempt to get a permit. Since then Wendell's board of health has had a complete change of members, and the state has started an effort to redesign the health code, with more flexibility and more local autonomy.

That change would allow a local board to allow a system for treating human waste and greywater that meets the objectives of public health but is not necessarily a standard septic system.

The legislature is also working on a "home rule" provision that

would allow more local autonomy. Such home rule decisions may allow greater freedom for citizens, but they put a larger burden on the local board.

Amy Simmons, of the present board of health said that inquiries to the state about home rule were answered by state officials stating that the new more flexible health regulations would be forthcoming and the town should wait for them.

But since then, the state health department has been occupied by a drug testing lab investigation, meningitis contamination of injections, reduced funding, and now medical marijuana. No new health code has been produced, not even a draft.

The Wendell board is working on a procedure for applying for and granting a variance that would allow alternative systems and still protect public health. Simmons presented the selectboard with a draft of the application form. It applies only to owner occupants, and requires the owner occupant to agree to more stringent oversight by the local board, including initial and annual inspections.

A septic system is required for greywater but it may be designed for reduced flow. The alternative system must be recorded at the registry of deeds, and a permit may not be transferred if the property changes ownership. A new owner will have to make a fresh application.

The main feedback from town counsel was that their efforts are outside of the present laws.

Citizen Sharon Gensler said that she was on the board of health in the 1980's and at that time there were health boards in California that allowed composting toilets. Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser mentioned the health boards in Amish country that allow non-electric houses and systems for human waste that are not septic systems.

Keller brought up the possibility of citizen backlash, and health board member Jim Thornley said that in the event of a complaint, the board would investigate. He said that the board has heard no complaints about households in town that are simply living without the accepted amenities.

Simmons said that creating guidelines is no problem, but regulations require a public hearing. She said that the state wants any such effort to be made for conservation, and not simply to save money. The board of health is planning for a public hearing sometime in February.

Annual Tax Classification Hearing

The board of assessors came in for the annual tax classification hearing. All present agreed on a single tax rate for businesses and residences. That rate is set at \$19.18 per thousand up \$1.48 from last year. Assessor Stephen Broll said that last year the finance committee made a deliberate effort to keep the tax rate low and this year they are not doing that.

Poll: Nurses Once Again Top Among the Professions in Perceived Ethics, Honesty

Nurses are viewed as having "very high" or "high" ethical and honesty standards by 82 percent of the public, a full 12 points higher than any other profession in the U.S., according to a Gallup poll conducted last month.

Additionally, Gallup notes, "Nurses have topped the list since 1999, the first year Gallup asked about them - with the exception of 2001," when firefighters came out on top following "their prominent role in 9/11 rescue efforts."

Members of Congress and lobbyists were at the bottom of the honest and ethics list at just 8 percent and 6 percent respectively.

"We could not be more proud

of the trust and confidence of the public," said Karen Higgins RN, a critical care nurse at Boston Medical Center and co-president of the nation's largest organization of nurses, National Nurses United, which represents 185,000 RNs in all 50 states.

"Patients and their families count on nurses when they are at their moment of greatest vulnerability and need, and expect us to advocate for them, even when it means confronting a hospital manager or challenging an insurance directive to reduce that level of care.

"For nurses, that is a sacred trust we will never abandon," said Higgins.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Smokestack to Come Down

By KATIE NOLAN

The Boiler Building smokestack at the former Usher Plant will be inspected by NCM Contracting Group of Westford.

NCM's low bid for the work was accepted by the selectboard December 23. NCM will provide the town with a report on the stability of the stack and, based on the report, the selectboard will decide whether the upper 16 feet or the entire stack should be removed.

In November, bricks started falling from the upper part of the smokestack. NCM's bid included \$2,500 for the inspection and report, \$42,500 for removing the upper 16 feet or \$56,300 for removing the entire chimney.

The selectboard wrote to the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant program to request use of \$68,000 in the town's CDBG reserve to initiate two additional home rehabilitation projects for income eligible residents this year.

The board signed a contract with Duseau Trucking of Hatfield for curbside collection of trash, recycles, and the annual "anything goes" program for the next 2 1/2 years.

The town will pay approximately \$80,000 for the service, with

costs frozen at the 2011 level.

The board approved spending \$6,200 for S&J Jamrog Heating and Air Conditioning to vent the furnace at town hall. Herk Electric of Orange will repair the fire alarm system at Fire Hall #2 for \$3,723.

The board signed a contract with Hampshire Power for delivery of electricity to town buildings at a rate of 9.01 cents per kilowatt hour over the next 21 months.

The board signed an agreement with Franklin Regional Council of Governments to participate in Partnership for Youth.

According to FRCOG, the mission of the Partnership for Youth is to promote the health and well-being of teens in the Franklin County and North Quabbin region.

The board signed a business license for John Zilinski of East Prospect Street to sell maple syrup.

Chad Gagne of North Street was appointed to a vacant seat on the Recreation Commission, serving until the May 2014 town election.

The board decided that all town computers not connected to the town server should have an administrative account installed, to protect town information and to allow access to town computers.

An executive session was held January 6, to discuss litigation.

The excess levy capacity is \$325,175.12. Wendell's valuations have not changed much, and assessor Ted Lewis said that the tax rate is only part of the story in property taxes. The selectboard will meet with assessors and the finance committee on January 23, and there will be a regular money manager's meeting January 29 before the regular selectboard meeting.

New Assistant Building Inspector

Board members appointed Roland Jean as assistant building inspector.

Jean already has the necessary certification, but they felt that Charlie Bado would also have been a good choice if he had completed

his certification process.

One person applied for the shared clerk position. Heard said she knew of other interested people, so the board decided that the appointment could wait until their next meeting.

Insurance Credit

Aldrich said that the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA, the town's insurance company) is allowing Wendell a credit of \$884 for staying insured by them for as long as we have.

Because the next meeting would be scheduled on New Year's Day the board changed that meeting date to Thursday January 2, 2014, but the Thursday meeting was cancelled because of weather.

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TAXES from page A1

power company of approximately \$1 million.

Miller said she was confident in the assessment, done by an outside appraiser who was paid \$20,000: "I questioned our appraiser very thoroughly over this," she said. Still the decision will no doubt be challenged in the state appellate tax board unless a compromise is worked out between the parties.

If the court were to find in favor of the power company, the impact on 2015 taxes would be significant. Despite her confidence in the valuation, Miller claimed to be "very concerned" about that possibility.

The other issue addressed by Miller was the impact of Montague's split rate, which taxes commercial and industrial property (\$24.85 in 2014 according to the Selectboard vote) at a significantly higher rate than personal property (\$16.34).

Referring to businesses in the industrial park, Miller stated that "our tax rate for commercial and industrial [CIP] is \$24.85 plus they have to pay the Turners Falls Fire District rate...."

She compared this with a CIP rate of around \$21 in Greenfield, which does not have a split tax system. Miller encouraged Selectboard members to "meet with me and give me your opinion about what we should do," noting that she had discussed the problem recently with town planner Walter Ramsey.

The data distributed to the Selectboard showed the impact of a hypothetical single tax rate for 2014 on Montague businesses and homeowners.

If commercial and industrial property were taxed at the same rate as residential (18.88%), the average single family tax bill would increase by \$325 or 10% over 2013.

CIP rates, on the other hand, would be reduced by 26% over the previous year. The average commercial tax bill would be cut by 27.8% and the average industrial bill would decline by 39.1% under a single rate.

Data collected by the Department of Revenue for 2013 shows where Montague stands in comparison to other towns in the region. In that year Montague's tax rate was \$17.04 and its average single family tax bill was \$3,125. By comparison, Greenfield's 2013 rate was \$20.72 and its average single family bill was \$3,640.

The data show that tax rates are not necessarily the best basis for comparing local taxes. Sunderland had a lower tax rate (\$13.43) than Montague, but a higher average family tax bill (\$3,704).

Orange had a slightly higher tax rate (\$18.80), but the average family tax bill was significantly lower (\$2,780). The average annual residential tax bill in Orange was one of the lowest in the region.

On the high side, Leverett had a rate of \$18.66 and an average single family tax bill of \$5,630.

The Montague rates do not include the 2013 fire district and light district rates. The data for all towns in the state can be found at the website of the state Department of Revenue:

www.mass.gov/dor/local-officials/municipal-data-and-financial-management/data-bank-reports/



NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Pump Stations on State Funding List; Mysterious Agenda Item Disappears

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague Selectboard ushered in the new year much as it had ushered out the previous one: dealing with the chronic problems of a very old and decaying sewer system that must meet increased (and expensive) demands caused by state and federal regulations.

But there was some "good news," in the words of Selectboard Chair Mark Fairbrother. The Montague Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) has been placed on a list to receive interest-free loans totaling \$7.28 million from a state revolving fund.

That was the news delivered by WPCF Director Bob Trombley, accompanied by Paul Gilbert and Bob Button from the engineering/consulting firm CDM Smith.

The loans could, in theory, be used to replace all eight pump stations in town but this was deemed prohibitively expensive, particularly in the context of recent sewer rate hikes caused by the breakdown at the town's industrial park last spring.

In addition the loans would not pay for design costs which were estimated at \$1.3 million. Discussion focused on replacing the pump station on First Street, which Trombley called "a disaster waiting to happen," and another station on Poplar Road near the WPCF plant.

Trombley estimated the total cost of these two projects in the \$3 million range, financed by a potential annual increase of \$44 in sewer rates.

These are, of course, estimates. Trombley will be meeting with other town boards, including the Capital Improvements Committee and the finance committee, to bring a proposal to the annual town meeting in May.

Loan applications for this year's funding round need to be submitted by October 15 and construction must begin in 2015.

If only a portion of the total \$7.28 million is requested this year, the town will need to reapply for funds from the state revolving account in the future.

In other developments, Police Chief Chip Dodge approached the board with a proposal to hire an additional police officer to serve as a "resource officer" at the Franklin County Technical School.

According to Dodge, the tech school will "pay for everything" including salary, benefits, training at the police academy and even unanticipated increases in town insurance if the officer is injured.

Dodge is also looking for a commitment to maintain the position for three years, because, in his words, "I don't want to just lay someone off" soon after the hire.

The Selectboard seemed amenable to the concept, which will require a "memorandum of understanding" between the tech school and town, in addition to approval by Montague Town Meeting.

Ironically, the Gill-Montague Regional School District, after much internal debate, recently eliminated a similar position at the Montague Police Department.

Supporters of the "resource officer" concept argue that the position improves security in schools, helps school officials deal with drugs and related problems, and serves as a liaison between school districts and the law enforcement system.

Dodge also requested that a new hire, Kyle Whalley, be placed on a higher "step" in the pay scale (step P2) due to his experience. The Selectboard endorsed the recommendation, implemented retroactively beginning January 2.

Bill Goldfarb of Lefty's Brewing Company approached the board to request a one-day liquor license for a "CD release Party" at the Shea Theatre on January 10. The board approved the request, but chair Mark Fairbrother, noting that the date was only four days away, suggested that such applications needed to be made with greater advanced notice.

The board also approved an entertainment license for the Black Cow Burger restaurant on Avenue A, and endorsed an application from the Skate Park Committee for a grant from the Tony Hawk Foundation.

Procedural Disagreement

The board was about to go into executive session when David Brule, local author and activist, rose to complain about an unnamed item that had been taken off the agenda.

"I was appointed to head the committee," Brule noted, without stating which committee this was.

Chair Mark Fairbrother suggested that yes, "it" had not been put on the agenda when it was issued the prior Thursday.

Selectboard member Mike Nelson then stated that he needed to have a discussion of the issue in order to know how to vote.

Then Fairbrother turned to Selectboard member Chris Boutwell, who agreed that it needed to be discussed.

"It's on the next agenda," Fairbrother told Brule, and the regular meeting came to an end.

It turns out that Brule and his colleagues have been applying for a "Battlefield Grant," to support a public history project related to the "Great Falls" massacre of 1676. The massacre at a Native American fishing encampment by a white militia was a key moment in King Phillip's War.

The committee's initial application was rejected by National Park Service but Brule is applying again, with beefed-up support from local officials. He believes that the issue had been placed on the Selectboard agenda, but was abruptly taken off without explanation.

Looking Backward: December 18 and 23 Meetings

The last two meetings of 2013 were dominated by discussions of the Montague tax rate and in particular the impact of the big assessment increase imposed on the FirstLight Power Company. See separate article in this issue.

On December 18, the Selectboard renewed a long list of liquor, food and other licenses for the upcoming year. Audience member Jeanne Golrick of Millers Falls distributed copies of a state law barring establishments from serving alcohol within 500 feet of a church.

The board discussed the fact that the traditional sledding area on the hill at Unity Park would be closed this winter due to temporary barriers erected to protect the park's renovation project. The discussion was termed an effort at "public awareness" to discourage sledders from crashing into the barrier.

The board held a hearing on a request for a liquor license by Laurie and Kali Ellis. That license, approved by the board, was for a new restaurant called "Kali B's Wings & Things" on Avenue A.

Board members repeatedly stressed that this was "not a license transfer" from one establishment to another.

The previous license for the restaurant in the space, Ristorante DiPaolo, had effectively reverted to the town for recommendation, though technically the state Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission reviews each license independently.

On December 23, Bob Trombley of the Water Pollution Control Facility updated the board on his response to the recent state evaluation and "consent order" which found the WPCF needed to increase staff, in part to monitor the towns pump stations on a more regular basis.

Trombley stated that he may have to hire four more staff members and also have to implement an expensive new denitrification program.

But he also stressed that there was a great deal of "new and creative stuff going on" at the facility that could save the town money.

The board approved Trombley's request to hire Nicholas Fisher on a full time basis through June 30, 2014.

Town-By-Town Comparisons: Property Tax Rate, Average Tax Bill, Income, and Property Valuations

City/Town	Residential Rate (2013)	Avg Single Family Tax Bill 2013	Income Per Capita (2010)	EQV Per Capita (2012)
Montague	\$17.04	\$3,125	\$19,578	\$88,517
Greenfield	\$20.72	\$3,640	\$19,298	\$81,548
Gill	\$15.34	\$3,108	\$21,313	\$103,744
Sunderland	\$13.43	\$3,704	\$23,816	\$97,421
Deerfield	\$13.44	\$3,563	\$34,119	\$139,029
Leverett	\$18.66	\$5,630	\$34,740	\$145,671
Wendell	\$17.71	\$2,889	\$19,980	\$108,419
Orange	\$18.80	\$2,780	\$15,999	\$66,864
Athol	\$15.48	\$2,069	\$17,345	\$61,879
Holyoke	\$18.35	\$3,330	\$14,612	\$54,141

Tax rates and average family bill for Montague do not include taxes for independent fire districts. The Turners Falls Fire District rate for residents was \$3.00 per 1000 in 2013. The Montague Center District rate was \$1.26 per 1000. There is also an independent light district in Montague Center and environs whose rate was \$.09 per 1000 in 2013.

Montague has a split tax with higher rates for commercial and industrial property (CIP). The Montague CIP rate in 2013 was \$25.51. Greenfield, by comparison, has a single rate (\$20.72 in 2013). Commercial and industrial property in Montague also is taxed at the fire rate.

Source: Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services. Municipal Data Bank/Local Aid Section. "Community Comparison Report"

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COUTURE from page A1

and a workforce of 60 painted homes, factories and oil tanks “from Canada to Rhode Island.”

Samuel H.’s son, Samuel I. Couture, joined the business in 1953, after serving in the Army and studying business management and accounting at UMass-Amherst. In turn, his son, Christian, joined the company in 1973, as a teenager.

In the 1960s and ‘70s, the boom in school construction, and the generation of wastewater treatment plants towns built to comply with the Clean Water Act, kept business booming despite the gradual decline of manufacturing.

Over the decades, Couture Bros. weathered the booms and busts in its core business – commercial painting contracting – by diversifying and adapting.

The store location doubled as a gas station in the 1940s, and by the mid-‘50s, the gas station was moved next door to 193 Avenue A. The company would later rent that location to Greenfield Savings Bank. For a stint, the store also served as a Western Auto Supply franchise.

In recent years, the company offered custom picture framing at the store – Christian Couture described it as “our off-season stopgap” in a 2005 interview with the *Reporter* – though a decline in enrollment at the local Hallmark Institute of Photography cut into that business. The framing business, he now says, is up for sale.

High-end, California brand paints and finishes provided 75% of the retail revenues, and competition from larger retailers ultimately proved too costly.

“When people settle for mediocre, what you get is a mediocre local economy,” said store manager Paul MacMunn. However, not everyone settles, he said.

“Customers have been buying from us because their parents and

grandparents bought from us, and there are new arrivals who have become loyal customers.”

MacMunn and Couture both spoke of the competition from larger chains and box stores. “The difference between them and us was the knowledge, and the service,” said Couture.

But during recessions, he said, customers opt for the cheaper stuff, and even industrial clients skimp on maintenance and upkeep, often having employees paint their own facilities during down times.

“One of the problems with commercial customers is that they get bought up by bigger corporations who are headquartered elsewhere,” explained MacMunn, “and they tend to dictate who they can buy from. They don’t even see us...”

“We’ve lost a significant chunk of our local business that way.”

The fact that the store was integrated with a contracting company may also have cut into the retail bottom line over the years.

“I’ve seen very few painting contractors in here,” admitted MacMunn. “Why would they give their hard-earned money to one of their top competitors?”

According to the retail gap analysis that came with Montague’s Downtown Livability Plan last summer, spending on “building material and garden supply” category stores by residents within a mile of downtown slightly exceeded what was sold within that radius in 2012.

Within five miles of the village, though – an area encompassing not only Turners, but also Greenfield, Bernardston, Gill, Millers Falls and Montague Center – supply outstripped local demand by a retail “surplus” of nearly 170 times the demand.

Given that gap, any paint retailer in Turners Falls would have been hard pressed to compete for new customers. Better opportunities across the entire area, accord-

JACKSON PHOTO



The store’s entire stock, including paints, finishes, and art supplies, went on sale in late December.

ing to the study, may include gas and convenience stores, clothing stores, and “general merchandise” stores.

Though he had seen the business survive a serious recession before, Couture finally made the call this fall to close down the store.

“Early spring, everyone always says ‘this is going to be the year,’ but by July everything fizzles out.” He cited the three-and-a-half year Turners Falls-Gill bridge project as another factor that cut into town’s economy.

A former board member of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, Couture says he still pins his hopes for the downtown economy on retail development, despite the challenges faced in his sector.

This area, he said, is “the last to feel” a recession, “and the last to get out of it.”

Surveying his parking lot, the once-productive Power Canal rushing by, he shook his head and added, “I bet it’ll take another five

years.”

In a written statement, Couture said, “We want to thank the generations of patrons for their continued support all these years. I am truly going to miss the retail customers that we had, they have become true friends...”

“We will continue to be the longest running true family-owned business in Turners Falls for a long

time to come.”

The company’s business office will now be at the warehouse. The Couture family bought the property – the former site of the McLane Silk Mill, which operated from 1914 to 1928 – in 1988, and Christian built the current structure in 2002.

The family’s fourth generation, Corey and Nicole Couture, are now on his payroll.



CLIMATE from page A1

“under the radar,” Pooser said, “It is not as impactful as being very public.” He added, “The code was designed to protect renters.”

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. The Wendell group was told that new sanitary code regulations were being drafted that would allow energy conserving alternatives such as an owner-occupied “simple living” option.

In addition, they were assured that DPH would publish the new regulations promptly. However, those regulations are still internal DPH drafts and have not even been released for public comment.

Pooser also reported that the Wendell board of health has been working on draft town bylaws to formalize a “simple living” variance for an owner-occupied home.

Michael Idoine remarked that a variance affects only one case, and that “what we want are [revised] regulations, not variances.”

Idoine suggested that the people assembled at the meeting should consider “how to mobilize the town to get the state to change

its regulations.”

Chris Queen gave the narrative a global context, saying that the vast majority of the world’s population lives in cities and that civilization is founded on electricity.

He said that the changes proposed by the von Ransons for their lives would not provide answers for the billions of people on the planet.

No matter what comes of the von Ransons’ efforts, there will be no groundswell of people starting to live in their simple way. In fact, he said, the majority of people who live that way now would jump at the chance to consume as an average American consumes.

Still, the law should not require people to consume more than they want to, and have a larger carbon footprint than is necessary to maintain what they consider a good life.

Jen Gross introduced new characters to the story. As a real estate agent, she is contacted by people who want to live off the grid, are looking for land in towns that will support that option, and have heard tales about Wendell.

She said that she and these land seekers want clear answers as to what is allowed.

The forum did not provide clear answers, and the assembled people left the meeting still discussing and questioning “simple living”, the state sanitary code, and personal choices.

The Wendell climate change group plans to continue meeting each third Sunday of the month and will continue to present programs and speakers to further explore climate change and responses to its challenges.



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Hastings Elected President of Western Mass Police Chiefs Association

By DAVID DETMOLD

GILL – Gill chief of police David Hastings is the new president of the Western Mass Police Chiefs Association, following his election at the December meeting of that 111 town organization.

Hastings, who has been chief of the Gill department for the last 19 years, previously served as the 111 town organization 2nd vice president, for two years, and 1st vice president, for one year. He is also the president of the Franklin County police chiefs association, a role he has filled for the past eight years.

Hastings' election to the top slot in the Western Mass regional chiefs association, "really speaks highly of David, his character, his competence, and his professionalism," said selectboard member Randy Crochier on December 30.

Crochier said it is "the first time in a long time" the presidency of the Western Massachusetts Police Chiefs Association has gone to a Franklin County police chief.

"It's a big honor," said selectboard member Ann Banash. "He deserves it. He's going to do a great job."

Asked what was on the agenda for his two year tenure as the top cop in Western Mass, Hastings acknowledged that federal and state resources that until recently had flowed in to help small town

departments with community policing had not only dwindled, but now, "They're gone." So the emphasis needs to be on mutual aid, training, and regional grant funding to support law enforcement efforts at the local level, Hastings said.

As one example, he pointed to the success of an initiative he spearheaded in Franklin County last year, to get all the towns in the county to sign onto a mutual aid agreement that will allow on duty officers from one town to exercise authority if they encounter lawbreaking activity in progress in another town.

Gill was among the first towns in Franklin County to approve that agreement, last September, and now, Hastings said, almost all the towns in Franklin County (except Greenfield and Leyden, and possibly Charlemont) have signed off on it.

The agreement would, for example, allow an on duty patrol officer transporting a prisoner to court in Greenfield to take action against a drunken driver encountered in a neighboring community while en route.

Asked about the regional organization's ability to counter the regional impacts of illegal drug use, and the rash of breaking and entering and burglaries that appear to be linked to drug addiction in so many local police logs in recent years, Hastings acknowledged the

problem and said, "It's countrywide. The heroin is out there. It's closer than people think. Can we deal with it? Every department does the best we can. We're right off the Route 2, I-91 corridors, major drug routes between New York and Boston. They think, 'These small towns don't have the number of officers,' so they set up drug houses or apartments in

the state to the Northwestern District Attorney's office. Last year, these grants, in the amount of \$81,288, helped establish a 47-town task force in Hampshire and Franklin counties to combat drug crimes and other crimes that cross municipal borders, such as human trafficking and other organized crimes.

According to reporting from the

resources, training, and personnel from the communities involved in the task force.

Hastings said regionally focused grant funding, whether at the Franklin County or Western Mass level might be the best hope for increasing resources dedicated to crime fighting in rural communities in the years immediately ahead.



David Hastings is the new president of the Western Mass Police Chiefs Association.

our communities."

Hastings said regional attempts to counteract this apparent trend include recent Community Innovation Challenge Grants from

Hampshire Gazette in February of 2013, these modest regional law enforcement grants were intended to be matched by \$588,960 in in-kind contributions in the form of shared

The combined lobbying power of the organizations he now heads puts Hastings in the driver's seat to help insure regional efforts do not lag in the fight for law and order.

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD Cable-Access Improvements, and an Opening on FinCom

By DAVID DETMOLD

The best reality TV series in Gill is about to go Hi-Def, after the selectboard approved a request from MCTV volunteer videographer Janet Masucci to purchase roughly \$30,000 of new cameras and video equipment to improve the production and rebroadcast of biweekly selectboard meetings and town meetings.

The funds to purchase new wall mounted remote control cameras and a high definition switcher, among other video equipment, will come from the roughly \$54,000 the town has piled up in its cable access account, which is replenished with an annual revenue stream of between \$12,000 and \$15,000 from a dedicated portion of cable subscribers' bills in town.

The money is set aside to be spent on improvements to the town's cable access production capacity. The selectboard agreed with Masucci that the new equipment would result in a much improved broadcast of town meetings and ease in post production editing.

Some of the new equipment could be used in the videotaping and broadcast of other town events, like concerts on the common or school plays, Masucci suggested.

"Right now," Masucci told the board on December 30, "I have to pan the camera back and forth

to get different people [speaking], and it is not as visually interesting as what we are used to seeing on TV. With a switcher, I can move smoothly from one camera angle to another."

Selectboard chair John Ward said improved broadcast, and possibly live broadcast, of selectboard and town meetings could lead to more citizen involvement in town affairs.

Randy Crochier said the new equipment could make it easier for new volunteers to step up and offer to help video events in town, and would cut the time it takes to get video broadcasts on the air on MCTV Channel 17.

Ann Banash, attending the meeting remotely from her vacation home in Florida, said, "If we're going to do this, we should do it right."

The town will solicit bids from audio-video equipment suppliers before awarding a final contract for the new equipment.

In other news, a tour of the town hall attic by Franklin County building inspector Jim Cerrone has convinced town administrator Ray Purington that it will not be necessary to contract for the services of an architect or clerk of the works when the town goes out to bid to put a new plywood deck and insulation on the attic floor.

That will save the town some

money on anticipated energy upgrades, which are in the planning stage for not just the town hall, but also the library and the Riverside municipal building.

Before the work proceeds to tighten up town hall, however, the selectboard still intends to try to resolve the problem of water entering through the foundation into the basement of that building during spring, and heavy rains.

Meanwhile, the ancient boiler at the Riverside building has been repaired, and should make it through the remainder of the heating season, if luck holds.

A proposal to build a solar photovoltaic array on town-owned land, known as the Mariamante parcel, at the intersection of Main Road and West Gill Road was scheduled for January 13, but has now been postponed. Local Native American representatives are expected to attend.

The parcel is sensitive in archeological terms because of the suspected existence of pre-Colonial Native burials in the area. The photovoltaic panels could possibly be mounted in such a way as not to impact the subsoil.

Later in the meeting, the selectboard agreed to resubmit a letter of support for the town of Montague's application for a battlefield mapping and protection grant from the National Park Service. The grant is intended to help area towns map and conserve evidence of the battle sites related to Metacom's Rebellion, also known as King Philip's War.

One of the best known battle sites in the area from this 1675-78 conflict, which saw more than half the colonial towns in New England attacked and resulted in the loss of 60 to 80% of the Native population of southern New England, is at the Great Falls, on the Gill side of the Connecticut River.

Alden Booth, formerly the chair of the finance committee, has resigned, leaving an open seat. Nancy Griswold has been appointed to the finance committee to replace Jim Paulson, who also resigned recently. Anyone interested in serving on the finance committee should call Lynda Hodsdon Mayo at 863-8103.

The volunteer fire department has four new recruits – Geoffrey Hebert, Kane Kurtyka, Austin McComb, and Laurie Lankowski, the department's first female firefighter in quite a while.

The fire department also has more good news, in the form of a \$2,000 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, to be used to purchase hose and light weight fire fighting gear to be used in fighting brushfires.

Sue Kramer was appointed to an opening on the Gill cultural commission.

The Quintus Allen fund, an endowment which produces annual revenue to be used for the betterment of education at the Gill Elementary School, now has a little more than \$10,000 available for the school to access, with selectboard approval.

A brownfields assessment of property at 444 Main Road, owned by Larry Krejmas, came up clean except for one area of high lead concentration, which was reported to the state Department of Environmental Protection, but determined to pose no threat to public health.

Nevertheless, Krejmas, whose property has been the subject of ongoing dispute with the board of health and selectboard, is now under court order to clean up any remaining junkyard, repair shop and paint shop equipment or materials on his property by this February 7.

As the selectboard worked its way through signing five liquor licenses and eleven auto repair and auto sales licenses, they stopped briefly to discuss the status of the license held by John Shaw, owner of Jan's Package Store, which has been closed since a vehicle drove through its storefront window nearly a year and a half ago.

"I do have a problem granting licenses to businesses that haven't been open for a year," said Banash.

She nevertheless went along with the consensus to renew it after Crochier said he had spoken to Shaw, who told him he planned to reopen the Main Road liquor store soon. "I won't be voting to renew it a year from now if he hasn't reopened by then," said Crochier.

The rest of the licenses were signed in silence, in duplicate, and it was hard to imagine any state of the art video equipment keeping the viewers' interest during this annual ceremony.

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"The perfect remembrance"

FUND from page A1

various farms, mainly in Hadley, as a laborer.

His sister, Estrella, said that from spring to fall her brother usually worked from sun-up to sundown, and during the harvest often worked seven days a week to provide for his family. During the winter, he would pick up small jobs, but the majority of the family income was earned in the fields.

According to Montague Police Chief, Charles "Chip" Dodge, and Detective Brian Dobosz, Martinez had gone to a friend's house on New Year's Eve. He had been drinking in celebration - uncharacteristic for him, according to his survivors.

After midnight, the others in the apartment, including the host, decided to go to another house in order to call family and friends in Mexico. Martinez, however, felt too inebriated to leave at that moment. One friend stayed behind at first, but at the insistence of Martinez he left to join his family.

Not long after, apparently, Martinez also attempted to leave, but on his way out of the building on Fifth Street, fell against the unlocked cellar door and tumbled tragically to his death.

When Martinez did not return home that night, the frantic family began to search for him. But it was only at 1:35 p.m. on January 2 that his body was discovered in the cellar.

The police who investigated the

accident emphasized there was no sign of foul play. Both Dodge and Dobosz expressed their profound sympathy to the family.

While the police work may be over, the grieving family and friends of Martinez are struggling with his death. His widow said that they are currently attempting to send his body back to Chiapas for burial but the cost, of \$6,000, is well beyond their means.

His sister added that even this cost would only allow them to transport the body to Mexico City; to get from there to their small town, will entail a substantial additional outlay.

Some assistance may be forthcoming from the Mexican consulate in Boston but as of press time, there was no definite answer.

A number of local agencies are responding to the family's need. Our Lady of Peace Church, in Turners Falls, is gathering donations.

They encourage our readers to send them checks, with "Family of Alberto Martinez" in the memo line, made out to Our Lady of Peace and sent to 90 Seventh Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

Additionally, an online donation site has been set up, at www.youcaring.com/memorial-fundraiser/emergency-fund-family-of-alberto-martinez/123529.

The site is administered by the managing editor of the *Montague Reporter*, and all donations there will be relayed to the family via Our Lady of Peace.



COURTESY OF THE FAMILY OF ALBERTO MARTINEZ



SAWYER-LAUCANNI PHOTO

LEFT: Alberto Martinez, 25, loved to play guitar.
RIGHT: Damaris Morales Martinez with her two children, Damaris and baby Andrew.

IZQUIERDA: Alberto Martinez, 25, disfrutaba mucho tocando su guitarra.
DERECHO: Damaris Morales Martinez con sus dos niños, Damaris y bebé Andrew.

FONDO from page A1

organizó partidos de fútbol improvisado.

Martinez fue empleado en varias granjas, principalmente en Hadley, como obrero.

Su hermana, Estrella, dijo que a partir de la primavera hasta el otoño su hermano trabajaba desde el amanecer hasta la puesta del sol, y durante la cosecha a menudo trabajaba siete días a la semana con el fin de asegurarse de que podía mantener a su familia.

Durante el invierno, recogió pequeños trabajos aquí y allá, pero la mayor parte de los ingresos familiares se ganó en los campos.

Según Montague jefe de policía, Charles "Chip" Dodge, y el detective Brian Dobosz, Martinez se había ido a casa de un amigo en la víspera de Año Nuevo. Había estado bebiendo en la celebración - inusual para él, de acuerdo a sus sobrevivientes.

Después de la medianoche, los otros en el apartamento, incluyendo el anfitrión, decidieron ir a otra casa con el fin de llamar a familiares y amigos en México. Martinez, sin embargo, se sentía demasiado ebrio

para salir en ese momento. Un amigo se quedó atrás al principio, pero ante la insistencia de Martinez se fue a reunirse con su familia.

No mucho tiempo después, al parecer, Martinez también intentó irse, pero al salir del edificio en la calle Fifth, cayó contra la puerta abierta del sótano y cayó trágicamente a su muerte.

Cuando Martinez no volvió a casa esa noche, la familia desesperada comenzó a buscarlo. Pero sólo fue a las 1:35 pm del 2 de enero que su cuerpo fue descubierto en el sótano.

La policía que investigó el accidente puso de relieve que no había señales de juego sucio. Tanto Dodge y Dobosz expresaron su profundo pesar a la familia.

Mientras que el trabajo de la policía puede haber terminado, la familia de Martinez y sus amigos están luchando con su muerte. Su viuda dijo que actualmente están tratando de enviar su cuerpo a Chiapas para el entierro, pero el costo, de US \$6000, es mucho más allá de sus medios.

Su hermana agregó que incluso este costo sólo les permitiría

transportar el cuerpo a la Ciudad de México. Para llegar desde allí hasta Chiapas implicaría un gasto adicional considerable.

Un parte de la asistencia puede ser remitidas por el Consulado de México en Boston, pero a partir del cierre de esta edición, no hubo respuesta definitiva.

Un número de agencias locales están respondiendo a las necesidades de la familia. Our Lady of Peace Church, en Turners Falls, está recolectando donaciones.

Animan a nuestros lectores a enviar cheques, con "Family of Alberto Martinez", en la línea de memo, a nombre de Our Lady of Peace Church y enviado a 90 Seventh Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

Además, un sitio de donación en línea se ha establecido, en www.youcaring.com/memorial-fundraiser/emergency-fund-family-of-alberto-martinez/123529.

El sitio es administrado por el gerente de redacción de la *Montague Reporter*, y todas las donaciones habrá transmitido a la familia a través de Nuestra Señora de la Paz.

MONTAGUE REPORTER ON THE ROAD



In November, our own Arts and Entertainment editor, Suzette Snow-Cobb, wrote home: "I got to tour a couple of DC sights prior to my National Cooperative Business Association annual meeting and conference." Here she is at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial.

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B1

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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

JANUARY 9, 2014

Preview: A Double Shot of Local Rock at the Shea

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – This Friday, January 10, the Shea Theater will play host to two Greenfield art rock bands, Mystics Anonymous and Daniel Hales and the frost heaves., as they join forces to celebrate the release of each band's album.

Bassist and studio auteur Jeff Steblea, who performs as Mystics Anonymous, promises to bring along a stableful of supporting musicians and "special guests," including his bandmates from Fiesta Brava, and members of Span of Sunshine, the Salvation Alley String Band, Groove Shoes, the Swillmerchants, and more.

Whether they can recreate the full range of his new album, *Dreaming for Hours*, will be an interesting question.

The album, which the suspicious or undecided can preview in full at mysticsanonymous.bandcamp.com, collects an impressive variation of sounds, and is a good demonstration of what today's bedroom producer can accomplish when she or he wants *not* to sound trendily "lo-fi."

Many of Steblea's songs are essentially power pop or college rock at their core, propelled by his bass, and should provide fodder for an enjoyable live set with collaborators.

No less eclectic a release is being celebrated by Hales and his band. *Contrariwise*, which you can also check out at dhatfh.bandcamp.com, is a high-concept, Lewis Carroll Society-endorsed song cycle using texts from the *Alice in Wonderland* books.

If this sounds familiar, it's because the project started when Hales see **SHEA** page B4

Women's Nature Program Starting in February



By KATHY DEAN and JEAN BERGSTROM

LEVERETT – As children, we were very closely connected with the natural world – we instinctively knew that we belonged in nature – that we were a part of nature and nature was a part of us. We did not mind getting dirty, cold or wet because we were first and foremost having fun, but also because we had not yet learned to avoid discomfort by staying indoors.

And although we may not have been able to articulate this at the time, we knew that we were nurtured on some deep and primal level by our connection with nature.

We were open, curious and playful, truly present and alive when we are outdoors.

Now imagine being with a small group of women (if you are not a woman, imagine your spouse, sister or friend), where we are invited to experience the natural world again in an open, curious and playful way.

Where we are encouraged to open our senses: to look closely at red fox tracks in the snow; to smell the porcupine den that we've discovered; to listen to the language of the chickadees; to feel each snowflake as it melts on our cheeks, to taste the sweet sap of sugar maple see **NATURE** page B4



By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – With the bustle of the holidays behind us we took time to bring in more stove wood and then, of course, to shovel out. Now, jobs completed, there is leisure to study the appetizing seed catalogues which filled the mailbox once the rush of Christmas shopping ended.

Everything looks wonderful: vegetables, flowers, gardening tools and supplies. It is so easy to buy too much of these mouth-watering offerings and then end the summer with seeds never planted. Not this season!

Armed with my end of garden season list of crops for next year, I make short work of honing in on the varieties of seeds I need; although even then, I still spend much time over the many types, color and size before I am able to make a somewhat sensible list.

Tomatoes are a great favorite which will take up a good portion of our garden space.

I am ordering a mix of heirloom and hybrid varieties. Many gardeners who want to grow and eat organically, view hybrid varieties with skepticism.

"Hybrids" are not genetically altered seeds, however. They are the product of two parents; the blends represent the key aspects of each. For example, some varieties are the blending of two types, one especially valued for bountiful crops and one for flavor.

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Looking Ahead

Think of a hybrid car which uses two fuels. Another variety might be valued for disease resistance and fruit size.

Seeds saved from hybrid tomatoes cannot be grown to reproduce the same crop as the original, but it's well worth considering some hybrids in the short and temperamental gardening season here in New England.

We're growing Celebrity for its resistance to cracking in the fruit and for its resistance to many tomato diseases. We'll also start seeds of Jet Star because this hybrid is valued for its prolific yield and for its low acidity.

Lastly, we'll plant the cherry hybrid, Sungold, because it produces a thin-skinned, sweet and juicy tomato which also will guarantee us a large crop.

Heirloom seeds are open-pollinated seeds usually grown prior to 1950. These varieties are heirlooms because they have been saved and passed down from families and generations.

Of these special varieties we've chosen an Amish heirloom called Brandywine which produces some of the largest and most flavorful meaty tomatoes we've ever grown regardless of their often misshapen looks and fruit which is vulnerable to cracking.

Box Car Willie is another favorite heirloom, known for producing a large crop of deliciously flavored fruit. Last on the list is an heirloom see **GARDEN** page B4

MONTAGUE ENERGY CORNER

Turning Down Your Thermostat At Night DOES Save Energy!

By SALLY PICK

MONTAGUE – There's a well-known energy myth that turning down your thermostat for long periods of time wastes energy, because of the energy it takes to warm up the space when you turn the heat back up.

It wasn't until I delved deeper into becoming an energy nerd that I learned from the building science professionals that this is *not* true.

You actually save a good deal of energy and money by turning your heat down as much as possible at night and when you're out of the house for longer stretches of time.

And, if you have a programmable thermostat, you can set it to come on in time to make your house comfy by the time you're up and about or back home from being out.

The U.S. Department of Energy explains: "You can easily save energy in the winter by setting the thermostat to 68°F while you're awake and setting it lower while you're asleep or away from home.

By turning your thermostat back 10° to 15° for 8 hours, you can save 5% to 15% a year on your heating bill --



Illustration of the Stack Effect EPA image.

a savings of as much as 1% for each degree if the setback period is eight hours long...

A common misconception associated with thermostats is that a furnace works harder than normal to warm the space back to a comfortable temperature after the thermostat has been set back, resulting in little or no savings. In fact, as soon as your house drops below its normal temperature, it will lose energy to the surrounding environment more slowly.

"The lower the interior temperature, the slower the heat loss. So the longer your house remains at the lower temperature, the more energy you save, because your house has lost less energy than it

would have at the higher temperature."

I sent out an e-mail about this and a few other heat-saving tips to people on the Montague Energy Committee list, and in response, Barbara Turner Delisle, Pastor of the First Congregational Church in Montague Center said:

"Thanks... I have always wondered about setting the temp low if leaving the house and never sure about putting it as low as 10 degrees lower than I will put it when I get home for fear that it will consume so much energy in increasing the temperature that it will defeat the purpose of keeping it low. Now I know."

see **ENERGY** page B5

Lively Talk, and Diction Lessons, at GSB

By JOE PARZYCH

TURNERS FALLS – On the morning of December 21, John Furbish gave an informative talk, in the Greenfield Savings Bank community room, on points of interest in the Turners Falls area.

Topics that brought lively audience participation were the origin of the name of Bloody Brook, Ed's Barber Shop, and Our Lady of Czestochowa.

Folks who had lived through some of the history Mr. Furbish presented added some pertinent facts, resulting in lively contributions.

The gas explosion that sent dentist Doctor Sabbato sailing out through the plate glass window of Ed's Barber shop onto Avenue A, while still seated in the barber chair, was one of those lively topics of discussion.

Ed Gregory supplied a number of facts about the various locations of Ed's Barber Shop and competing Leo's Barber Shop on Avenue A.

Ed's Barber Shop was a museum of memorabilia, much of it decorating the interior at each location of the shop as it made its vago- band journey back

and forth along both sides of Avenue A. Furbish noted that Denise Edwards, a Moltenbrey descendant, is the present proprietor of Ed's Barber Shop, now located in the building once housing the historic Hotel Moltenbrey.

Furbish noted that the hotel housed a great many members of the Moltenbrey family upstairs above the ground-floor restaurant, giving the family employment, housing and food all at one location.

Edie Bourbeau gave Furbish some salient diction pointers on the mysteries of correct Polish pronunciation of "Czestochowa." Bourbeau pointed to her chin to illustrate the pronunciation of cze as "chin." Furbish took the critique in good humor,

thanking Bourbeau for the diction lesson.

The location of the Polish Church also elicited lively audience participation. Church steeples served as landmarks to guide worshippers to their church.

Each denomination sought to have a steeple higher and more visible than the others. Being high on a hill, clearly visible from Avenue A, was one reason for choosing the site for the Polish church.

Historian Ed Gregory added that the church was also visible to the large population of Polish people living in the Patch. The origin of the black shading of the Black Madonna's face also sparked lively dissension, making this presentation one that did not lull anyone to sleep.



Ed's Barber Shop, circa 1992, when it was located in the former Starbuck Plumbing Shop. Denise Edwards laughs as she gives Robert "Lefty" Boivin a trim, as Mary Boivin looks on.

Pet of the Week

Hiding inside my shy exterior is a real honey of a dog. Once I feel comfortable and get to know you, I'm a very sweet and affectionate little man. A slow and gentle approach works best, give me a few minutes, and soon I'll be trying to climb up into your lap.



"Bo"

I lived with cats in my previous home so I probably will be fine in another home with some feline friends. I can be nervous meeting new dogs and prefer dogs who have a calm and quiet demeanor.

I may need a little help getting back on track with houstraining too. If you'd like to meet me, ask a staff person to bring me out.

Bo is a neutered male 5 years old, about 17 lbs. Chihuahua Mix.

OK for kids 13 and up, or younger dependent on meeting. Dogs: Some, dependent on meet. Cat friendly. Moderately active.

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

Senior Center Activities January 13 thru 17

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. 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.

Monday 1/13

9:00 AM Foot Clinic by appointment
10:10 AM Aerobics
10:55 AM Chair Exercise
1:00 Knitting Circle
3:00 PM Balance Boot Camp

Tuesday: 1/14

9:30 AM Chair Yoga
12:00 PM Lunch

Wednesday: 1/15

10:10 AM Aerobics
12:00 PM Lunch
12:45 PM Bingo

Thursday: 1/16

9:00 AM Tai Chi
12:00 PM Lunch
1:00 PM Pitch

Friday: 1/17

10:10 AM Aerobics
10:55 AM Chair Exercise
1:00 PM Writing Group

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.

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 1/13

9:00 a.m. - Tai Chi
10:00 a.m. - Osteo Exercise
12:30 - Movie

Tuesday 1/14

8:45 a.m.- Chair Aerobics
9:00 a.m. - C.O.A. Meeting
12:30 - Painting

Wednesday 1/15

8:45 a.m. - Aerobics
10:00 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Thursday 1/16

8:45 a.m. - Aerobics
10:00 a.m. - Healthy Bones & Muscles

Friday 1/17

12:00 - Cards
9:00 a.m. - Bowling

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.

MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

Music and Movement on Thursday Mornings

The weekly Music and Movement series with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson is being held at the Turners Falls' Carnegie Library on Thursdays at 10 a.m. during January and February.

Young children of all ages and their parents or caregivers are invited to the free programs. Registration is not required. For more information, please call 863-3214.

Hands-on Science for Homeschoolers to Resume

Hands-on Science for Homeschoolers will resume January 15 on Wednesdays, weekly at 1:15 p.m. at the Carnegie Library.

families explore fun science experiments with Mr. Klaiber. The new season will begin with the science of things that go. For more information, call 863-3214.

GILL LIBRARY NEWS

Story Hour Moves To Tuesdays

Slate Library Story Hour has now changed to Tuesday mornings. Join us in the center of Gill every Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. for stories, songs, popcorn and fun! During the month of January we will read stories about Snow, Bears and Trains and Fairies.

We welcome new families. For more information email: gill.slate.library@gmail.com

Commemorating Dr. King, in Life and Death

By REPORTER STAFF

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY – Readers have brought to our attention two upcoming events, to our south, commemorating, in quite different ways, the life and death of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Moonlight and Morning Star of Erving, along with their band the Charm Brothers and special guests including Samirah Evans, present “Freedom Song,” a concert in honor of Dr. King and Nelson Mandela.

“The group will sing songs of freedom from diverse cultures, time frames and genres. From Nina Sim-

one to Ani Di Franco, Civil Rights Songs to Jazz to Gospel to Spoken Word – the audience will take a journey into the many territories of freedom.”

This concert will take place on Thursday, January 16, at 7 p.m. at the Loft at the Clarion Hotel in Northampton.

Randy Kehler of Colrain, meanwhile, alerts us to a presentation of *Project Unspeakable* taking place the following night, Friday, January 17, at 7 p.m. at Amherst Regional Middle School.

Directed by Ingrid Askew, this “dramatic reading illuminates the

motivations of the public figures involved in the assassinations of JFK, MLK, RFK and Malcolm X by the national security state,” in order to “challenge the silence that for decades has surrounded these ‘unspeakable’ assassinations.”

The presentation will be followed by a discussion. It is sponsored by the Leverett Peace Commission, the Amherst Human Rights Commission, and the Amherst Area NAACP.

The suggested donation for the event is \$10.

Dr. King’s birthday will be observed on Monday, January 20.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Antiplatelets and Anticoagulants



By FRED CICETTI

Q. Are all blood thinners the same?

Blood thinners reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke by reducing the formation of blood clots in your arteries and veins.

There are two main categories of blood thinners: antiplatelets and anticoagulants.

Antiplatelets prevent blood cells called platelets from forming a clot. Anticoagulants affect your body chemistry and lengthen the time it takes to form a blood clot.

When a person is wounded, platelets release thromboxane, a chemical that signals other platelets to work together to heal the damage. Without thromboxane, the platelets won't collect and no clot will form.

Antiplatelet agents, including aspirin and clopidogrel (Plavix), work by inhibiting the production of thromboxane.

Aspirin is highly recommended for preventing a first stroke, but it and other antiplatelets also have an important role in preventing recurrent strokes.

According to the American Heart Association, taking aspirin within

two days of an ischemic stroke reduces the severity of the stroke. In some cases, it prevents death.

A stroke, which is also called a “brain attack,” is caused by a blood problem in the brain. An “ischemic stroke” is caused by too little blood in the brain. An “hemorrhagic stroke” is caused by too much blood.

About 80 percent of strokes are ischemic strokes; they occur when blood clots or other particles block arteries to your brain. Hemorrhagic stroke occurs when a blood vessel in your brain leaks or ruptures.

For long-term prevention, antiplatelet therapy is recommended primarily for people who have had a transient ischemic attack (TIA or “mini” stroke) or acute ischemic stroke.

Despite the potential benefits, antiplatelet therapy is not for everyone. People with a history of liver or kidney disease, gastrointestinal disease or peptic ulcers, high blood pressure, bleeding disorders or asthma may not be able to take aspirin or may require special dosage adjustments.

Anticoagulants target clotting factors, proteins made in the liver. These are crucial to the blood-clotting process.

These proteins can't be created in the liver without Vitamin K – a common vitamin found in cabbage, cauliflower, spinach and other leafy green vegetables. Anticoagulants,

such as warfarin (Coumadin) and heparin, slow clot formation by competing with Vitamin K.

Anticoagulants are considered more aggressive drugs than antiplatelets. They are recommended primarily for people with a high risk of stroke and people with atrial fibrillation.

More than two million Americans have atrial fibrillation (AF), a rhythmic disorder of the heart where the atria (the heart's pumping chambers) quiver instead of beat. As a result, not all of the blood is pumped out of the heart, allowing pools to collect in the heart chamber, where clots may form.

Does a combination of antiplatelet and anticoagulant therapies work better than either of them alone?

Researchers have found that a combination of low-dose warfarin and low-dose aspirin is no more effective than aspirin by itself. Furthermore, in the study group, major internal bleeding occurred nearly twice as often in the combination-therapy patients compared with the aspirin-only patients.

Questions? Send them to fred@healthygeezers.org

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

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While Penelope, the children's librarian, keeps her wards beguiled with creative play, Otis goes exploring...

By DAVID DETMOLD

It was still too early for Melantha to appear; shift change waited until sun-down.

Indeed, there was no one at the main desk at all.

Clio, the day librarian, had taken a months long sabbatical in the Atacama Desert on a self guided poetry tour.

I poured myself a cup of tea. The main desk was uncharacteristically clean. Some patrons had trudged in to drop off books, including a few old quarto volumes. I leafed through one of these, an expanded edition of Hesiod's *Works and Days*, under the Parthenon imprint, containing the immortal apothegm to his hometown, Ascra: "a cursed place, cruel in winter, hard in summer, never pleasant." All too familiar.

These bulky, fragile volumes would not have fit into the drop box by the sidewalk at the bottom of the hill in any case, or if they had, the library aides would have complained bitterly of the added burden of lugging them up the long and terraced flights of stairs.

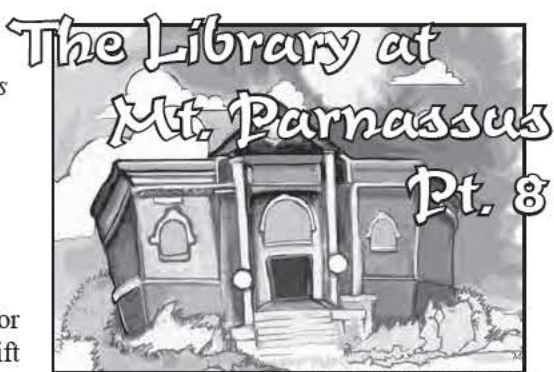
The highway boss, Everett Patch, had installed a new drop box recently, made out of a recycled rectangular garbage container that looked suspiciously like the one that used to sit out the sidewalk in front of Equi's Candy Store until the owner accidentally flattened it one day by putting her car in drive, when, she said, she had meant to back it up.

The candy store owner's name was Erato. She came from a long line of Equis, and she drove a 1952 Mercury wagon with battered wooden side trim she claimed to have imported direct from Cuba, but cars like hers were not a rare sight in our neck of the woods. The collision did no damage to the Mercury, but apparently totaled the garbage can.

Until the men at the department of public works, glad of indoor work in winter, set to work to flatten and repair it, using hammers and anvil at the smithy. They reinforced it with thick welded plates of dragon-toed galvanized metal salvaged from the loading dock of the old Ouzo factory down by the canal. That wreck was home for pigeons now, but still smelled sweetly of licorice.

Herr Klee had wiped out the last drop box at the foot of the library steps with one rambunctious side sweep of his snow plow the winter before. He managed to clear the six inch granite curb, broke the side wing off the plow, and stalled his massive vehicle in a squall of snow and sparks and the colorful, swirled pages of disembodied children's books.

After that memorable event, Everett decided to have his men anchor the new drop box in place with three-foot lag bolts drilled down through the granite walk and into



MIKE SLIVA ILLUSTRATION

living ledge.

Now, the top of the brutish box swung open with a toothed steel maw to receive any dropped off library materials, and the resulting clangor and the fear of losing a hand or finger in the complicated articulations of the metal jaw so intimidated most borrowers that they willingly lugged overdue books up the steep stairs to the library rather than use it.

Thus, the repurposed trash can began to serve the function of public art, instead of as a practical short cut for patrons trying to avoid, or delay, paying their small late fees at the main desk.

With the shrill cries of the little ones fading in the background as they wallowed in the make believe world of the children's room, I stood in the deserted lobby and leaned my hands upon the desk.

The desktop hinged above a center kneehole.

To the left, the card file stood patiently awaiting use, along with an untidy assortment of date stamps and ink pads. On a hot plate, the kettle simmered, beside a tray of crazed china cups, chipped and cracked. An old-fashioned upright telephone, like a sort of stylized black daffodil, stood beside the main computer, which glowed and whirred automatically, although no one touched its keys. The A was missing.

Small statuary graced both wings of the desk: Hermes holding his caduceus like a ceremonial mace, his winged heels poised for flight; Diana in her oak leaf sandals, her bow drawn, intent on prey. Spools of colored tape, invisible tape, strapping tape, pencils and pen knives lay here and there at random in open trays and canted drawers. Ink pot and quill. A human skull. The overdue file.

The door to the children's room blew open suddenly and Penelope issued forth in a cloud of gauze. She looked distracted. A few crimped strands of flaxen hair, too fine to stay in tripled plaits, wandered loose and flew about her face. Her cheeks were flushed.

"Can't find the thing you want when you want it," she announced. "Story of my life."

I blew on my tea. She turned her shining eyes on me.

"And you? Looking for something?"

"Sure," I said. "Lots of things." "Maybe I can be of some assistance?" she purred.

"I'm looking for a job, for starters."

"A job?" she said. "Well." She walked up close and stood beside me. Her whole figure shimmered, her untidy braids gleamed like fraying ropes of gold. Her brilliant blue

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Armed Theft of Safe; Vandalism Spree; Pig Dispute

Monday, 12/16
9:06 a.m. Call regarding student who had threatened principal and left Turners Falls High School. Student located and transported.

4:28 p.m. Report of vehicle driving through courtyard at Powertown Apartments on Fourth Street. Referred to an officer.

7:59 p.m. Following a report of a robbery on Fifth Street, [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

Tuesday, 12/17
2:46 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on two default warrants.

4:18 p.m. Caller who had been blowing snow into road complained that a DPW plow had intentionally thrown snow onto himself and his neighbor. Advised of options.

Wednesday, 12/18
12:38 a.m. Report of large horse in road in downtown Lake Pleasant. Second call reported that car had hit horse. Injured horse ended up on railroad tracks. Rau's, BHA, and Pan Am Railways notified. Horse later reported deceased and moved from railroad tracks.

2:18 a.m. Following a fight on G Street, two people were transported to the hospital and one 30 year old male was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery; assault and battery; disorderly conduct; and disturbing the peace. Summons issued to second male involved in fight.

8:00 a.m. Complaint about snow on Turners Falls-Gill Bridge sidewalk. SPS denied responsibility. MassHighway advised that the town DPW is responsible. DPW advised that they have never maintained the sidewalks on that bridge and that MassHighway is responsible. Chief apprised of outcome.

9:26 a.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license (subsequent offense) and

unauthorized use of a motor vehicle (subsequent offense).

11:29 a.m. Tool box and cell phone stolen on Third Street. Suspect identified. Stolen items found posted on Craigslist. Items retrieved from Fourth Street; summons issued.

11:19 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

Thursday, 12/19
5:39 a.m. SUV reported off road just north of Randall Road; appeared to have been there for a while. Investigated. Owner located; reported that he had fallen asleep at the wheel, wrapped his car around a tree, and walked home.

8:10 a.m. Pipe in vacant, unheated second floor Millers Falls apartment burst and flooded occupied first-floor apartment. FD on scene; landlord and Board of Health notified.

10:47 a.m. Report of burglary at PCDC shed at Central Street School.

5:40 p.m. [redacted] was arrested for probable cause.

Friday, 12/20
12:11 p.m. Trespass notices from Montague Inn received and entered.

3:34 p.m. Burglary/breaking and entering on Old Sunderland Road; front door window smashed and rear door found open. Report taken.

6:18 p.m. Officer spoke with two males carrying skateboards and pushing a shopping cart on Seventh Street. Parties' car had broken down in Food City parking lot.

10:33 p.m. Single car motor vehicle accident on Walnut Street. Party transported to hospital; citation issued.

Saturday, 12/21
6:37 a.m. Investigated assault that resulted in significant injuries to one party. Determined to have occurred in Erving. Erving PD notified.

12:20 p.m. Report of kids revving up a car without a muffler that was driven into a snowbank on Turners Falls Road and causing excessive noise.

Parties spoken to. 6:20 p.m. Complaint regarding noisy snowball fight in Fourth Street alley. Parties spoken to.

7:48 p.m. Caller reported that she was assaulted and robbed at gunpoint in her Fifth Street apartment. Suspects, identified as two males wearing masks and dark clothing, took a black safe weighing approximately 200 pounds. Witness reported seeing a white SUV outside the residence around the time of the robbery.

Sunday, 12/22
1:07 a.m. Report of fight involving 6-7 males on Fourth Street. Parties were seen scattering when officer arrived.

10:41 a.m. Caller reported a patron at the Carnegie Library on Friday looking at and printing pictures of a female appearing to be under 18 and dressed and/or posed provocatively. The caller had told library staff, who said that the material was not pornographic and therefore did not violate their terms of use. Later, a library employee called Chief Dodge with information about the patron and the material, stating they were concerned due to the female's questionable age. The chief advised the staff to call back should it happen again so that an officer can observe the pictures and speak with the subject.

1:32 p.m. Caller from Powertown Apartments reported that nearly 200 morphine pills were stolen from her.

8:04 p.m. Male observed spray painting front door of Turners Falls Pizza House. Report taken.

Monday, 12/23
12:52 a.m. Burglar alarm at Food City. Possum appeared to have tripped sensor. Possum encouraged to leave area.

1:12 a.m. Vandalism (black spraypaint) reported/observed at Eagle Automotive; on storage containers on First Street; the side of Ce Ce's Restaurant; the front of Chick's Auto; the gatehouse by the dam; a Parks & Rec

shed; Cabot Station; the Crocker Building; and the side of Aubuchon Hardware. Investigated.

11:37 a.m. Unlocked vehicle on Third Street entered overnight; GPS and personal papers taken.

6:36 p.m. Following an assault in Montague Center, a Northfield woman was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery.

8:41 p.m. Report of two vehicle break-ins on L Street; radio dock and electronic devices stolen.

11:28 p.m. Loud noise disturbance/neighbor dispute on Fourth Street. Mediated issue and advised parties of options.

Tuesday, 12/24
1:22 a.m. Report of car alarms sounding in vicinity of previous vehicle break-ins on L Street. Quiet upon arrival.

1:47 p.m. Report of person looking into vehicles in Food City parking lot. Subject spoken to.

2:17 p.m. Vehicle break-in overnight; two DVD players and a book of CDs taken from a locked vehicle near the Senior Center.

3:55 p.m. Caller reported witnessing a vehicle operator throw a brick through the rear window of a car parked in a Fourth Street parking lot.

Wednesday, 12/25
2:40 p.m. Caller reported two dogs wearing sweaters running in traffic in front of the Wendell State Forest. Referred to Shelburne Control.

8:52 p.m. Burglary/breaking and entering on Adams Street in Lake Pleasant.

Thursday, 12/26
7:59 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on two default warrants.

Friday, 12/27
3:20 a.m. Caller from Winthrop Street woken by someone trying to break into house via bedroom window. Officer observed evidence of attempted break-in and pursued suspect's trail through snow. Suspect identified and apprehended; transported to hospital for

see LOG page B4

eyes gazed up into mine.

"You seem like a likely specimen," she said.

She put her hands on my chest and delicately traced the contours of my pectorals with her nails.

I spilled a little hot tea on my hand, and made a halfhearted attempt to wipe the desktop with my

shirt sleeve.

"Mmmmm," said Penelope. "Where did I put that?" She patted my chest. "Some place snug, I'm sure."

She took a turn around the desk, casting a swift glance over its shelves and cubbyholes.

I leaned over the counter and

said, "I think... I guess, I just need a little help getting started. A guide, or something. Current openings, that sort of thing."

"A guide?" said Penelope, pulling up short and suddenly attentive. She looked at me and smiled. "Maybe I can help you there."

Continued next week.

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LOG from page B3

evaluation and exposure. 8:28 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

Saturday, 12/28
1:40 a.m. Caller reported that his friend, who was inebriated, could not locate his car on Avenue A after a night at the bar. Services rendered.

1:05 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

Sunday, 12/29
1:11 p.m. Avenue A business owner reported that someone had defecated in the planter outside her establishment overnight. Services rendered.

6:19 p.m. Report of an out-of-control male youth who was upset about a Christmas gift issue and was breaking

things in the house with a baseball bat. Services rendered.

Monday, 12/30
8:48 a.m. A New Hampshire resident called to complain that she had purchased a miniature pig from a Lake Pleasant resident via Craigslist, and that pig was supposed to be a female but turned out to be a male. Referred caller to her local police department.

12:43 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

Tuesday, 12/31
5:19 p.m. Report of an erratic operator driving in the area of Central and Park Streets. Referred to an officer.

Wednesday, 1/1
10:53 p.m. Two calls regarding alleged drug activity in the areas of Fourth Street and Fifth Street. Referred to an officer.

Thursday, 1/2
3:21 p.m. Car vs. mail

truck accident on Millers Falls Road. Operator of car transported to hospital and cited for traveling at a speed too great for road conditions.

Friday, 1/3
4:22 a.m. Call from DPW reporting abandoned vehicle in the middle of Old Leverett Road preventing plowing. Registered owner located; claimed he didn't realize he was parking in a street and thought it was a driveway. Vehicle moved.

7:07 a.m. Water main break on Chester Street. TFFD, DPW, and Water Department advised.

10:52 a.m. Elderly resident found living in unsafe conditions removed to hospital.

8:20 p.m. Traffic lights malfunctioning at Avenue A and Seventh Street. DPW notified.



LOOKING BACK 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on January 8, 2004: News from The Montague Reporter's archive.

Erving: Water Shut-Offs Loom

Burt Dubay and Andy Tessier looked at the list with visible disappointment. Twenty-three households have failed to pay their water bills; together they owe the town over \$5,000.

The list of delinquents, and a draft shut-off notice, was presented to the selectboard by treasurer Margaret Sullivan at its Monday night meeting.

There are approximately 260 users of the town drinking water system; the violators represent almost 10% of the total.

Montague: Town Hall Makes Do With Less

This year's effort to plan to level fund or cut an additional 10%

out of each department is taking on an air of triage planning for the victims of a slow-motion disaster.

"We may have reached the point where further cuts will make it impossible to deliver basic services," said selectboard member Allen Ross.

He suggested it might be wiser to eliminate entire departments, "such as parks and recreation."

Legal Questions Cloud Cell Tower Hearing

Questions about lighting, structural integrity and the legal status of a disused communications tower on Locke Hill Road dominated a recent hearing of the zoning board of appeals.

AT&T Wireless is seeking a special permit from the board. The zoning enforcement officer, Phil Delorey, said he believes the tower can no longer be considered a pre-existing non-conforming use, as it has not been in use for many

No Room at Homeless Shelter

When the homeless shelter opened on Farren Avenue in December of 1992, many, including neighbors, questioned whether there was a local need for it.

However, according to the shelter's director, Steve Karpovich, it has experienced an increased demand in the last two and a half years, with the majority of homeless coming from Franklin County, predominately Greenfield and Montague.

Editorial: Change The Name

Calling the sports teams Indians in a town founded on the site of the massacre of Native Americans is a disgrace. Calling them the Turners Falls Indians compounds the injury...

NATURE from page B1

and the sourness of wood sorrel; or to feel a smile spread across our face as we pop a wild red strawberry – definitely not forbidden – into our mouths. Where we are encouraged to remember what it's like to be a child again.

These are but a few examples of the kinds of experiences offered through a unique, nature-based program for women called Her Wild Roots, led by two local women: Jean Bergstrom from Leverett and Kathy Dean from Heath.

Her Wild Roots is a seven-month-long program, meeting for one full weekend per month, beginning in February 2014. All but the last weekend will be held in the local area (Leyden and Leverett), and will culminate with a four-day wilderness canoe trip in the Adirondacks.

Like a tree deeply rooted in the earth, Her Wild Roots has many branches stemming from the main trunk. The two main branches are a Wilderness Branch (bringing ourselves out into nature), and a Homesteading Branch (bringing nature into our homes). Each weekend, the group will engage in a wide variety of experiences that will be focused on cultivating a deepening connection to the natural world.

The Wilderness Branch, for example, will include sensory and nature awareness practices, wild edibles and medicinals, tracking and animal sign, outdoor camping and travel skills, fire building, elements of contemporary vision quests and more.

In the Homesteading Branch, the group will learn food preservation skills such as canning and fermenting, bread baking, basic cheese

making, basket making with pine needles and birch bark, and more.

Through it all, each person will have time to be in solitude in her "sit spot" to experience nature in stillness and to reflect on her internal landscape as it interfaces with the external world. And through it all, we will weave together rituals, songs and stories that honor the earth and our relationship with it. Our intent is to walk softly, to listen deeply and to remember the call of the wild.

Kathy Dean and Jean Bergstrom have been friends for 30 years, beginning with the serendipitous discovery that they were both planning on spending the summer working in salmon canneries in Alaska. Both graduates of the Outdoor Leadership Program (OLP) in Greenfield, MA, they went on to co-teaching many outdoor programs for women, and were both, at different periods, instructors in the OLP.

They are avid gardeners, putting up much of their own food, and continue to go on extended wilderness trips together every year. Jean also works as an herbalist and Plant Spirit Medicine practitioner in Leverett; Kathy as an Acupuncturist and Chinese herbalist in Shelburne Falls.

For more information about the program, visit www.herwildroots.com, or call Kathy at (413) 625-2550 or Jean at (413) 367-2842. Space is limited, so contact us soon if you are interested in applying, or know someone else who might like to deepen her connection with nature.

If you would like to receive our monthly newsletters, email them at herwildroots@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list.



GARDEN from page B1

cherry called Sugar Lump. This is a German tomato with a heavy yield of deep red fruit, a nice accompaniment to the orange gold of Sungold.

Tomato varieties are either Determinate or Indeterminate. Determinate varieties produce their crop all at once according to early, mid or last season types while Indeterminates will continue to vine and produce fruit until they are killed by frost or disease.

Because of the vast range of temperature, rain production and length of any given garden season in New England, we have always chosen tomatoes of the Indeterminate variety.

Equally enjoyable are the sweet bell peppers and we've selected a gourmet Rainbow blend which will give us a mix of red, orange, yellow beauties to enjoy, raw or grilled.

If we have a good crop, I'll also freeze some to use in cooking over

the next winter.

Although our favorite onion is not a storing variety, Ailsa Craig produces a large, white fruit which is sweet even when eaten raw.

Believe it or not, when we return from our travels south of the border at the end of February, it will be time to start tomatoes, peppers and onions in tiny seed beds in the sunroom in preparation for planting later.

We can set out the onions as soon as the ground thaws in March, so we'll be a bit behind on them. Traditionally the tomatoes go out Memorial Day weekend followed by the peppers in mid-June.

But more on that later. Right now it's sufficient to write out a paper seed order or place one online. Of course, all of this seems hard to believe in after our last snowfalls.

Still, if you're a gardener too, you are well aware that in general we are an optimistic lot. For what

else is there to be but hopeful since gardening is ever a challenge with Mother Nature mostly in charge.

But we New Englanders are a hearty people. We've had to be from the very beginning and despite all of the fancified growing stock, disease controls and elaborate tools, it's still man against or often (we hope) together with the world of nature.

It's hard to explain to anyone not so addicted, but even if all crops fail this year, we'll be out trying again the next. We know we could just drive to the store to purchase our food, but we don't want to.

We love the challenge as much as we love the unparalleled taste of freshly grown food picked at the peak of ripeness. Smile at us if you will, but be indulgent. Some of our best will perhaps grace your table.

With spring in mind, spread the optimism and above all, happy gardening!



The frost heaves., playing in the clouds during last February's eight-night run of Alice in Wonderland at the historic theater.

Friday's show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance, and \$15 the day of the show; children 12 and under are \$5. Advance tickets can be purchased at frostheavesinwonderland.brownpapertickets.com. Dreaming for Hours and Contrarwise will be available at the show on CD: \$6 each, or \$10 for both.

SHEA from page B1

and company were enlisted to back a New Renaissance Players production of "Alice" at the theater last February.

Hales loved setting Carroll's wacko poems to music, so much so that he continued the project after the play, and went to work on releasing the material on CD as a concept album.

He, too, brings a broad ensemble Friday, as well as a light show, video productions, and members of the New Renaissance Players, whom he has presumably kept locked in his garage in the intervening eleven months in full costume to serve as his muse. They will be reprising scenes from the play.

Those interested in rounding out the multimedia bombardment with a beer or two won't have to sneak it in the parking lot, either, as a special one-night permit was granted by the Town of Montague, and Lefty's Brewing Company of Greenfield will be on hand to serve.

How dreadfully savage!



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ENERGY from page B1

If you have hot water radiators, however, make sure that your basement is well air sealed and insulated and that the heat circulates enough during extremely cold weather to prevent the pipes from freezing.

Here are a few other tips for keeping warm and helping to keep your energy bills lower during this chilly winter:

* If you have space heating such as a woodstove, pellet stove, or propane heater, or zoned heating, you can warm up only the space in which you're hanging out, and close

the doors to other areas.

* If you're heating the downstairs, try closing the door to the stairs, preventing the heat from traveling quickly upstairs. If you don't have a door at the stairway, you might consider installing a curtain during the winter at the base of the stairs.

* Make sure your windows are locked closed, to prevent drafts from cracks in windows. This is easy and very effective and free

* Weatherstrip attic access hatches and doors and install a doorsweep on attic doors. Air losses to and through the attic space are the main drivers of heat loss in

a home, from the stack effect (see illustration).

* Close your blinds, shades, curtains, especially at night when it's cold. Even the best windows lose a good deal of heat.

* Layer up: put on long undies and get out your heavy sweater. (Okay, maybe that's too obvious, but I find that it's easy not to put those extra layers on and instead turn up the heat. A layer of long underwear does wonders for feeling more comfortable in the coldest of weather.)

* Finally, don't forget: my favorite: drink hot chocolate.



A Night of Poetry to Benefit the Montague Reporter

Monday, January 27, 2014, 7 pm
Deja Brew Restaurant & Pub
57A Lockes Village Road, Wendell, MA

Bring your ears, love of poetry, and appetites for an enjoyable evening of poetry to benefit the Montague Reporter and provide a warm respite for the body and soul.



\$3-10 sliding scale
Door prize raffle
5 min Open Mic Slots
Guest and Featured Readers including:
Jess Mynes, Patricia Pruitt, Lea Banks,
Paul Richmond and more!
10 percent of bar proceeds also benefit the MR

BUS from pg. A1

of two Regional Transit Authorities at the same time.

She added, "We never said we wouldn't be interested in holding a discussion with Leverett, as long as PVRTA was also at the table. We'd be happy to discuss it." But, she added, "I don't see what they are entitled to for services."

The Leverett selectboard maintains that, since the majority of revenue for regional transit authorities derives from federal and state taxpayers, the town should at least be consulted about the termination of a fixed-route bus line through its borders, if not invited to participate in discussions about options for that route.

Cote said Leverett residents "technically" do not have the right to even flag down the bus and pay the fare as it travels along Route 63, although she said her authority would not prevent a bus driver from stopping to pick up such a fare.

Asked what statutes she relied on in stating that a town cannot be a member of two regional transit authorities at the same time, Cote answered, "Mass General Laws 161B."

MGL 161B is a lengthy piece of legislation. One section of it, Section 6, grants various powers to Regional Transit Authorities, including the following (j), which, though it does not explicitly contradict Cote's statement, at least indicates other options:

"to provide mass transportation service under a contract in areas outside the area constituting the authority but only pursuant to an agreement with another transportation authority or transportation area or a municipality for service between the area of the authority and that of such other authority, area or municipality, where no private company is otherwise providing such service."

Cote's letter of December 19 indicated, with the notation "cc:", that it had been forwarded to various officials, including to the office of Representative Steve Kulik, where legislative aide Paul Dunphy said on January 8 he had not yet received a copy of her letter.

Dunphy said he would make inquiries with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for their reading of 161-B, to ascertain whether a town like Leverett could not, in fact, join two regional transportation authorities at the same time.

Selectboard member Julie Shively called for a survey of town residents to help determine how many would take advantage of fixed-route bus service, presumably if a bus route ran at regular times with a reasonable fare.

Other Business

In other news, the selectboard granted a raise from \$16.58 to \$17.58 for Larry Williams, at the highway department, in recognition

of the fact that he had, in department supervisor Will Stratford's words, "demonstrated his mechanical ability repairing and servicing the highway, police, and fire department trucks and equipment."

They held off on Stratford's other recommendation, to raise Silas Ball's pay by a dollar an hour to \$20.39, pending a discussion with Stratford about that request.

In a letter to the board, Stratford said Ball has "learned the role of foreman, taking on the additional responsibilities competently."

Stratford maintained the town could afford both raises, at least within the current fiscal year, within the bounds of the highway department's current budget.

The board reappointed Clay Delano as a part time officer in the police department, at the request of Gary Billings. Delano has recently moved back to town. The appointment will bring the complement of active part time officers to five.

The special town meeting, canceled in late December due to snowy conditions, has been adjourned and rescheduled for Tuesday, January 14, at 7 p.m. at the elementary school.

Topping the agenda is a proposed change to the town's solar bylaw, which would allow for the construction of a pole-mounted photovoltaic array on town-owned land in the village residential district, where such arrays are

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG Complaints Concerning Hunters

Monday, 12/2

1:30 p.m. North Leverett Road resident reported three orange property market pins stolen sometime during the previous week. Report taken.

Tuesday, 12/10

1:52 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Cave Hill Road. [redacted] dodged a squirrel, went off the road, struck an embankment and rolled over. Transported to Cooley Dickinson Hospital by Amherst Fire Department, for non-life-threatening injuries.

Sunday, 12/15

4:45 p.m. Operator reported a minor vehicle accident on North Leverett Road. Determined to have occurred in Montague. Montague PD advised.

Monday, 12/16

10:07 a.m. Teawaddle Hill Road resident reported that on December 11, a hunter shot her son's puppy in the wood near her home. The dog was taken to the vet and survived surgery. Hunter's identity is unknown.

Thursday, 12/19

10:27 a.m. Chestnut Hill Road resident reported that someone may have attempted to steal his snowblower from his garage the previous day, taking instead the ignition key.

Friday, 12/20

8:30 a.m. 2-car motor vehicle accident on Dudleyville Road. [redacted] lost control on ice and struck [redacted] who was traveling in the opposite direction. No injuries,

and no tows.

Tuesday, 12/24

11:17 a.m. Leverett Post Office reported a male subject there causing a disturbance. Gone upon arrival. Officer located the man on Depot Road. Subject was upset his driver's license had not yet been delivered. Officer advised subject to refrain from causing a disturbance at the post office.

Thursday, 12/26

10 a.m. Leverett Post Office reported the same male had returned and was giving the clerk a hard time. Gone upon arrival. Attempts to locate man were unsuccessful.

Monday, 12/30

9:30 a.m. Officer advised group of hunters they may be too close to houses in the Hemenway Road area.

10 a.m. Post Office reported the same male returned and was upset about his mail still not having arrived. Gone upon arrival. Post office advised on trespass order procedures.

12:30 p.m. Mass. Environmental Police reported a complaint of shooting too close to a Hemenway Road home. Landowner discovered a dead deer within 500 feet of his home. Mass. EP questioned a group of hunters.

2:30 p.m. Jackson Hill Road resident reported that she heard someone attempt to open the door to the home she was working in. Officers found nothing; took report.

SAWMILL RIVER 10K RUN RESULTS Montague Parks & Recreation Dept. January 1, 2014

Montague Parks & Recreation hosted their Annual Sawmill River 10K Run in Montague Center on Wednesday, January 1.

Jesse Regnier of Northampton was the overall winner with a time of 34:55, and Apryl Sabadosa of Westfield was the female winner with a final time of 40:15.

One hundred and sixty-three runners braved the chilly temperatures to participate in this New Year's tradition.

Results by Division

Youth Division (Ages 18 & Under) – Male; Charlie Hale of Florence, MA (36:48), No female entry;

Open Division (Ages 19-39) – Female; Sabadosa (40:15), Men; Regnier (34:55),

Master Division (Ages 40-49) – Female; Elizabeth Bond of Phillipston (44:11), Male; Nick Hopley of Amherst (38:46),

Senior Division (Ages 50-59) – Female; Kathy McCarthy of Agawam (48:58), Male; Steve Power of Bernardston (40:19),

Senior + Division (60 & Up) – Female; Joan LaPierre of Shelburne Falls (49:13), Male; Richard Larsen of Shelburne Falls (38:42).

Proceeds from the event benefit MPRD's Sponsor-A-Child Scholarship Program.

currently prohibited.

The town hopes to use the majority of its Department of Energy Resources Green Communities grant to install a solar array near the safety complex and the elementary school, to help provide electricity to at least one of those buildings.

The project is on hold until town meeting acts on the zoning change, which has been approved by the planning board.

Finally, the selectboard went into executive session to discuss litigation concerning Siemens Building Technologies' 2011 heating upgrades to town hall.

This follows a smoky malfunction in the second-floor furnace that set off a fire alarm in the building at about midnight on New Year's Eve, and resulted in a mild case of carbon monoxide poisoning for one dedicated employee – DeeAnn Civello – whose way of welcoming in the New Year was to remain at her desk at town hall, processing tax returns, until carbon monoxide fumes nearly overcame her at about 1 in the morning.

By that time, Leverett firefighters had been awoken and rushed to the scene, along with building maintenance manager John Kuczek, who reported, "You could immediately smell carbon smoke," upon entering the building.

The emergency responders determined the source of the smoke and carbon monoxide was the furnace, installed factory direct

from Adams Manufacturing, based in Cleveland, Ohio, three years ago under contract from Siemens.

Since that time, town administrator Margie McGinnis said, the two new fuel-efficient furnaces at town hall have been efficiently saving the town money on fuel – mostly by failing to provide heat at all.

"Two months," since the last incident, "has been the longest we've gone without a service call," said McGinnis, on Tuesday.

Two years ago, Kuczek said, one of the new furnaces malfunctioned, burning out the wiring in the control panel, at which point the wiring for both furnaces was replaced.

"The previous problems with the new heating system," said administrative assessor Stephen Schmidt, "when it just failed to work, were a nuisance and an annoyance, but the latest incident raises the concern by several levels of magnitude."

Schmidt said that not only could the building have burned down as a result of the latest malfunction, but an unsuspecting employee could have died from CO poisoning even without a larger conflagration.

The carbon monoxide detector on the second floor of town hall had been at the end of its useful life span, on New Year's Eve, said Kuczek, and has since been replaced.

Schmidt said the new furnaces should be replaced as well.



FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL HONOR ROLL TRIMESTER 1

SENIORS:

HIGH HONORS

Bergquist, Kyle
Hutchinson,
Clarisse
Lingwall, Julia
Patel, Boski
Swenson, Zachary
Tetreault, Ashley
Willis, Austin
Wing, Shannon

HONORS

Daignault, Dale
Dussault, Madison
Edwards, Alyssa
Harwood, Tyler
Johnson, Heather
Laffey, Kyle
LaFlamme,
Michael
Manners, Jacob
McKay, Dylan
Menko, Joseph
Meuse, Brooke
Miller, Nicole
Modica, Scott
Noyes, Miranda
Park, Brittany
Peters, Tyler
Rawls, Jonathan
Rock, Tyler
Royer, Kayla
Russin, Dean
Shepherd,
Coleman
Shippee, Kyle
Smith, Andrew
Tan, Samantha
Valeski, Nichole
Vasquez-Wright,
Anna
Vatalaro, Melissa
Wawrzyniak, Kyle
Williams, Kurtis
(Seniors Con't)
Williams, Shelbi
Wyman, Justin

JUNIORS:

HIGH HONORS

Baraban, Aleksandr
Blake, Trevor
Coburn, Mackenzie
Kendrick, Amelia
Koshinsky, Kathryn
Koshinsky, Sarah
Tarbox, Brandon
Washington,
Zaviere
Wetherby, Ronald
Williams, Jenna
Zilinski, Charles

HONORS

Baraschenski, Lillian
Campbell, Sarah
Carleton, Stephen
Carlo, Casandra
Desreuisseau,
Amber
Edwards, Cheyenne
Emery, Mackenzie
Felix, Austin
Hansen, Lance
Hubert, Robert
Krejmas III, Peter
LaFlamme, Elaina
Leh, Kevin
MacConnell,
Jacqueline
Malooly, Amber
Millane, Tyler
Mogelinski, Olivia
Moore, Aaron
Pedercini, Mark
Powers, Kyle
Richotte, Jasmine
Rovatti, Avery
Roy, Gabrielle
Shaيدا, Cassidy

SOPHOMORES:

HIGH HONORS

Churchill, Kaitlin
Durant, Jeremy
Easton, Steven
Valeski, Teagan

HONORS

Adams, Fallyn
Baranoski,
Matthew
Baranoski,
Nicholas
Barcomb, James
Barker, Zachary
Blais, Meagan
Boston, Jonathan
Boudah, Brandon
Burden, Thomas
Burdick, Austin
Burnett, Alix
Colon, Briar-Rose
Cross, Ivy
DeAngelis, Kyle
Dodge, Lydia
Dow, Mason
Goodwin Jr.,
Andrew
Houle, Tala
Howes, Victoria
Jamieson, Emily
Johnson, Cody
Klerowski, Aubrey
Lowell, Hailey
Ludwig, Anthony
Mailloux, Lindsey
Mailloux, Mitchell
Maselli, Emily
McDonough,
Destiny
McLellan, Dominic
Mitchell, Corey
Momaney,
Timothy
Monahan, Joel
Rogalski, Nicole
Russell, Sean
Scopa, Samantha
Sykes, James
Tarbox, Colton
Thompson, Justin
Vorce, Gabriel
Willis, Mallory

FRESHMEN:

HIGH HONORS

Barrett, Alexis
Cairns, Catilyn
Donovan, Seth
Gould, Colin
Gradie, Morgan
Hall, Jordyn
Hudson, Hayley
Nimtz, Jared
Osowski, Daisy
Shearer, Rachel
Sheperd, Katherine
Smith, Hunter
Williams, Chad

HONORS

Barton, Abigail
Bernard, Marley
Chamutka, Thomas
Cushing, Loreena
Dean, Erica
Decker, Ry-Ann
Demers, Shayla
Devlin, Emmaline
Fuess, Jacob
Gullage, Michael
Hackett, Jenna
Harris, Cassandra
Howard, Ryan
Huber-Browning,
Whitney
Hughes, Khyllar
James, Jacob
Johnson, Claire
Johnson, Levi
McCrory, Megan
Milton, Caileb
Nye, Dakota
Perras, Chelsea
Phelps, Alexandria
Piescik, Seth
Rinaldi, Robert
Rogers, Dylan
Rose, Joshua
Saladino, Dylan
Terrill, Emily
VanJura, Steven
Waterman, Nicholas
Wheeler, Nathaniel
Williams, Dustin

NOTES FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Driving Hazards Abound

Friday, 12/27
3:30 a.m. Assisted male standing in Building secure.
Montague PD with center of French
attempted breaking & King Bridge. Located
entering at Winthrop same. Was taking
Street residence in pictures of the stars.
Millers Falls. Moved along.

Tuesday, 12/31
9:15 a.m. Alarm 12:50 p.m. Report
at French King of fire in area of
Restaurant. Same cell tower on Route
secure. 2. Was in Wendell;
1:15 a.m. Alarm on Wendell PD advised.
North Street. Same 1 p.m. Report of
secure. disabled motor
5:30 p.m. Assisted Gill vehicle in roadway
PD with domestic on Route 2. Gone on
disturbance on South arrival.
Mountain Road. 2:30 p.m. Disabled
6:15 p.m. Arrested motor vehicle, Route
[REDACTED], for court 2 by the paper mill.
warrant. Had own tow en
route.

Saturday, 12/28
9:45 p.m. Report of

Thursday, 1/2
1:35 p.m. Report of
one-car crash on
Route 63. Gone upon
arrival.

Saturday, 1/4
2:10 p.m. Three-car
motor vehicle crash
at Northfield Road
and Semb Drive.
Report taken.
3:10 p.m. Two-car
motor vehicle crash
at Prospect Street.
Report taken.
4:30 p.m. Noise
complaint at Forest
Street residence.
Report taken.

Sunday, 1/5
6:10 p.m. Assisted Gill
PD with unwanted
subject on River Road
in Gill.

Wednesday, 1/1
12:30 a.m. Alarm at
Accurate Automotive.

Cold Weather Brings Potential Dangers: Three Steps for Seniors to Stay Safe

With dangerously cold temperatures in the forecast, Home Instead Senior Care says now is the time for seniors and their loved ones to brush up on cold weather safety tips.

"Winter can be a difficult time, as the harsh conditions especially impact seniors," said Jeff Huber, president of Home Instead, Inc. "We want to make sure seniors and their loved ones are aware of simple ways they can stay safe and warm throughout the season."

Stay Warm

Those over the age of 65 account for nearly half of all hypothermia deaths. As the body ages, the ability to maintain a normal internal body temperature decreases, creating an insensitivity to moderately cold temperatures.

Seniors may not realize they are putting themselves at risk until symptoms appear. Symptoms of hypothermia include: shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech and drowsiness.

If symptoms are present, immediate medical attention is necessary.

The leading reason for hypothermia in the elderly is due to poorly heated homes, which is entirely preventable. Follow these simple tips to ensure a warm household:

- Keep the thermostat at 65 degrees, at least. Consistently check it to make sure your home is sufficiently warm. Even as heating costs rise, your safety should be a priority.
- Put a carbon monoxide detector near where you sleep.
- Ensure that there is adequate insulation, and check and clean the fireplace and furnace. Furnace filters should be replaced monthly.
- Minimize drafts by filling old socks with sand and using them in drafty windowsills and door jams. Weather-strip around windows and doors. Keep doors to unused rooms closed and close curtains at night.
- Add an extra blanket to the bed and warm the bed in advance with a hot water bottle. Never use an electric blanket – it may be difficult to operate the controls if the temperature needs to be

adjusted in the night.

- Dress in layers of loose fitting clothing. If you go outside, make sure your head is covered.

Preventing Falls

Every year, more than 1.6 million seniors end up in the emergency room because of a fall. With icy conditions, the chances of falling are even greater.

- Take a couple minutes per day and stretch your limbs in order to loosen muscles.
- Stay inside – make arrangements for someone to shovel and salt driveways and walkways. Professional caregivers can assist with to-do items, such as bringing in the mail and/or picking up groceries.
- Wear shoes or boots with a non-skid sole.
- Have handrails installed on outside walls for frequently used walkways.
- If you use a cane or walker, check the rubber tips to make sure they are not worn smooth.

Build a Network

Winter weather can take a toll on everyone, especially seniors. Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) can occur in seniors and impact their emotional health.

Some signs to watch for with SAD include: a loss of energy, an increased appetite and an enhanced feeling of lethargy and tiredness. If symptoms are present, talk to your medical provider about treatment options.

Additionally, winter storms can be unpredictable. It is important to be prepared in case of an emergency.

- Stay in touch in with family, friends and neighbors. Schedule phone calls, or enlist the help of a professional caregiver to come in for an hour a week.
- Make arrangements for assistance in case of a blizzard or power outage. Keep important numbers in an emergency kit, along with non-perishable foods, water and medications.
- Be familiar with your local resources. Visit www.ready.gov/seniors, www.noaa.gov or www.redcross.org for more information about cold weather.

GCTV To Air Program On Tourette Syndrome and Associated Conditions

In the Fall of 2012, Greenfield Community Television (GCTV) was awarded a grant by the Brad Cohen Tourette Foundation (BCTF) of Roswell, Georgia. The grant, written by Garry L. Earles, M.S.W., L.I.C.S.W. was used to develop, present, film and produce a DVD of a 2 ½-hour informational and educational program on Tourette Syndrome and co-occurring conditions.

Local sponsor donations from Bete Fog Nozzle, Inc., the Community Health Center of Franklin County, Greenfield Savings Bank, Staples of Greenfield and The Partnership for Youth (a program of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments) as well as individuals, augmented the BCTF grant and ensured the success of the project.

The 2 ½-hour program was presented and filmed at the end of last April in front of a live GCTV studio audience of clinical and educational personnel as well as those concerned about and caring for, youth with Tourette. The editing of the film was recently completed and the DVD is now available. The final component of this extensive project is to broadcast the program on GCTV.

Accordingly, the program will be shown in its entirety on GCTV (Comcast channel 15) on Friday, January 24 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. and again on Saturday, January 25 from 1:30 to 4 p.m.

Tourette Syndrome (TS), first described in the literature in 1884 by Gilles de la Tourette, a French physician, is a neuro-psychiatric condition usually identified by its involuntary tics.

Despite its historical origins, TS is still much misunderstood and myths abound. While commonly thought to be principally a tic disorder, many other psychiatric conditions are found to cluster around Tourette. It is not unusual, therefore, for those with TS, to also be challenged by ADHD, OCD, mood fluctuations, learning disabilities and sensory integration issues.

Mr. Cohen's life, challenged since childhood by Tourette Syndrome, was depicted in the 2008 Hallmark Hall of Fame Movie, *Front of The Class*, adapted from Mr. Cohen's book, *Front of the Class: How Tourette Syndrome Made Me the Teacher I Never Had*.

James Wolk portrayed Mr. Cohen. Treat Williams and Patricia Heaton played his parents.

Due to his hard work and perseverance, Mr. Cohen was named the Sallie May First Class Elementary Teacher by the State of Georgia in 1997, his first year as a teacher.

Like Mr. Cohen, Tourette and its multitude of co-occurring conditions, also challenges project coordinator and program presenter, Mr. Earles, a licensed in-

dependent clinical social worker. Known nationally as a trainer, speaker and consultant in child and adolescent mental health, Mr. Earles designed and developed the PowerPoint based program over several months in preparation for the April presentation.

The project is part of an on-going effort by Mr. Earles to produce and air informative shows on GCTV for clinicians, educators and the general public about the challenges faced by children and adolescents with various mental health conditions.

He has been ably assisted in that endeavor by Scott MacPherson, GCTV station manager, Drew Hutchison of Local Bias Productions and KC Scott, host of the GCTV show, *Come To Think Of It*, all of whom did their part to make this project a reality.

As part of the effort to make the Tourette program available locally, plans are in the works to donate a copy of the DVD to the Greenfield Public Library on behalf of all the sponsors. An evening event at the library on Tourette and other child and adolescent mental health conditions and accompanying issues is in the process of being scheduled for later this winter.

To request more information or to obtain a copy of the DVD, please contact Mr. Earles at (413) 863-4128, or email him at garry@garryearles.com.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

ONGOING:

EVERY SUNDAY

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

EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

EVERY THURSDAY

Montague Center Library: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers are invited. 10 to 11 a.m. Free.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Open Mic with Dan, Kip, and Schultzy* from Curly Fingers Dupree Band. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

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

ART SHOWS:

Augusta Savage Gallery, UMass, Amherst: Jose Tonito Rodriguez: *Inkterventions* on display through February 14th.

Hampden Gallery, UMass, Amherst: *Form and Content* curated by Jennifer Tibbetts on display Jan 26 to February 14.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Surly Temple*, Jim Henry, Guy DeVito,

Doug Plavin and Tommy Boynton, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Carolyn Walker, Lisa Marie Ellingsen, Lexi Weege, Jennie Backstrom*, 8 p.m.



Michael Nix performs on an instrument he designed called the Banjar, a seven string instrument that combines elements of the classic five string banjo and the classical guitar. Repertoire includes original composition, jazz, ragtime, Irish and folk tunes as well as Renaissance and Baroque lute dances. *Great Falls Coffeehouse on Friday, January 10, 7 p.m.* The museum and store will be open at intermission and refreshments will be available. *Suggested donations (\$6-\$12) in support of programming at The Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A.*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Frost Heaves in Wonderland* A CD release extravaganza, 7 p.m.

Great Falls Coffee House, Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Michael Nix Michael on the Banjar*, \$, 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Great desserts, coffee & tea.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crab Grass Band*, Americana-ana! 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Jessica Smucker*, pop, 8 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

Greenfield Savings Bank, Turners Falls: *Healthy Start to the New Year*. Body Balance and The Metabolism Boosting Kit, presented by Colleen Campbell, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Call for reservation.

Flywheel, Easthampton: *Satur-*

day Morning Music Party, join us for free pancakes, an episode of Pee Wee's Playhouse, and a dance party courtesy of DJ Youthelectronix, 10 a.m.

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest, Sheffield Elementary School, Turners Falls. Participation is free, for boys & girls ages 10 - 14 yrs. Walk-in registrations, 1 to 3 p.m.

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *Give Native Pollinators A Chance*, talk by Tom Sullivan on why wild bees are critical to our food supply and bio-diversity, 1:30 p.m. www.pollinatorswelcome.com

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Regulars - Art reception and dance party*, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

Northfield Mtn Rec Area, Northfield: *William Dean*, author, amateur photographer, and nature enthusiast for an amazing look at the Barton Cove eagle nest during the 2013 breeding season, 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shout Lulu*, Southern string band, 8 p.m.

The Art Garden, Shelburne Falls: *Art For A Change*, drop-in time for creating art, 6 to 9 p.m. continues Feb. 12, April 9, and May 7. www.theartgarden.org,

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Open Mic Night*, hosted by Pamela Means, 7 p.m.

The Loft at the Clarion Hotel, Northampton: *Freedom Song A Concert in Honor of Martin Luther King Jr. & Nelson Mandela* with Moonlight & Morning Star and the Charm Brothers, special guests, 7 p.m.

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

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *McCabe & Mrs. Miller*, 1971, color rated R. Julie Christie & Warren Beatty, \$, 7:30 p.m.. Music before the movie, *Mohawk High School Select Chorus*, eclectic mix, 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Patty Carpenter*, jazz/blues singing, 8 p.m.

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

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Fancy Trash*, indie folk rock, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

Montague Community Hall, Montague Center: *Gender Role Free Contra Dance*, \$, 7 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *McCabe & Mrs. Miller*, 1971, color rated R. Julie Christie & Warren Beatty, \$, 7:30 p.m.. Music before the movie, *Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band*, jazz, blues, country, 7 p.m.

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *Livingston Taylor*, \$, 8 p.m. with open mic at 7:30 p.m. Benefit for the Orange Friends of the Library.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Impulse Ensemble* creates an earthy fu-

sion of World Music, jazz and spoken word, \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Eva Cappelli & The Watershops*, Bluesy Eclectic Rock made for dancing, 9 p.m.

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

Deja Brew, Wendell: *John Sheldon - Up Close & Personal*, 8 p.m.

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

Flywheel, Easthampton: *Mal Devisa*, amazing solo vocalist from *Who'd A Funk It* with looped beats, sounds, noise and rhythm, 8 p.m.

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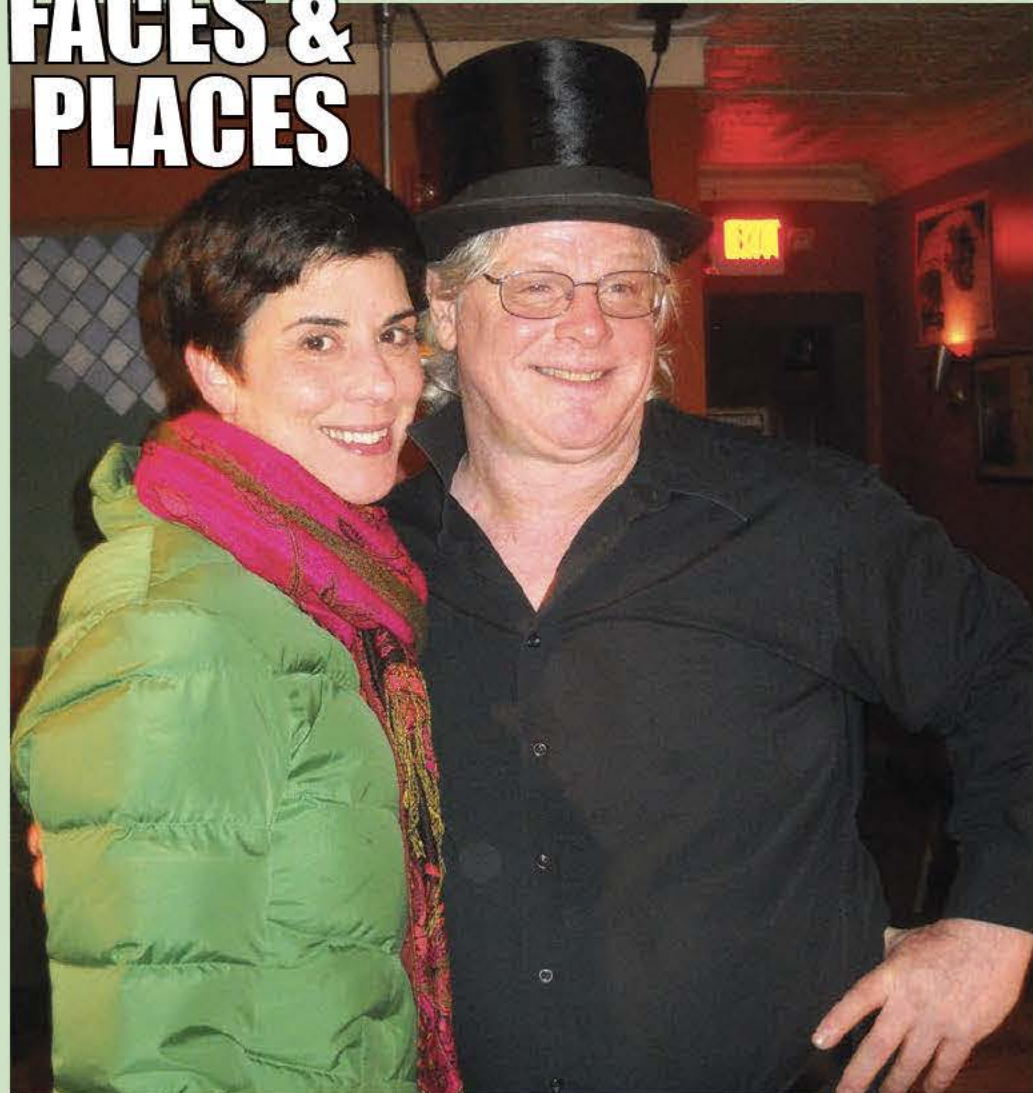
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FACES & PLACES



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTOS

Montague's John Landino, artist and performer extraordinaire, hobnobs with RiverCulture Director Suzanne LoManto (l) at the Rendezvous in Turners Falls. For the last three years, on the last Monday of each month, Landino has hosted his eclectic and vibrant "DadaDino" open mic series at the Voo. He is now turning over his magic baton to Joe T the Clown (r) beginning in January. Joe promises to continue the mix of madcap antics and serious performance that have become Dada Dino's trademark.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

A Hazard? We Always Thought That Was Called A Mule.

Monday, 12/9
12:50 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Main road due to road conditions. No injuries.
Tuesday, 12/10
7:30 a.m. Property from breaking & entering on Boyle Road located at Food City in Montague.
Wednesday, 12/11
9:20 a.m. Fire alarm at Northfield Mount Hermon.
1:15 p.m. Suspicious truck parked on Hoe Shop Road. Checked out OK.
Thursday, 12/12
8:08 a.m. Medical emergency on West Gill Road. Resident transported via ambulance.
Friday, 12/13
12:19 p.m. Located suspicious vehicle on

Franklin Road. Possible breaking & entering to home.
10:45 p.m. House alarm on Walnut Street. Checked out OK.
Saturday, 12/14
1:30 p.m. Dog reported running loose on Main Road.
4 p.m. Court process served to River Road resident.
7:30 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with unwanted subject at a residence.
8:20 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Main Road. Wrecker service assisted.
Sunday, 12/15
1:50 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Route 2 near Barton Cove. No injuries.
2:40 p.m. Resident from Riverview Drive requested assistance with

custody issue.
8 p.m. Motorist complaint about poor road markings in Factory Hollow detail area.
Monday, 12/16
10 a.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with domestic complaint on Route 10.
12:10 p.m. Medical assistance to West Gill Road resident. Transported same.
7:50 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with domestic complaint on Route 10.
Tuesday, 12/17
8:30 a.m. Complaint of rabid raccoon on Main Road. Gone on arrival.
2:30 p.m. Medical emergency at French King Highway residence. Resident transported.
3:10 p.m. Security issue at elementary school.

4:55 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Route 2. No injuries reported.
5:40 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Route 2 at Factory Hollow. No injuries reported.
Wednesday, 12/18
8:25 a.m. Medical emergency at River Road residence. CPR given, and resident transported.
3:10 p.m. Medical emergency on Boyle Road. Party transported by ambulance.
Thursday, 12/19
7:05 a.m. Alarm at West Gill Road residence. False.
6:10 p.m. Rabid raccoon back at Main Road residence.
Friday, 12/20
10:50 a.m. Motor vehicle reported off roadway on Barney Hale

Road. Checked out OK.
Saturday, 12/21
4 p.m. Property located on Route 2 from past fatal accident.
7:48 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with armed robbery from residence.
12/22 to 12/31:
Not provided to us.
Wednesday, 1/1
3:15 p.m. Suspicious person on Walnut Street. Located and identified party.
3:35 p.m. Lost wallet found and returned to owner on Walnut Street.
Thursday, 1/2
1 p.m. Gas leak reported at Main Road residence.
3:24 p.m. Report of donkey and horse creating a hazard on Main Road.

Friday, 1/3
1:50 p.m. Suspicious activity reported at empty West Gill Road residence.
2:30 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with elderly subject who had fallen.
Saturday, 1/4
1:09 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with a 911 hang-up call.
1:25 p.m. Assisted disabled motor vehicle on Route 2 at Setback Lane.
5:52 p.m. Car vs. deer accident on West Gill Road. Driver uninjured.
Sunday, 1/5
12:15 p.m. Deer stuck in snow on Boyle Road. Gone upon arrival.
6:10 p.m. Removed unwanted subject from River Road residence.

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