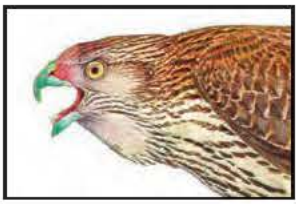




**PREDATOR  
AND PREY**  
Page B1



**"SPIRIT" IN  
HINDSIGHT**  
Page B1



**A HEAD  
IS SHED**  
Page B2



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 13 – NO. 13

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 15, 2015

## Town Building Hit With Anti-Islam Graffiti

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – Down-town residents awoke Saturday to find the brick wall on the side of the town-owned Colle Opera House building had been defaced with an anti-Islam slogan in blue spray-paint.

On Saturday afternoon or evening, the slogan's meaning was altered with black paint, and sometime Sunday, the display was covered over, in chalk, with images of flowers and the words "Love," "Peace," and "Justice!"

"We first became aware of it on Saturday," said Montague police chief Chip Dodge. "We contacted the highway department, but they couldn't do it because it was a weekend."

"So two of our officers actually went down with the equipment that we had. We didn't feel we wanted to wait until Monday, leaving that stuff up."

"Unfortunately, they couldn't get rid of much of it. Later that evening, more graffiti appeared in the same spot."

This second round, in black paint, changed the word "Islam" to "Islamophobia," in an apparent rebuke to the original vandal.

The incident came in the wake of a spree of attacks in France last week by a group of French-born men who had allegedly received training and support from Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

Over the weekend, rallies were held in Paris and around the globe

see **GRAFFITI** page A3



On Sunday, someone covered the spraypaint with brighter words in chalk.

ANNE JEMAS PHOTO

## Partnership Between Horse and Rider

By JOE KWIECINSKI

**LEVERETT** – For Colleen Campbell of Campbell Equine Training, training and teaching others how to ride horses is not only a labor of love, but also gives her the opportunity to bring more joy and well-being into their lives.

Campbell Equine uses the facilities at the Sky High Horse Farm barn, along with the legendary Joe Delano, who maintains his own teaching schedule. Sky High Horse Farm is located at 360 North Leverett Road in Leverett.

"Campbell Equine is dedicated to making every horse-and-rider team the best it can be," said Colleen. "You'll learn how to communicate clearly with your horse, so commands seem effortless and look invisible to others."

Campbell employs methods cultivated by the grandfather of the natural horsemanship movement, Bill Dorrance. This style of training and working with horses focuses on communication and understanding, instead of forcing a horse to learn to perform.

"We help the rider learn how to make the right thing easy, and the wrong thing hard," explained



CRYSTAL KOVACS-HOLMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Colleen Campbell.

Campbell, "so your horse is always happy to do what you want." Sky High is one of the venerable western performance and reining horse barns in western Massachusetts. Working closely with Delano, Campbell notes that he's been training quality horses and helping riders improve their skills for more than three decades.

Campbell Equine offers a wide variety of services, including horsemanship yoga, training for all breeds, and specialization in Ranch Horse Pleasure, a discipline that features partnership between horse

see **EQUINE** page A4

## Working Group Recommends New School Agreement for 4-Town Region

By JEFF SINGLETON

**AMHERST** – "This is our baby now," said Trevor Baptiste, the chair of the current regional middle/high school committee and a member of RAWG from Pelham.

"We are finished," declared Alisa Brewer, RAWG member from Amherst. She noted that the school committee "needs to be comfortable" with the proposed new regional school agreement it has submitted to the member towns for approval.

RAWG is the somewhat awkward acronym for the Regional Agreement Working Group that has refashioned the current Amherst-Pelham regional school district agreement to incorporate the elementary schools of the four member towns.

Currently Leverett, Shutesbury and Amherst-Pelham are in separate elementary districts, while all four towns are combined into the regional high school district beginning at the middle school level.

Leverett and Shutesbury are currently members of the Union 28 elementary school union including Irving, New Salem and Wendell.

see **RAWG** page A4

## Bridging the Digital Divide

By MARK HUDYMA

**TURNERS FALLS** – "The first time I applied for the Library Director position, I didn't have enough technology skills. I thought this was a great opportunity to help people," said Linda Hickman, director of the Carnegie Library and the initiator of the "Bridging the Digital Divide" program.

While many take basic computer and technology skills for granted, seniors, immigrants, and low-income families often lack the equipment and knowledge to develop those skills. A \$24,000 grant by the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts aims to change that.

The grant provides laptops, tablets, a digital projector, and the help of Shirley Keech, a

technology adviser who works with the Western Massachusetts Library System.

"Almost every tutoring session has been filled in advance, and people keep coming back. I believe people vote with their feet. It's been so valuable having the consultant to help patrons and staff, I know I feel much more confident," praised Hickman.

Janet Diani, a patron of the Turners Women's Resource Center, said there are "so many things I wouldn't even think about. I just used it to look up recipes. I had to write a resume, and I had the support to do it here." The Women's Resource Center received three laptops as part of the grant, and "use of the computer lab has increased dramatically," said center director Christine Diani.

see **DIGITAL** page A4



HUDYMA PHOTO

Patrons at the Turners Falls Women's Resource Center use the new laptops.

## Turners Boys Basketball Rolls on to 7 and 2 Overall

By MATT ROBINSON

On Thursday, January 8, the Turners Falls Boys Basketball team defeated the Frontier Red Hawks 58 to 51. It was so cold that day that every single school in Western Massachusetts was closed or had delayed openings.

But by the time the game rolled around, the temperature reached double digits and the True Blue fans came out to cheer their Indians on. And a very large contingent of Red fans, complete with cheerleaders, took up a full quarter of the bleachers. Despite the cold, they were loud and rowdy. But their spirit couldn't save their Red Hawks.

Turners led the entire game. From the opening jump when they put up 7 unanswered points to the final buzzer, Turners led. Frontier made a game of it, however. They pulled within 4 in the second period, and continued to fight against the tide, but in the end Turners prevailed.

"I'm happy with the play of Tionne [Brown] and Tyler [Charbonneau]," Coach Gary Mullins said after the game.

But Coach Mullins was already thinking about the January 14 game against Pioneer: "They're big, and they beat Hopkins," he reminded me.

Currently, Turners and Pioneer are a half-game behind Hopkins in the Hampshire league.

One of the things Turners did right in the



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Tionne Brown scored 11 points and had 7 assists in last Thursday's Frontier game.

Frontier game was to contain Tim Hoar. Before Thursday's game, Mr. Hoar was the seventh highest scorer in Western Massachusetts, averaging over 20 points a game. However, Turners held him to 14, and some of those came after Turners sent their subs in at the end of the game.

On the offensive side, Tyler Charbonneau, Liam Ellis and Jalen Sanders each put up 13 points, Tionne Brown scored 11, Nick York had 7 points and Emmitt Turn added 1.

Tyler was 2 for 2 on three pointers and had

see **BASKETBALL** page A8



# The Montague Reporter

*"The Voice of the Villages"*

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A bad week for cartoons.

## A Tale of Two Tragedies

Last week we joined the world in shock at the news that a cell of men, born in France in working-class French Algerian and Malian families and radicalized into a new interpretation of Islam as young adults, went on a brutal spree in Paris, murdering 17, most at the offices of a political magazine and a kosher supermarket.

Meanwhile in Nigeria, Boko Haram, Islamist militia that has been carving out a statelet on the Cameroonian border, waged an offensive to seize Baga, a town with a military base. In the campaign they displaced tens of thousands and may have killed, according to some, over 2,000.

Which attack is easier to understand? Which victims easier to mourn?

Let's start with Nigeria. A generation ago, Baga was a prosperous fishing town on a peninsula stretching into Lake Chad. But that lake lost 95% of its water between the 1970s and 1990s, shrinking from the size of Lake Erie to that of Lake Champlain. Now it is on a hill, surrounded by a floodplain.

This disaster was due in part to overuse of the water for irrigation from the rivers that feed it. In 1978 Cameroon, then a pro-western, one-party state, took out a World Bank loan with the aim of developing rice agriculture in the basin of the Chari and Logone rivers. In a vicious cycle, as the lake dried up, pastoral farmers were forced off its coast and migrated to the rice region, leading to more irrigation.

On the other side of the lake, Nigeria's West Kano Irrigation Scheme and other projects have taken a similar trajectory over the same period, with infrastructure such as the 1974 Tiga and 1992 Challawa Gorge dams diverting water for crops upstream at the expense of downstream residents.

A serious decline of rainfall due to a movement of the planet's tropical rain belt also contributed. A study last year published by University of Washington climate scientists theorizes that "anthropogenic aerosol cooling of the Northern Hemisphere," peaking in the 1980s, was "the primary cause of the consistent southward shift" of the belt, contributing to the desertification of the area.

As a result of these factors, the entire region surrounding the marsh that was once Lake Chad – the borderland between Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria and Niger – is marked by food insecurity, desertification,

food riots, warfare and migration. The catastrophe wrought by these modernization schemes does not lend itself to trust of further Western-led development proposals.

This is a necessary part of the context for understanding the emergence of Boko Haram, whose territory in northeast Nigeria some are now comparing to that of the Islamic State in northern Iraq and Syria. They have adopted the same flags.

And the fact that, in one news cycle, the murders of 17, outrageous as they are, can overshadow the murders of somewhere between 150 and 2,000 civilians indicates that we simply accept the idea that a widening swath of the globe is an intractable disaster, like some gaping equatorial hellmouth.

And it indicates that many among us do not identify with those who live there.

But the challenges faced in this zone – the food and water insecurity, the epidemic diseases, the endless succession of armed despots – are global products, because they are shaped by global flows: not just our loans for dams and our industrial release of sulfate aerosol, but also our unflagging demand for oil and drugs, and our continual and shameless sale of arms.

The new political movements rooted in Islamic identity must be understood specifically as straddling this geographical rift. Youth in Western Europe and the US are experiencing the transformation of postwar prosperity into austerity, as the social compacts their parents enjoyed are dismantled.

Muslim youth here, especially if they experience bigotry and social exclusion on top of that, have the easiest basis on which to identify with hundreds of millions trapped in those global crisis zones.

So to view the turn to Islamism by some Western-born youth simply as a consequence of their Muslim heritage, without taking into account the failures of secularism to bring a better global future for all, is to miss a key point.

The 2,000 Europeans and Americans who have traveled to Syria to fight are fundamentally of our society, but have determined to fight against it in the best way they know how: by joining a movement that provides a vision of solving the world's ills through the imposition of a shared global identity.

Said and Cherif Kouachi were born in the 1980s. Their parents were Algerian, but their focus as young men was on Iraq following

## Letter to the Editors

### Earles: Board Should Censure Member

There have been a few recent concerns about how the Montague board of selectmen has handled certain situations. One of those, the "firing" of the Cable Advisory Committee (CAC) co-chairs, prompted me to start an online petition to address the inaction of the selectboard, specifically with regard to this situation.

Last October, Mark Fairbrother, acting alone as a member of the selectboard, demanded, under threat of public humiliation and embarrassment, the resignations of the then CAC co-chairs, I being one of them.

As co-chairs, we spent long volunteer hours on two specific fronts. One was to negotiate a new contract with Comcast for cable television services for the town. The other was to assess and evaluate Montague Community Cable Inc. (MCCI), the board that oversees Montague Community Television (MCTV), and the performance of MCTV itself.

The efforts toward accomplishing those two responsibilities were well underway, and near completion, when Mr. Fairbrother sent a scathing, tyrannical, threatening and demeaning email to both co-chairs. Both of us resigned from the CAC, as we were unwilling to be subjected to such an "official" belligerent attitude and hostile work environment, one that clearly

prevented us from serving the town and its residents.

If that wasn't bad enough, when questioned publically at a selectboard meeting in early November by former selectboard member Patricia Pruitt about his actions as a single member, Mr. Fairbrother, in a gruff and accusatory tone, rebuked Ms. Pruitt.

While he claimed to have merely made a suggestion that the CAC co-chairs resign, he was not being truthful. Actually, no single selectboard member has the authority to make such decisions on their own, let alone demand action on them. That's why we have a board of (three) selectMEN, not a board of selectMAN.

To further complicate this situation, the other two selectboard members neither denounced nor censured Mr. Fairbrother for his actions. There wasn't even the proverbial "slap on the wrist" for such an affront to community volunteers and to democratic principles. Essentially, they silently sanctioned his actions, setting a precedent for the future behavior of selectboard members acting alone.

As a result, the demand for CAC resignations has now been overshadowed by a more critical issue, namely the response, or lack thereof, by the other two BoS members. While I was invited to meet with the BoS to "reconsider

my resignation," I withheld any discussion and decision with them until they responded appropriately to the Fairbrother matter, which they have yet to do.

This issue is not about me or the CAC. It is about how the town of Montague goes about doing our business, and how its elected officials treat its citizens, in particular its volunteers.

I urge all Montague residents, and anyone else interested, to view and sign the online petition at [www.change.org/p/montague-massachusetts-board-of-selectmen-denounce-censure-mark-fairbrother-selectboard-member](http://www.change.org/p/montague-massachusetts-board-of-selectmen-denounce-censure-mark-fairbrother-selectboard-member).

(Apologies for the long URL; you can also use [tinyurl.com/mp-m6gkn](http://tinyurl.com/mp-m6gkn).) You will have to register in order to sign it, and after doing so you will be able to sign any future petition on that site.

Along with the petition, you will also find supporting documentation that consists of Mr. Fairbrother's October email, the town's letter inviting me to reconsider my decision and my response, and a link to the November selectboard meeting at which Ms. Pruitt questioned Mr. Fairbrother's actions.

Please consider signing the petition. Your support is appreciated. Thank you.

Garry Earles  
Montague

the US invasion, and they sought out Islamist mentors, climbing socially among jihadist networks.

They traveled to Yemen where they connected with training and funding. Their attack last week on the staff of Charlie Hebdo was influenced by a target on Yemen's Al Qaeda hit list.

Millions have mobilized in solidarity with the slain cartoonists, carrying images of pencils defeating rifles. The cartoonists and their colleagues, just like the hundreds or thousands of dead residents of Baga, were collateral damage in the military objectives of ideologues.

They were targeted to provoke mass French sympathy for their crude trolling of the country's Muslim minority, in order to intensify the alienation of Muslim youth.

That strategy has been successful: despite extensive Muslim participation in Sunday's unity march, the French interior ministry reports dozens of attacks and threats against Muslims and mosques, including a rash of anti-Islam graffiti.

Ideas must be able to circulate freely. But in the context of war, warmongering ideas should not be misinterpreted as pacifist. It is easy enough to carry around a sign of

a pencil defeating a rifle when the dirty work is being carried out by drone attack, as it is in Yemen.

The most cherished ideal at the core of democracy is not satire. It is the universal value of human life, which underlies freedom of expression.

If we have given up on that ideal – and in turning our backs on Baga to mourn more convenient martyrs, it seems this is the case – then these clever cartoons (and spray-painted slogans) do not challenge tyranny, but play into its hand.

And we should all prepare for a century of misery and madness.

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

## LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

American Cancer Society **Relay For Life** of Franklin County will hold a **kickoff meeting** on Saturday, January 17 at St. Kazimierz Hall, 197 Avenue A, Turners Falls from 10 a.m. to noon.

Cancer survivors, volunteers, and community members will gather to kick off the American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Franklin County event.

The kickoff program will highlight ways the Society fights back against cancer and will honor cancer survivors and caregivers. This will be an opportunity for people to learn how to get involved and register teams to participate in the upcoming event to be held June 12 and 13 at the Franklin County Fairgrounds.

The meeting is free and open to the public for anyone interested in joining the fight against cancer in Franklin County. For more information, please visit [www.RelayForLife.org/FranklinCountyMA](http://www.RelayForLife.org/FranklinCountyMA), or call the American Cancer Society at (413) 493-2110.

**"To The Village Square"** is a powerful presentation featuring Anna Gyorgy providing the introduction for the book with Lionel Delevigne as the author in the community room at the GSB Branch in Turners Falls on Saturday, January 17, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

This collection of vivid photographs tells the story of citizens who voiced opposition to the nuclear power industry and the rationale behind their convictions.

The purpose of this event is simply to bring information to those attending and to spark a peaceful, lively discussion on the power of the community in dealing with energy and the environment.

Also attending will be Ed Gregory, local historian, who will also be able to add a local flavor and flair to the topic. Books will be available for sale after the presentation.

In January, February and March, the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) **Universal Access Program (UAP)** will offer cross-country skiing, kick sledding and snowshoeing for individuals with disabilities and their families and friends at Wendell State Forest, 393 Montague Road, Wendell.

In the event of no snow or ice, hiking, nature walks, and other activities will occur. UAP provides recreational accessibility to MassParks for individuals with disabilities, their families and friends.

Free use of accessible equipment and staff assistance is available. UAP strives to increase the participation among persons with disabilities in indoor and outdoor recreational activities in integrated settings.

The program also offers accessible cycling, boating, hiking, horseback riding and events in summer and fall. Upcoming events will be held on Saturdays, January 17, 24, and 31, and February 7, 14, and 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Pre-registration is required. Call All Out Adventures at (413) 584-2052. Contact Wendell State Park at (413) 659-3797.

There will be a free workshop on **downloading electronic books** through the CWMARS library system at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, January 17, at 2 p.m. Bring your own laptop, tablet, or smart phone, or use the library's. Sign-ups suggested. Taught by Shirley Keech.

This workshop is part of the Bridging the Digital Divide project in Montague funded in part by the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts. For more information, call Linda at 863-3214.

On Sunday, the 18<sup>th</sup>, from 4 to 6 p.m., Madison on the Avenue at 104 Avenue A in Turners Falls will be hosting a **"Reclaim MLK"** event with food, talk, video, and inspiration.

The event is being organized in response to Ferguson Action's call for a Day of Resilience on Sunday.

Greenfield Community College is pleased to invite members of the community to celebrate the legacy and birthday of **civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr.** on Monday, January 19, in the Cohn Dining Commons on the Main Campus.

Activities and programs for children and families will be available from 10 a.m. to noon and conclude with lunch and presentations. For further information, contact Judy

Raper, Director of Student Development at (413) 775-1819 or at [raperj@gcc.mass.edu](mailto:raperj@gcc.mass.edu).

In honor of the holiday, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, three local healing professionals are offering a **seated bodywork clinic**, open to everyone. Sign up on January 19 and receive a **free 15-minute** Acupressure Massage, CranioSacral Therapy, or Energy Healing session.

Held upstairs in the Green Fields Market meeting room. For more information, contact Janet Masucci at (413) 863-8694, Margaret Olin at (413) 625-8688, or Karen Traub at (413) 367-9826.

Area residents interested in the **proposed gas pipeline** are invited to **attend a public meeting and forum** at the Erving Senior Center, on Thursday, January 22 from 7 to 9 p.m.

The latest proposed route for the Kinder Morgan's North East Energy Direct pipeline project, and a possible compressor station in Northfield, will be discussed, and the powerful and impressive video "You Don't Hear Much About This," by videographer Stephen Wicks, shown.


The video describes what it means when a compressor station is your neighbor. All area residents are encouraged to attend this meeting to learn how a compressor station like the one planned for Northfield can impact a community, and what can be done to stop it.

The forum is hosted by North Quabbin Pipeline Action. The senior center is located on Rt. 63, at 1 Care Drive, just north of the Erving Elementary School.

Send your local briefs to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

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**Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week**  
week ending 1/9/15:  
**Grade 7**  
Karlie Porter  
Dabney Rollins  
**Grade 8**  
Tyler Noyes

### CORRECTION

In our January 8 article on the removal of a spillway from the Fall River, we erroneously reported that there are over 80,000 dams in Massachusetts. That figure was too high, and in fact is the number for the United States as a whole. There are over 3,000 in the state, minus the one in Gill.

### GRAFFITI from page A1

in solidarity with the attacks' victims, particularly political cartoonists and other staff at the magazine Charlie Hebdo. A rally in downtown Greenfield on Sunday evening drew nearly 40 supporters.

It is unclear whether the incidents are linked, as no one has publicly claimed responsibility for the graffiti on the Colle building, which currently houses the offices of the educational nonprofit Center for Responsive Schools (formerly the Northeast Foundation for Children).

"We're going to work with the town to get it cleaned up as soon as possible," said Mary Beth Forton, director of communications and marketing at the nonprofit.

"Our organization is all about positive community and the celebration of differences, so this message of hate is the antithesis of everything we're about and stand for."

Cold and wet weather have delayed the Department of Public Works from removing the graffiti from the building. DPW superintendent Tom Bergeron said that his department isn't often faced with graffiti removal work, as vandals in town tend to target privately-owned buildings: "We're lucky with that," he said.

Bergeron said he had been told about the situation three times by Tuesday, but on Wednesday he and his staff were still waiting until temperatures rose so that they could work on the surface.

He said the department would first try a graffiti removal spray: "It'll take a couple hours, if we're lucky." Failing that, he said that they would try power washing, and after that sand blasting,

which he hoped they would not have to resort to.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio clarified that this latter option was not on the table. "I had the DPW contact Mass Historic," he said, because that commission has technical expertise on remediating vandalism from historic properties such as the Colle without causing undue damage to their surfaces.

"We can't do sand blasting, and a lot of the chemicals don't work in the wintertime. And we can't paint over it – that's not an option."

Abbondanzio said that graffiti on Montague's town-owned buildings has not been a major problem in his memory, but described writing on buildings as a "pet peeve" of his.

"We do have a historic district, and it does detract. And obviously, there's no place for the kind of bigoted graffiti that was on the Colle."

"I think we've seen some horrible examples of what can happen when an entire group is blamed for the actions of a few," said Father Stan Aksamit of Our Lady of Peace Church in Turners Falls, and a member of the Interfaith Council of Franklin County.

"It happened with the Jewish people in the time of Hitler. I hate to see people generalizing."

Aksamit described a trip he took to Egypt two years ago, saying he felt called there to pray for peace amid social tension. But he described seeing desperation in the eyes of locals, including a man whose livelihood depended on tourism, which has declined sharply during that country's upheaval.

"What induces people to strap bombs to themselves?" he asked. "When people lose hope, individuals can end up doing desperate things.... And when you have this groupthink, group versus group, that's when injustices can happen, and violence can occur...."

"I have met many Muslims on my travels, and in the area. To have them all lumped together is tragic."

Aksamit said that he couldn't recall instances of similar graffiti in the area, but remembers feeling discriminated against by Polish jokes as a youth.



The original layer of graffiti.

"In my sermons, I always ask people: look back in your own history, and remember how it makes you feel," he said. "Every group has gifts to offer to the whole. This has been one of the great aspects of the United States."

"We're upset to see stuff like that," said Chief Dodge, who last month made headlines for a statement promising his department would not discriminate among community members based on "race, religion, age, etc." "First of all, any vandalism, let alone any sort of hate crime."

Dodge said he did not know if the content of the message could incur more serious penalties if a culprit is found: "There's an open investigative report. We don't have any suspects at this time, but if we did, we would find out what their motivations were for writing such a thing..."

"Obviously, if it's a child who didn't know what they were writing, it would be one thing, and if it was someone upset with their neighbor or someone, it would be another. Right now, it's basically a form of vandalism."

As of press time, the original words were still covered over by a more positive message in chalk.

Given the circumstances, Dodge said, he was glad someone took this step: "It would appear that the community didn't accept it. Somebody saw a bad act and turned it into something good."



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EQUINE from page A1

and rider, emphasizing working together.

She also offers finishing services for western performance horses where the equines are brought to the point where they're ready to do well in showing.

Campbell Equine furnishes on-farm leases, pre-buy evaluations and consultations, farm days for children and adults (usually April through December), and clinics at either clients' farms or at Sky High.

Colleen Campbell is delighted to be offering horsemanship yoga. "I began riding western with Joe Delano," said Campbell. "He taught me a lot about feel and timing in the saddle – how to allow the horse to function and do what I was asking, without inadvertently blocking with another part of my body.

"When a person pulls the left rein to go left, a lot of times they tighten up their left shoulder into the turn, and pressure from the seat and leg drives the horse in the opposite direction. The person tries to correct the situation by kicking his or her right foot.

"Joe taught me that by paying attention to where my body was, I could get better turns and movements. As I understood my horse better, I could communicate more clearly without getting in its way."

For Campbell, that was the start of her exposure to horsemanship yoga – understanding how the body affects the horse in many subtle ways. She took a standard yoga class and made an important discovery.

"Once I took that class," she said, "I immediately saw a connection between yoga and horseback riding. Yoga teaches body awareness and relaxation and being centered, present, and focused.

"After I took that class, I started working with Sheila Thorn, and we developed a class that used yoga poses for horseback riders, to teach them relaxation, meditation, and

poses that stretch their hips and hamstring muscles, strengthen their core, and teach them body awareness and balance.

"From the traditional yoga, we move to riding the horse bareback and practice some of the same poses to learn balance and body awareness while on the horse, as well as understand how the horse reacts to our body movements and shifts of weight. Then we put the skills from ground yoga and mounted yoga together, and ride, working with the rider in improving communication and partnership with the horse."

Campbell Equine is also offering a new service this year, Virtual Horsemanship Yoga Classes. Campbell will talk with clients by way of phone or e-mail, determining their strengths and need for improvement. The latter will send her a 10 to 15 minute video featuring movements the horse and rider are working on, from both front and back angles. "A yoga instructor and I," said Campbell, "will put together a class for you."

Colleen Campbell completed a year-long internship at the University of Vermont's own Morgan horse farm in 1998. She went on to earn an associate degree in equine studies at UMass Amherst. Campbell worked at Sky High Horse Farm during her UMass days before obtaining a full-time job there in 2002, giving riding lessons and training horses.

The 35-year-old Campbell pays tribute to Delano. "Joe is amazing," she said. "He's been my mentor since I was at UVM. I'm still learning from him today. He helps me with finishing and becoming more subtle and clear in working with horses. He is extremely skillful and has a wealth of information at his command that he loves to share."

For more info about Campbell Equine Training, please call Colleen Campbell at (978) 660-0267.



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The Transfer Station is hiring a part-time Transfer Station Attendant. Duties to include, but are not limited to, working at the Station, organizing trash and recyclables, and resident education. Approximately 4 hours per week on weekends.  
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Leverett is an AA/EOE

DIGITAL from page A1

"One woman is researching health and wellness tips and is planning on passing them on at a group meeting, another uses them to help with her online business, and she has offered to teach others how to use eBay, and even reconnecting with family through email and social media."

There will also be a training on Wordpress web design offered during the summer, as well as individual tutoring on those devices.

The Gill-Montague Senior Center also benefits from the grant. "At least a dozen people have come in with devices they got for Christmas from children or grandchildren, and they teach them the basics then disappear. They can turn it on, but that's it," said Roberta Potter, director of the Montague Council on Aging.

"We want to enable those who don't use computers at all. Seniors especially can take advantage of online shopping if they no longer drive, keep in touch with family, and use the internet to access services and benefits.

"Even the local Social Security office is in Holyoke, and that's a stretch for a lot of people."

The Senior Center will offer introductory classes, as well as more nar-

rowly focused workshops on topics such as downloading e-books. The tablets supplement existing activities at the center; for example, the knitting group is "downloading knitting patterns onto the tablets."

The tablets also prove useful for reading, as many seniors are challenged by small print and a narrow selection of large-print books. Tablets allow the user to select any font size and brightness they wish, making reading much easier.

Still others come looking for help with software like Microsoft Office, a job requirement for many positions. "We're getting a broad range of participants and a lot of mileage out of the program," said Potter.

Tutoring is available now from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. every Friday at the Carnegie Library. There is also a session this Saturday, January 17 from 10 to 2 p.m., followed by a "Downloading E-Books" workshop from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Those interested can call Linda Hickman at 863-3214, Christine Diani at the Turners Falls Women's Resource Center at 863-4804 ext. 3, and Roberta Potter at the Gill-Montague Senior Center at 863-4500.



RAWG from page A1

Union 28 could be significantly affected by last night's proposal.

For RAWG this is the end of a process that began in 2012 when a "Regional School District Planning Board" was created. At that time, the four towns were considering either creating a separate four-town elementary district or a new pre-K through 12 regional district.

At the end of 2013 it was decided to shift gears and study an expansion of the existing high school district agreement. Last night's detailed report to the Amherst-Pelham school committee is the end of that process. The proposed changes, according to RAWG member Andrew Steinberg, amount to a new regional agreement. Steinberg also noted that RAWG will remain in existence to "answer questions" about the proposal.

The provisional timeline proposed by regional school Superintendent Maria Geryk was based on implementing an expanded district by the fall of 2016. This would ideally require an agreement, approved by the school committee, to be sent to annual town meetings this spring. (The idea of special town meetings in the fall of 2015 was floated.)

Geryk proposed that the committee have an extended discussion of the proposed agreement at its February 24 meeting and an "up and down" vote on March 10.

Here are a few of the RAWG report's highlights:

Implementation

The proposed changes in the regional agreement would require majority support at the town meetings of all four towns. There will be separate town meeting votes on whether to join the new region. As many as two of the four towns could opt out at the elementary level for the time being. Amherst and one small town would need to join for the district to be viable.

**Amherst would be allocated seven school committee seats, while the smaller towns would have two seats each. A town participating only at the middle/high school level would be allocated one seat.**

Towns that opt out at the elementary level could join without a change in the regional agreement. However, there would be a "protected period (to be determined) while the newly formed region is solidified when non-participating towns" will not be able to join at the elementary level.

Governance

The new regional school commit-

tee would be the product of district-wide elections – all voters in all towns vote for school committee members – with residency requirements. According to state law, school committee elections under this format would take place every two years during the November state elections. The report recommends four-year terms for school committee members.

Amherst would be allocated seven school committee seats, while the smaller towns fully participating in the new region would have two seats each. A town participating only at the middle/high school level would be allocated one seat.

The entire school committee, including any towns that opt out of the elementary level, would vote on all issues, including the annual budget and school closings.

**Budget and Assessments**

The school committee will determine the portion of costs for the middle/high schools and, separately, for the elementary schools. The committee will apportion the share of costs for the middle/high school to the towns participating only at that level based on a five-year "rolling average" of enrollment.

The remaining costs for the middle/high school plus the elementary schools will be apportioned to towns fully participating in the district on the basis of a five-year "rolling" enrollment average.

According to RAWG member Andrew Steinberg, this assessment method is based on the formula currently used by the Mohawk regional district.

**School Building Closings**

The proposed agreement would require the votes of eight school committee members to close a school. A lengthy and elaborate process to consider a closing is outlined in the agreement.

This would include an initial feasibility study, "complete fiscal analysis" to determine the impact on the regional budget and assessments; a review of the educational impact; and a review of long-term population trends. At least two public hearings are also required before a closing.

In addition, "a town affected by a school closing may vote additional capital and/or operational funds" (over and above the assessment) required to keep the school open.

Based on the brief discussion at the school committee meeting, the proposed agreement could well be modified in the coming months.

The full RAWG report is posted as part of the school committee agenda for January 12, 2015 on the Amherst-Pelham district website: [www.arps.org/administration/school\\_committee/regional\\_school\\_committee/regional\\_school\\_committee\\_agendas/](http://www.arps.org/administration/school_committee/regional_school_committee/regional_school_committee_agendas/).



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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

# Regional Kennel to Remain in Montague

By JEFF SINGLETON

It now appears that the regional dog kennel will remain in Montague. Last spring the status of the popular kennel was in doubt. The facility needed to move from its current location which would soon be transformed into an industrial park. The county sheriff, who administers the kennel, felt that town officials were not being cooperative in implementing interim agreements for the current facility.

This led to an “I’m fed up with Montague” email from Sheriff Chris Donelan to the chair of the selectboard, and several rather stern warnings from the chair to various town officials.

All that is in the rear view mirror now, as Donelan, Montague police chief Chip Dodge, town planner Walter Ramsey and DPW chief Tom Bergeron appeared before the selectboard last night in a very collaborative mood.

They announced that they had chosen a new location for the kennel, a large tract of land to the west of the current public safety complex on Turnpike Road.

According to Donelan, two sites had been considered – the Turnpike Road location, and the uncapped former burn dump near the proposed new industrial park.

The sheriff stated that the latter site was rejected due to potential problems with state permitting and questions about the ability to install a septic system.

The area west of the safety complex is large, totaling 25 acres. Dodge, who arrived a bit late for the discussion, emphasized that the proposed location would be in the rear of the lot with plenty of frontage to minimize noise problems. “We want to be good neighbors,” he stated. The facility will also need to avoid a protected habitat for box turtles.

Donelan emphasized that the sheriff’s office and the town would quickly need to develop a “lease agreement or whatever,” so he could go to a lender for funds to develop the new facility. The sheriff was particularly complimentary to Chief Dodge who, he said, would “drag me by the arm” back to Montague whenever another site was being considered.

The board unanimously voted to endorse the decision to locate the kennel on the Turnpike Road site.

## Massacre Study

In other news, the board unanimously voted to accept a proposal for a “Pre-Inventory Research and Documentation Project” for the Battle of Great Falls battlefield study.

The town of Montague has been awarded a National Park Service Grant to study the battle, which is popularly known as the “Turners Falls Massacre,” of 1676. The attack on an Indian encampment at the Great Falls was a turning point in King Phillip’s war (1675-1678).

Ramsey and David Brule, of the Battlefield Grant Advisory Board, described the project and the process by which it was awarded to the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center. Two firms applied for the project under the “request for proposals.”

Brule noted that the Pequot research center had more experience applying the National Park Service battlefield criteria to King Phillip’s war, and the firm specifically cited at least one primary source for the Turners Falls battle.

The “pre-inventory research” will involve assembling a list of primary sources and developing a plan for archeological study of the battlefield itself. The total award will be \$31,500, to be paid from the federal grant.

## Diverse Stock

At Ramsey’s request, the board endorsed the 2015 Montague Housing Plan Update, a lengthy document which reviews the status of housing in Montague and sets goals for the town in this area. The current plan is an update of a 2004 report.

Ramsey noted that Montague has a “diverse” housing stock, with a somewhat smaller number of single-family homes and a larger percentage of renters compared with other towns in Franklin County.

Ramsey also noted that Montague had a relatively large stock of “affordable” housing compared to other towns in the county, but also a significant percentage of low income residents whose housing costs are high as a percentage of their income.

Ransey also stressed demographic changes in the town, particularly the increasing percentage of older residents. According to the report:

“Montague’s total population experienced a slight decline between 2000 and 2010, though the number of households increased by 2% during this same time period. Overall the town saw a decline in the number of families with children, and an increase in residents in the 40-64 age range between 2000 and 2010.

“School enrollment at both the elementary and secondary school levels declined during the same time period.

“Looking forward, the percent-

NOTES FROM THE GMRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

# FY’16 School District Budget Process Begins

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

The Gill-Montague school committee got its first look at numbers for the FY’16 budget, most of which were estimates and projections based on information available.

For hard numbers, Joanne Blier, director of business and operations, said they will have to wait until the official numbers from the state on the “cherry sheet” come out.

Nevertheless, estimates of operating costs and projections of tuition revenues have a basis in real numbers.

Blier and superintendent Michael Sullivan took turns presenting different portions of their bud-

get report. They provided several detailed charts with a breakdown of various parts of the budgets for both FY’15, within which the school district is functioning now, and estimates for the FY’16 budget that will form the foundation for their recommendations for a budget to be presented to the towns later in the year.

There will be a working meeting for the school committee on the budget held on Tuesday, January 20 at 6 p.m. in the conference room at Turners Falls High School when both Sullivan and Blier will present a more detailed breakdown of each category listed in the materials provided at this meeting.

Sullivan said they offered this

broad brush look at the budget first, to give the school committee members a chance to examine them and prepare questions for the next meeting.

Their hope, he said, is that at the end of next week’s meeting they will have sufficient information to be able to vote on the estimated budget for FY’16 at the next school committee meeting on January 27.

## Athletic Achievement

Sullivan read a letter to the school committee, in recognition of the achievements of student athletes at the high school.

The letter from Turners Falls High School athletic director see GMRSD page A6

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The selective use of herbicides to manage vegetation along rights-of-way is done within the context of an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) program consisting of mechanical, chemical, natural and cultural components. In right-of-way vegetation management the pest or target is vegetation (primarily tall growing) that will cause outages and safety issues. National Grid’s IVM program encourages natural controls by promoting low growing plant communities that resist invasion by target vegetation. The selective use of herbicides and mechanical controls are the direct techniques used to control target vegetation and help establish and maintain natural controls.

Rodeo, and possibly one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, will be applied directly to the surface of stumps immediately after target vegetation is cut (Cut Stump Treatment). Garlon 4 or Garlon 4 Ultra will be applied selectively to the stems of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Basal Treatment). Krenite S or Rodeo, mixed with Escort XP, and one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, will be applied selectively to the foliage of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Foliar Treatment). Applications shall not commence more than ten days before nor conclude more than ten days after the following treatment periods.

Municipalities that have rights-of-way that were treated in 2014 but may require some touch-up work in 2015:

Montague

### Treatment Periods

January 12, 2015-June 1, 2015	June 1, 2015-October 16, 2015	October 16, 2015-December 31, 2015
Cut Stump Treatment	Foliar Treatment	Cut Stump Treatment
Basal Treatment	Cut Stump Treatment	Basal Treatment
	Basal Treatment	

Further information may be requested by contacting (during business hours, Mon-Fri from 8:00 am-4:00 pm): Mariclaire Rigby, National Grid, 939 Southbridge Street, Worcester, MA 01610. Telephone: (508) 860-6282 or email: mariclaire.rigby@nationalgrid.com

age of the population aged 65 and older in Montague is expected to almost double by the year 2030.”

The complete report is available at [www.montague.net](http://www.montague.net).

## Other Business

The board also considered recommendations made by town administrator Frank Abbondanzio regarding requests to reclassify the positions of five town employees in the TOMEA union.

These included the Department of Public Works foreman, the assistant town clerk, and the administrative assistants for the Building Department, Health Department and Planning Department.

After a lengthy technical presentation by Abbondanzio and some

discussion about the role of job descriptions produced by an outside consultant, the board voted to recommend upgrades at the DPW and town clerk’s office only.

The board voted to approve purchase and sale agreements for five town properties that have recently been sold at auction.

They also voted to appropriate from the Community Development Discretionary fund \$5,000 for Shea Theater building expenses and \$500 for mounting the Boston Post Cane. The latter allocation will be contingent on a specific proposal to mount the cane, which is awarded to the eldest citizen in Montague.

The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for January 26 at 7 p.m. in Town Hall.



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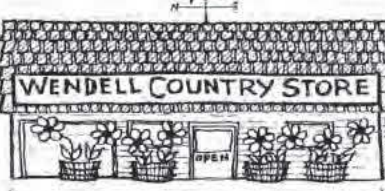
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### GMRSD from page A5

Graves said, "Last night we received notification that Halle Harvey and Alysha Wozniak made first team All Western Mass for field hockey, and Mackenzie Salls made first team All Western Mass for Volleyball.

Additionally, Jalen Sanders, Tionne Brown, Trent Bourbeau, and Tyler Charbonneau made it for Football. Trent was also named League MVP!"

### State Meeting

In his report to the school committee, Sullivan said that he and Blier had attended a regional meeting of the state legislature's Foundation Budget Review Commission on January 10.

He said there were scores of speakers from across Western Massachusetts, including local residents

Michael Naughton, Jeff Singleton and John Hanold.

Sullivan and Blier presented a statement on how they believe the current formula for calculating state aid to local school districts does not serve the Gill-Montague school district.

He said there were many speakers who gave "powerful testimony" of the adverse impacts on their districts of lower than desired state aid.

His impression was that although the commission was sympathetic, they were interested in hearing specific ideas of how to modify the Chapter 70 funding system. Sullivan said he and Blier suggested using a three or five year rolling average for the purposes of determining foundation enrollment, instead of year to year numbers as is done now.

He said they may make more recommendations in the near future

and would offer a more detailed presentation to the school committee, if that were desired.

### Calling From MARS

In a somewhat related matter, Joyce Phillips, school committee chair, told the members of a request received from the Massachusetts Association of Regional School Committees (MARS).

They have asked a law firm to provide an opinion on the 2010 state law regarding regional transportation aid cuts and tying them to cuts in Chapter 70 state aid.

MARS is requesting that school committees contribute to a fund for the purpose of paying the law firm to interpret the 2010 law and provide assistance in considering appropriate actions to take concerning protecting regional transportation reimbursement in the future.

They requested a \$500 contribu-

tion to the legal fund. The school committee voted to approve the contribution of the requested amount unanimously.

The next regular school committee meeting will be held on January 27 at 6:30 p.m., in the television studio at Turners Falls High School.



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### NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

## Gill Selectboard Reviews Projects and Plans

By TIA FATTARUSO

The selectboard opened up Monday night's meeting with updates to current town projects. Energia, hired to insulate the town hall and Riverside buildings with blown-in cellulose, will be back this Thursday to install vent soffits under the eaves of town hall and to investigate and potentially fix some missed spots at Riverside in the afternoon, after John Ward and Claire Chang noticed that snow had melted in a few places on the roof too early in the day to be caused by sunlight, suggesting the possibility of a lack of insulation, perhaps in duct work or chases. The work is being paid for out of the town's Green Communities Grant funding.

Also funded by the grant is the impending purchase of Gill's streetlights from WMECO and transition to LED lights. All present praised Greg Snedeker's work on this project's narrative, and he promptly passed the credit along to the energy commission.

The selectboard had received correspondence requesting that a streetlight which has been out for several years, at the intersection of River and Barney Hale roads, remain unlit, to which everyone agreed.

Administrative assistant Ray Purington, in his inventory of the streetlights, found one unaccounted for at West Gill and Dole roads, and noted that keeping the River & Barney Hale Road light unlit and adding the other will keep costs the same as projected.

Purington brought up the question of potential disposal costs for the current sodium light fixtures, which led a few others to chime in with the question of re-using or recycling them, which Purington will pursue. This brought on some

lighthearted joking about using the old lights on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.

### Well Order

Regarding positive tests of coliform bacteria and slightly elevated levels of manganese in the elementary school well, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is asking for an administrative consent order to be signed which would mandate agreed-upon terms and conditions for addressing positive results to monthly coliform testing. The DEP originally asked for a January 15 sign date, but has expressed willingness to extend that date to

**All present agreed that  
seriously considering  
UV treatment of the  
school well water  
is preferable to  
chemical treatment.**

consider alternate language.

The current language seems to indicate that for 12 months from the signing, the town will choose one of two options if a positive result for coliform is found. One is to implement a mechanical disinfection within 21 days of learning of the results; Purington believes "mechanical" to mean chlorine or ultra-violet (UV), which, either way, would presumably require the purchase and installation of equipment.

The other is initiating continuous disinfection within 7 days of knowledge, which is believed to be more "people based," involving an initial shock of chlorine to the well followed by a lower residual level until the cause of the coliform is corrected.

In a follow-up interview, Purington acknowledged the DEP has been very good. "They know we recognize it as a problem to fix," he said. The date extension will give Purington time to understand and clarify what is being proposed and come up with appropriate alternate language to effectively and currently provide healthy water to the school.

Purington is hoping to hear back in the next few weeks about a USDA grant he had already applied for, with help from engineers in Worcester, regarding design for UV disinfection equipment for the well, but reminded the board that is a longer term project. All present agreed that seriously considering UV treatment of the water as a permanent solution to this nagging issue is preferable to chemical treatment.

"I don't like the idea of chlorinated water in the school system if it can be avoided," said Ward, adding that he's seen evidence which suggests we don't want to kill off synergistic bacteria and beneficial enzymes in our digestive systems.

### Oil Futures

A decision may be made soon regarding how many gallons of oil to lock in for FY'16. Paul Schroeder, manager of energy services with the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative, is responsible for oil bidding and likes where prices are now to consider locking in.

Purington said he would prefer to wait a few more weeks for another oil delivery before deciding on a number, but was given the go ahead to authorize Schroeder at 3800 gallons, the amount that was locked in for FY'15, if it is financially appropriate before then.

### Joint Session

The finance committee then joined the meeting to discuss FY'16 budget planning. There was resounding agreement to do as much work cooperatively as possible, much like the previous year, which had gone rather smoothly, with special thanks from Valeria "Timmie" Smith to John Ward for doing a "wonderful and skillful job" running the joint

meeting.

Purington had hoped to have a revenue projection ready, but hadn't yet received a free cash amount from the state, so was unable to do so, but seemed understanding as he noted, "it feels more fiscally responsible asking for justifiable increases," rather than asking the state for free cash based on arbitrary and general assumptions of increased costs and spending on top of those for level services.

Tupper Brown of the finance committee very practically reminded everyone that, "we could accept requests for decreases from any department without any justifications."

Randy Crochier mentioned the possibility of a shift in state spending due to new governor Charlie Baker looking to fill a 5 to 7 million dollar deficit for this year.

Purington expressed concern for how the school budgets may come in, considering that they have been kept quite low for many years. Nancy Griswold, the new finance committee chair, who joined the meeting remotely, echoed that she had read a newspaper article about school assessments increasing.

Crochier noted the March 4 date for the selectboard and finance committee joint meeting with superintendents, saying, "it's nice that Montague invites us over, it makes the process smoother."

Smith added that it might be wise to touch base with the schools about budgets sooner, rather than wait for "darn near two months."

In the end, it was agreed that Purington would establish and bring a firm timeline for budget planning to the next meeting.

The remainder of the finance committee's participation covered a slew of capital improvement questions, which led to Chang asking about an operating capital improvement planning committee. The selectboard confirmed that the streetlight project is slated for February and March. The roof on the safety complex has yet to go out to bid, but

the allotted money is still available and in the ballpark.

### Other Business

Several changes in facilities managers at the school appear to have made it unclear whether projects there, such as kitchen renovations and interior locks on doors, have been pursued or completed. There is a standing, unresolved issue of water in the basements of the library and town hall, which are not pressing and presumably will be addressed at a later date.

Treasurer Veronica LaChance announced that FY'16 health insurance rates are up only 1.5 percent through HMO Blue, received by all employees except retirees. It's the first time rates have gone up five years in a row, but the increase is smaller than it might be with other insurance carriers. Rates for retirees have gone down, from a cost of \$1071 per person per month to \$882, for a \$3,024 savings to the town for that year.

LaChance expects to send out real estate and property taxes next Tuesday; they would go out Monday but for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday. The year's tax rate is set at \$16.85 per \$1000 assessment, up 7 cents from the previous year. Taxes are due by Friday, May 1. LaChance will be offering extended office hours of 9 to 5 that day.

FY'15 chapter 90, state allocated funding for road maintenance, infrastructure improvements, etc., has been increased to \$226,392 from \$150,928 last year. The number is based on population, road miles and employment figures among other factors.

The board unanimously agreed to approve a support letter for the Communities That Care Coalition's application for funding from the Massachusetts Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative. They also approved a sewer abatement request in the amount of \$27.95 for Jeff Suprenant, and the agricultural commission's request to use the town hall to show an agricultural movie Tuesday, February 3, from 7 to 9 p.m.

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Friday, January 16  
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### Concert for Freedom and Justice with Moonlight & MorningStar

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Sunday, January 18  
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### Reclaim MLK Madison on the Avenue

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Monday, January 19  
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## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

# Invoking the Rule of Necessity

By KATIE NOLAN

Frank and Peter Moschetti of F.A. Moschetti and Sons, Inc., low bidder for the contract to secure windows and doors at the former IP Mill, asked the selectboard at their January 12 meeting to reconsider eliminating their firm's bid.

Moschetti and Sons bid \$45,750 to do the work. Erving contractor Justin Fellows was second lowest at \$60,000.

At the January 5 meeting, highway foreman Glenn McCrory told the board that Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) procurement officer Andrea Woods, who has been advising the town on the bidding process, recommended eliminating Moschetti and Sons from consideration because they did not have sufficient qualifications for boarding up windows and doors at the former IP Mill.

On January 5, the board noted that Fellows was the second lowest bidder, but put off awarding the contract until the January 12 meeting in order to gather additional information.

At the January 12 meeting, before recognizing the Moschettis, selectboard chair William Bembury and member Margaret Sullivan recused themselves, citing the appearance of conflict of interest because both have other connections to Fellows.

Bembury noted that he is a longtime friend of the Fellows family, Vicki Fellows was his campaign manager, and he is the selectboard liaison to the Erving Fire Department, of which Justin Fellows is a member. In addition, he said that Fellows is contracted to do some work at his home.

Sullivan said that Fellows has worked for her in the past.

With two members recusing themselves, the board was left without a quorum for considering the contract, so both Bembury and Sullivan invoked the "rule of necessity" that would allow all of the members of the board, even those with an apparent conflict, to vote on the matter.

The board told the Moschettis that they would listen to their information, but would not make a decision until the next selectboard meeting on January 26, because they needed time to fill out forms documenting their use of the rule of necessity.

Frank Moschetti told the board that his company works on construction projects and demolition projects and has secured vacant buildings in the past. However, their bid for the IP project did not include references for projects involving boarding up buildings, because the town's bid specifications asked for references for "public projects of similar size," and their former building-securing projects were not of the same size as the IP project.

Moschetti said, "Making it burglar-proof and pigeon-proof, to us it's not a difficult job, we're over-qualified."

The board asked Moschetti and Sons to provide two additional references showing public projects of any size, but of a similar nature to the IP Mill project, to Woods at FRCOG. These references will be considered when the board makes its decision on awarding the contract on January 26.

The range of bids from the other six bidders besides Moschetti and Fellows was between \$65,475 and \$129,000.

### Town Line Hauling

JoAnn Coutu of Northfield asked the board if Duseau Trucking, the company that picks up trash in Erving, could make pickups at her aunt Jeanne Black's property on Murdock Hill Road, which straddles the Erving/Northfield line.

Coutu explained that Black, a Northfield resident, is 86 years old, needs help with disposing of her trash, that the Duseau truck passes by her aunt's property on its Erving pickup rounds and that 10 acres of Murdock Hill property are in Erving.

Assistant assessor Jacqueline Boyden reported that the 10 acres in Erving are protected under Chapter

61 and that Black pays only about \$25 in real estate taxes to Erving.

Administrative coordinator Tom Sharp said that the request would put the board in a difficult position, because Black is not an Erving resident. However, Sharp said that Duseau told him they would not charge an additional fee for stopping at Black's property, because Duseau charges the town by the weight of collected trash, not by number of stops.

Selectboard member Arthur Johnson said he felt "worried if we do this, there may be others."

Sullivan suggested a compromise, with Duseau picking up Black's trash for a fee paid to the town.

Bembury said the town had no mechanism for accepting such a fee.

Board members suggested that Coutu find another solution for Black, such as contacting Duseau directly for paid trash pickup, contracting with another local trash hauler or renting a dumpster.

### In The Loop

Beth Palmquist and Jim Carpenter of the board of assessors asked the board to copy assistant assessor Boyden on assessor-related town memos and notices. Palmquist said "she is our eyes and ears day to day, and we rely on her to get the information we need."


They noted that Boyden works regularly at town hall and functions as their board's department head, while the assessors are part-time volunteers. Carpenter said, "basically she is us when we're not around."

The selectboard agreed to keep Boyden informed of assessor-related matters.

### Police Phones

The board voted to pay HEW Communications, Inc. \$6,743 to replace the outdated telephone system at the police station.

Funds from the town hall telephone system line item and the town buildings line item will be used to pay for the new system.



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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

# Cemetery Larceny

**Tuesday, 12/30**

10:05 a.m. Assisted Montague PD with possible breaking & entering in progress on Millers Falls Road. 10:35 a.m. Motorist reported loose black lab in area of Route 2 and French King Restaurant. Same located and returned to owner.

5:50 p.m. Suspicious vehicle at Farley Flats. Found to be disabled, due to be towed, and not a hazard.

**Thursday, 1/1**

5 p.m. Report of a disabled vehicle at Routes 2 and 2A. Gone on arrival.

5:15 p.m. Mutual aid to Gill PD for out-of-control subject on West Gill Road.

**Friday, 1/2**

5:45 p.m. Removed debris from roadway at Route 2 bypass. 9 p.m. 911 call to Old State Road residence regarding suspicious vehicle in driveway. Gone on arrival.

**Saturday, 1/3**

10:15 a.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

6:40 p.m. Motor vehicle crash on Route 2 at the Orange town line. State Police handled same.

**Sunday, 1/4**

1:27 p.m. Motor vehicle crash on North Street. Took report.

**Monday, 1/5**

11:55 a.m. Report of missing dog. Same located by owner.

1:50 p.m. Motor vehicle lockdown on North Street. Entry gained.

**Tuesday, 1/6**

8:40 a.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Park Street.

3:40 p.m. Took report of larceny from Erving Center cemetery. Under investigation.

8:05 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle in back corner of senior center, Care Drive. Same

moved along.

**Wednesday, 1/7**

2:25 p.m. Motor vehicle lockdown on High Street. Entry gained. 8:40 p.m. Assisted Erving FD with alarm at senior center.

9:20 p.m. Suspicious persons at RV shop in Erving Center. Found to be vendors.

**Thursday, 1/8**

1:46 a.m. Arrested [redacted] for operating under the influence of liquor (second offense), reckless operation of a motor vehicle, and marked lanes violation.

**Saturday, 1/10**  
3:28 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Warner Street.

**Sunday, 1/11**  
10:45 a.m. Criminal complaint application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license (subsequent offense).

## TOWN OF ERVING INTERIM SENIOR DIRECTOR

The Town of Erving seeks an interim Senior/Community Center Director to administer the daily operations of the Center for a period of 3 to 4 months. Start date in mid-February 2015. Approximately 30 hr/wk. Salary range of \$500.00/week.

Applications and references due by 3:00 pm on January 21, 2015 (or until the position is filled) to: Town of Erving, 12 E. Main St, Erving, MA, 01344. Attn: Board of Selectmen. AA/EOE.

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## Friday, January 16 “Blowin’ In The Wind: Visions of Wendell’s Energy Future”

Friday at 7 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library. Hosted by the Climate Change Group.

Last year Claire Chang and John Ward from the Solar Store in Greenfield met with us to discuss solar energy options for homes and communities, and the discussion quickly moved to ways that Wendell can address climate change as a town and as individuals.

This year, our own Paul Richmond and his friend Mark Maynard will broaden the

conversation to include wind power, which is being tested at Diemand Farm.

We will discuss current challenges and new technologies; and town and residential options including a wind / solar mill for WRATS or other locations, power sources for a senior village (clustered housing); private energy markets via existing grid lines; net metering; public/private partnerships.

Light refreshments will be served.

DAWN MONTAGUE PHOTO



Dawn Montague sent in this shot she took of the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge at dusk. Have a shot you want to share? Send it to [features@montaguereporter.org](mailto:features@montaguereporter.org).

## Saturday, January 24 “Twelve Monkeys” at the Wendell Free Library

Doors open at 7 p.m., show starts at 7:30 p.m. A 1/2 hour Doctor Who episode will screen before the movie.

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

For more information about the Wendell Free Library visit its web page at [www.wendell-freeibrary.org](http://www.wendell-freeibrary.org) or call (978) 544-3559.

Upcoming Movies in this series. All movies start with a short opening film (a 1/2 hour TV or movie serial) at 7:30 pm, unless otherwise noted:

**February 21:** “Killdozer”

**March 21:** “Jetsons: The Movie” (Starts at 4:00 p.m.)

**April 18:** “The Invisible Man”

**May 17:** “Short Circuit”

**June 13:** “The Village of the Damned”

### BASKETBALL from page A1

8 rebounds and 2 assists. Liam continued his streak of scoring double digits in every game and on top of his 13 points, Liam grabbed 6 rebounds and had 3 assists.

Jalen added 1 assist and 7 rebounds. Tionne gave 7 assists and snagged 5 rebounds. Nick had 7 rebounds and 2 assists. Emmitt grabbed 1 rebound. Eulalio Veras also contributed with 2 rebounds. Spencer Hubert, Colby Dobias, Nick Croteau, James Vaughn, and Jeremy Wolfram also saw playing time for the Tribe.

Turners next plays January 13 at Pioneer, January 16 at Mahara, and January 20 at home against Athol.

*Editors’ Note: By press time, the team had also beaten Pioneer, 86-79. We have updated the headline to reflect the team’s seventh win.*



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

*Aliyah Sanders and Alysha Wozniak, during the Turners girls’ January 9 loss to McCann Tech. We are seeking fans to cover more teams. Write to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org)!*

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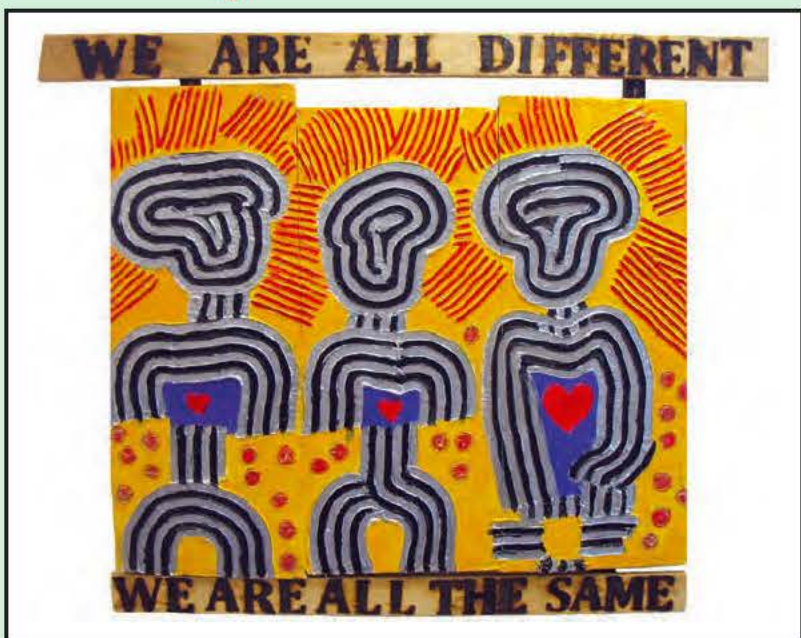
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## AT THE WENDELL FREE LIBRARY

*Prodigal Son: paintings*  
by Charlie Shaw



By RICHARD BALDWIN

The Wendell Free Library's exhibition of paintings will definitely dispel any mid-winter blues that may be working their way into nearby residents. Charlie Shaw of Northfield shows twelve exuberant acrylic paintings that are bright and lively and sure to lighten one's visit.

The exhibition, *Prodigal Son*, may well refer to the artist, who was a Wendell resident in the early 1970's to mid 80's and has now returned in the form of his art work. Shaw was an art student at UMass Amherst during the late 1960's and early 70's, and after doing art for a year focused on making a living and raising a family.

Retiring in 2009, he returned to his career as an artist. The twelve

paintings in this exhibition are the most recent examples of his work.

The pieces all use recycled wood and parts of door panels as substrata. Shaw then works the surface with latex molding compound, occasionally adding small objects.

During this process he establishes the basic composition of each piece. He then works over this shallow relief surface with acrylic paint. In six of these works, a separate wood panel branded with words is added at the top or bottom of the piece.

The colors used to emphasize the lines are all bright, with reds and oranges predominating. These colors are juxtaposed in many of the works resulting in bold, energetic images. In several pieces

see ART page B4

## RECORD REVIEW

*Spirit in Flesh – s/t (1971, Metromedia)*

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

**TURNERS FALLS** – Mike Jackson said he'd heard it was bad. Everyone said it was not worth listening to. And at first, *Spirit in Flesh* seemed like a reviewer's worst nightmare: plain impossible to find.

Scott at Greenfield's John Doe, Jr. told me it was "pretty bad," but when I insisted, he reluctantly agreed to dig through his personal archive to find it. After a fruitless search, he found me a burned CD copy of their 1971 self-titled album on Metromedia Records.

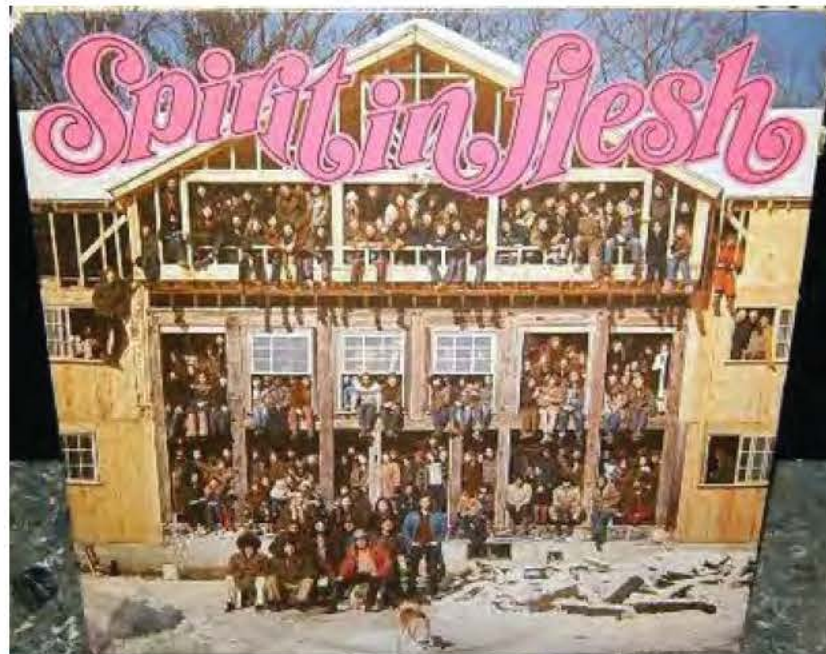
I liked it on the first listen – it was right up my alley, as someone who appreciates music made by Jim Steinman, writer of Meatloaf songs and performing artist behind the album *Bad For Good*.

Many hours of listening later, I decided that *Spirit In Flesh* stands out in their ability to transmit a clear, public-service-announcement-like message derived from the ideals and dreams of their commune, the Brotherhood of the Spirit.

Listening to *Spirit in Flesh* feels like walking into a Baptist Church on Christmas Eve only to find that the preacher is in fact an Anglo-Saxon James Brown, and that Leon Russell has replaced the organist.

Michael Metelica, lead singer/Aquarian prince, evangelizes gnostically, randomly inserting Soul music exclamations such as "yow!" and "uh!" into his phrases as if they were punctuation points that exist only in the psychedelic language of rock n' roll.

The sound of the music, on first impression, gives one the idea that the band has a spiritual, even biblical message. A massed, youthful



*Did you play on this record? Do you have a copy of the band's 1979 private-press follow-up? Contact us at features@montaguereporter.org!*

choir adds to the ecstatic spirituality of the music, and further defines Metelica's position as leader of a movement.

There are ten songs on this album, and far fewer themes. Most of the lyrics are about revolution, spiritual transcendence, and personal and societal sanity. I would also categorize a couple of the songs as sermons of encouragement.

Metelica was political, and believed that struggle leading to revolution is either necessary or inevitable. In the Godspell-y, organ-driven anthem "The Meek Shall Inherit the Earth," Metelica interprets biblical prophecy as a coming revolution against the capitalist class.

Several songs discuss spiritual transcendence. In "Riverside Song," Metelica sings about moments of transcendent enlightenment: "Once

I sat by the riverside, I saw the force that made it go / Suddenly I noticed the river, and found myself in the flow."

Later in that song Metelica sings: "I was a tree / I was a river / I was all the things I'd left behind." I believe that these songs relate to the commune's encouragement of belief in gnostic enlightenment through self-inquiry and observation of the natural world.

Other songs asked about existence and sanity: what is the meaning of sanity in an insane world? In the cynically Beatles-like "Hear My Plea," Metelica states: "It's plain enough to see / for anyone, but not for me / I just cannot see the forest for the trees," and later asks: "Could it be that I'm losing my mind?"

The final grouping of songs on see REVIEW page B4

## RETROSPECTIVE: A BENEFIT

By REPORTER STAFF

**TURNERS FALLS** – "Sixteen years." That's how long this town has been trying to build a skatepark, according to the skatepark committee member. Now it looks like it will happen, and it would have been impossible without three letters: OFC.

Over the years, the band has played countless benefits for the cause. Last Saturday night, they came together at Saint Kaz' hall with Tides and the Warblers for another one. (Rebel Base were originally listed due to a miscommunication.)

We caught up with showgoers Duncan Shippee and Brittany Bruce, and Suzanne LoManto, director of Turners Falls RiverCulture by day and a Warbler by night.

**SL:** About fifty people showed up, on and off. And it's cold – it's the middle of winter. I think getting fifty people into Saint Kaz' is a success. OFC has got a good fanbase.

**DS:** Tides, from Holyoke, was kind of a hard band to pinpoint.



They describe themselves as a reggae-inspired groove metal band. Their sound was heavy and aggressive.

They sounded like Lamb of God or Rage Against the Machine, but with reggae breakdowns.

They came out all heavy-metal at first, their lead singer walking back and forth in front of the stage. The crowd was just feet away, and he's

screaming in their faces – and they loved it.

They are brutal, heavy, and sarcastic. To properly enjoy this band you have to stand in immediate proximity, where your head feels all vibratay.

**BB:** Tides were tight. They were basically metal. That's not really my style of music. One guy was

see BENEFIT page B6

## WEST ALONG THE RIVER: THREE DAYS OF SNOW



LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES ILLUSTRATION

*Goshawk – A. gentiles.*

By DAVID BRULE

**MILLERS RIVER** – 3 January. It's been an open ground, brown Christmas here. All is quiet in the leaf-strewn yard, birds flit and move unconcerned, there's no rush this January; it feels more like some part of distant Virginia in this non-white January, than our Currier and Ives New England.

The radio says snow tonight, but I'll believe it when I see it. My mental mantra and chant is: snow bunting, snow goose, snow flake, snow owl, snow shoe, snow day, snowed in, snow bound. (I leave

out snow shovel, snow blow, snow plow and other less pleasant images.)

Hey! We're Northerners here! A true winter is the only way we can justify our true joy in spring! No resurrection in April without suffering through January, February, March.

9 January. Ah, it's snowing! And now I can feel better about this winter after all. At the white-fall dawn of 7 a.m., from the high bedroom window overlooking yard and river, I could almost convince see WEST ALONG page B4



DUNCAN SHIPPEE PHOTOS






# Pet of the Week

David and his brother, Jack, are ready and waiting to move into a new home, preferably one with lots of toys. They are hand tame, curious and friendly. They enjoy being held and will sometimes fall asleep in your hands when they're really relaxed.

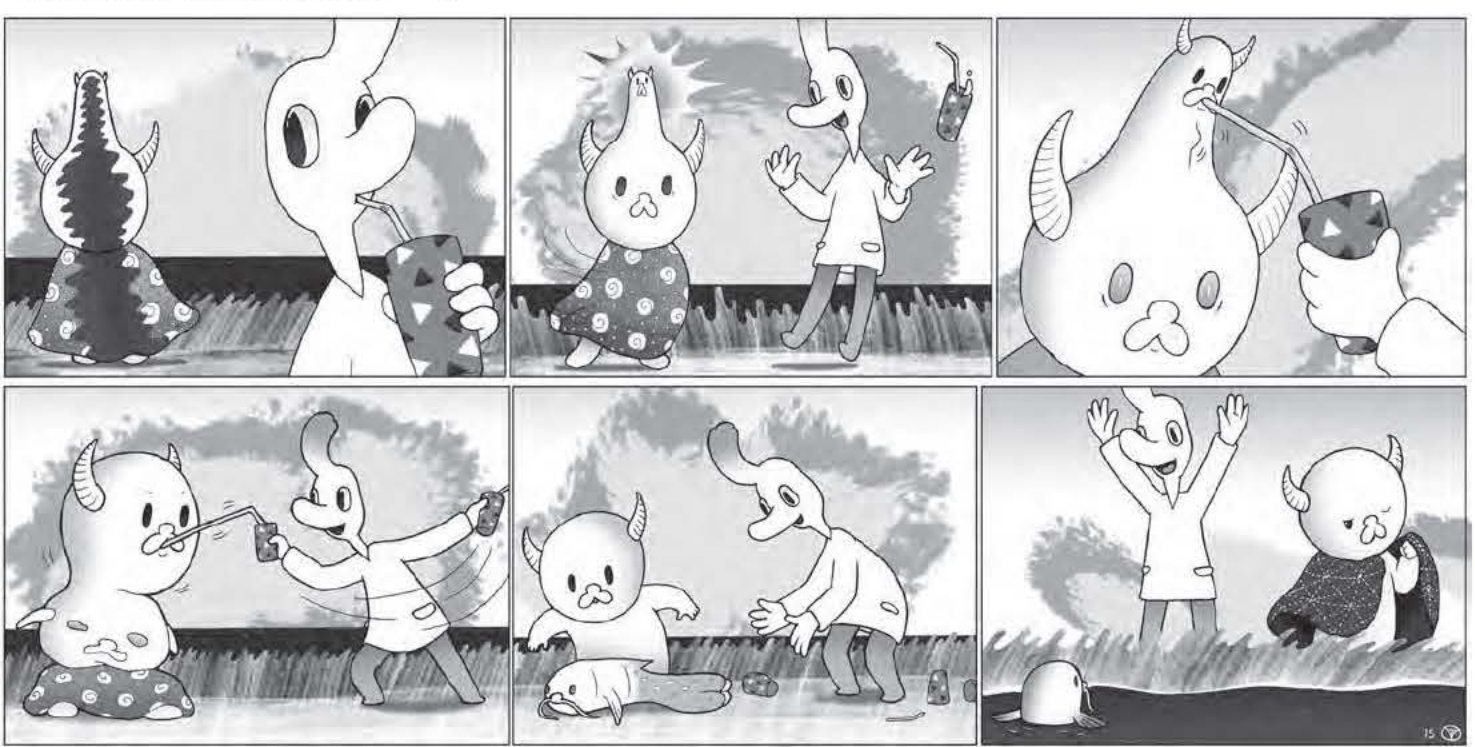
As a bonded pair, Jack and Dave will need to be adopted together as these social pocket pets are happiest when housed with other gerbil companions.



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

## DAVID & JACK

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## Senior Center Activities

### January 19 to 23

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

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

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

**Monday 1/19**  
8:30 a.m. Foot clinic (by appt.)  
10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
12 p.m. Pot Luck & Bingo  
1 p.m. NO Knitting Circle

**Tuesday: 1/20**  
9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
11 a.m. Singalong w/ MorningStar  
12 p.m. Lunch  
1 pm. Knitting Circle

**Wednesday 1/21**  
10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
12 p.m. Lunch  
12:45 p.m. Bingo

**Thursday: 1/22**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
12 p.m. Lunch  
1 p.m. Pitch & Five Crowns

**Friday: 1/23**  
10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1 p.m. Writing Group

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

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

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at 423-3308 for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.

**Monday 1/19**  
CLOSED – MLK DAY

**Tuesday 1/20**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10 a.m. ZumbaToning  
10:45 a.m. Senior Business Meeting  
12:30 p.m. Painting

**Wednesday 1/21**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
12 p.m. Bingo

**Thursday 1/22**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Muscles  
12 p.m. Cards

**Friday 1/23**  
9 a.m. Bowling  
12 p.m. Beginner Quilting

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

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


## DEMENTIA FOR DUMMIES

Are you caring for a family member with dementia? Are you worried about a friend, a family member or yourself? Do you want to know how dementia is diagnosed? How about dementia and medication? Come to the Gill-Montague Senior Center at 11 a.m. on Thursday, January 22 for a question and answer session with Robin Martin, RN.

Robin is the Director of Nursing at New England Health Center in Sunderland and has over 30 years experience working with dementia patients. She is certified by the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners and by the Alzheimer's Foundation of America as a Qualified Dementia Specialist. She'll be here to give a short presentation followed by a question and answer session. Please come to this; it's important information. The program is free but please call 863-4500 to sign up so we'll save you a spot.

## THE HEALTHY GEEZER

# On Anesthesia



esthesia have dropped 25-fold, to 1 in 250,000.

In addition, shorter-acting drugs, more specific drugs and new intravenous drugs can minimize the nausea and vomiting that sometimes occur after anesthesia.

There are three main types of anesthesia: general, regional and local.

General anesthesia makes a person unconscious so that the entire body is pain-free. Regional anesthesia is used to block sensation in one area of your body. Local anesthesia numbs a small part of your body.

General anesthesia is used for extensive surgeries. The drugs used in general anesthesia are given intravenously or are inhaled. They act as hypnotics, painkillers and muscle relaxants, and they block your memory of the surgery.

Regional anesthesia is injected around a single nerve or a network of nerves that branches out and serves an area. For example, spinal, epidural and caudal anesthesia are injected into or near the spinal fluid, effectively numbing nerves that serve the lower half of your body.

Local anesthesia may be used to numb only a small area of nerves at the site where the surgeon plans to operate, such as for cataract surgery. Local anesthesia is also used for minor procedures such as skin biopsies and stitching a cut.

During local and regional anesthesia, patients often receive intravenous drugs for sedation so that they can be comfortably drowsy during surgery and remember little of their time in the operating room.

Before your surgery, you can also expect questions from your doctors regarding your anesthesia.

The following have to be considered: medical problems you might have, medications you take, whether you smoke or drink alcohol, any allergies you have, previous negative experience with anesthesia, and adverse reactions to anesthesia by other family members.

The information collected by your doctors guides them in their treatment. For example, smoking or alcohol consumption can influence the way an anesthetic works in your body during surgery.

Knowing whether you smoke or drink alcohol allows your anesthesiologist to choose anesthetics that are suited to you. And, some anesthetics include components of certain foods, such as albumin from eggs.

Discussing food and drug allergies beforehand helps your anesthesiologist make important drug choices.

*If you would like to ask a question, write to [fred@healthygeezers.com](mailto:fred@healthygeezers.com).*

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Iona waited, leaning one elbow on the bar.  
“I’ll have a Laphroaig, neat...”

# The Library at Mt. Parnassus Pt. 54



MIKE SLIVA ILLUSTRATION

By DAVID DETMOLD

“Good call.”

A moment later, she clicked the heavy glass down on the bar in front of me. Then she circled like a figure skater on another of her endless rounds from cash register to the front pocket of the bar, where she immersed herself in small talk with a man shaped like a bear, and soon a waitress I had never seen before, probably her trainee replacement, with hair cut short on the sides and braided into a messy rat tail in back, her long neck elongated further with successively narrowing bands of Kayan silver chokers piled one above the other right up to her upraised chin and apertures the size of nickels in each earlobe with spiral plugs like baby narwhal tusks protruding from them in dull ivory approached me boldly as I backed away from the bar. In a husky voice she asked me, “How are you doing way down here in the dark?”

She looked at me with eyes shadowed in heavy irony and took my order for another black draft beer, and then returned shortly to ask me, courteously, if I had an ID “on my person,” although we both could see I was easily more than twice her age, and I had already been served a beer and a Scotch and besides where else would I be holding it?

“You’re nice,” I told her. “Would you like to see it?”

She smiled, and I asked her what we were listening to.

“Contact from the Underworld of Redboy,” she said without blinking.

“Ah.”

She sidled off.

“New here?” I signed to Iona as she came back down the bar. I nodded toward the long necked girl, but Iona either did not see or decided not to answer me.

I was sitting next to a French woman and her two male companions who kept up a steady patter in a bastardized Quebecois patois that I did not try to understand, although the occasional admixture of English slang and catchphrases gave me brief, unilluminating insight into their discussion.

“Merde,” said the blond woman. “It’s like morning sickness without the pregnancy.” She put her fork down with distaste.

I knew it was only a matter of time before Iona was gone for good. Now that she had a fulltime job, she would leave her job at the Spotted Pig, just like she had quit

her job at the Golden Mean back north in Mt. Parnassus.

But the length of time before she left was a mystery we both had an interest in keeping hid.

I felt if I didn’t work up my courage to ask her out tonight I might as well go fish for change in a sewer grate with a wad of gum and a piece of string.

I might not have another chance, and I liked that feeling, and I liked the turbid ropey burn of Scotch as it swirled down my throat and then the night was young and I had another \$20 or so left at the bottom of my pocket and for half a minute I felt like a lucky man again.

Iona came back before I was half through that feeling and challenged me, with her translucent silver eyes, to say something insightful to the situation, to say anything to explain why it was exactly I had shown up in more or less the same barstool now two weekends running, so far from my usual haunts.

Although the first time didn’t really count as I had been unable to make it all the way over to the bar from the dining room.

“I’m going to the movies across the street,” I suggested, “to see that Costa-Gravas film, about the rise of Papadopolous and the Colonels.”

This lacked something of the romantic languor I had been affecting, leaning back in my bar stool, studying the martyred portraits on the tangerine walls of the Spotted Pig, sipping my beer, sipping the smoky Scotch.

“I haven’t been paying attention,” she said.

I swallowed hard, and while she still stood there, briefly poised and anticipating something, something I might not have anywhere on my person, really, still studying me for an elongated moment, the bat of an eyelash or two, I clenched my diaphragm and blundered bravely on, my glasses lying on the counter somewhere off to my right in the dark, in the murk.

I offered in an offhand tone, “But that new Woody Allen movie with...” and just then, in a moment of panic, I realized I had completely forgotten the name of his co-star... “that movie about star-crossed couples... what is it... Venus on the West Side? Would you have any interest in seeing that?”

I drawled the question as if her answer could be of no possible interest to anyone in the bar.

“That came off pretty well,” I thought, and anyway, I’d said it.

Continued next week

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

# Where There’s Smoke, There’s A Washing Machine Transmission Belt Failing

Monday, January 5

3:32 a.m. K9 unit assisted with armed robbery investigation at the Greenfield Circle K.

7:33 a.m. Assisted DPW with snow tows on in the Third Street and Fourth Street lots.

9:27 a.m. Caller reports that a neighbor’s Husky puppy has been tied up in its backyard for at least 40 minutes and is concerned that it is too cold for the dog to be outside for that long. Animal control officer responded; dog is inside now and appears to be well cared for.

9:48 a.m. Request for officer assistance with dispute over branches fallen from neighbor’s tree into reporting party’s yard.

12:50 p.m. Caller reports that he came upon an injured deer that appears to have been struck by a vehicle near Millers Falls Road. Environmental police officer responded and turned deer over to party at scene.

2:40 p.m. Complaint that property owner on Fourth Street extension plows snow into the roadway. Report taken.

4:50 p.m. Report that sidewalk in front of several houses on Montague City Road has not been cleared. Per 24 hour rule, call will be passed to tomorrow’s day shift.

6:03 p.m. Report of chimney fire on Emond Avenue. TFFD advised.

6:13 p.m. Two-vehicle accident with airbag deployment on Greenfield Road. One operator transported to hospital. One car towed from scene. Requested DPW to sand this area as well as spot check other areas of town. Citation issued to one operator for failure to follow traffic signs. One vehicle’s plates not found in database. Citations issued and plates seized.

6:48 p.m. Caller reports receiving approximately 60 harassing text messages in the past 25 minutes. Referred to an officer.

Tuesday, 1/6

6:05 a.m. Report of attempted breaking and entering into vehicle in Fifth Street parking lot overnight. Officer responded and observed damage.

5:35 p.m. Complaint regarding unshoveled sidewalks on Burnett Street; ongoing issue. Referred to day shift officer.

Wednesday, 1/7

7:18 a.m. Report that several high school-aged kids were jumping on and in front of vehicles while waiting for the bus at Third and L Streets. Bus has since picked up kids. Officers will be on lookout tomorrow.

9:55 a.m. Caller from Oakman Street reports that her neighbor’s dog bit her dog last night. Bite did not break the skin. Referred to animal control officer, who advised owners of options.

9:57 a.m. Party reports that the furnace in the apartment of one of the clients she cares for is not working; client has been using the oven, running at 400 degrees, 24 hours a day to heat her apartment. Officer and TFFD captain spoke with reporting party and with landlord, who has reportedly been checking on issue and provided additional details. Services rendered.

11:50 a.m. Breaking and entering/vandalism on Davis Street. Report taken.

12:48 p.m. Caller reports that there was just a fight on Fourth Street between two males wearing three piece suits. Parties are still outside in front of bakery but are not physically fighting anymore. Responding officer advised parties of options.

1:38 p.m. Report of smoke coming from one of the washing machines in the Third Street laundromat. Occupants advised to evacuate building. TFFD advised that cause of smoke was a burned up belt in a washing machine.

Thursday, 1/8

2:13 a.m. Assisted Erving PD with an OUI arrest.

2:54 a.m. Commercial burglar alarm at Thomas Memorial Country Club showing “liquor motion.” Responding officers found that all appears secure; no fresh footprints in snow.

7:11 a.m. Report that a train is stopped at the Lake Pleasant railroad crossing blocking traffic. Spoke to Pan Am dispatch, who advised that the train should be moving “shortly.”

10:21 a.m. Caller from Avenue A reports that her maintenance person is concerned about a party with whom he interacted earlier today. Party entered building and was making statements about having “taken a poop” and the resulting odors. This

plus other statements gave the impression that the party was under the influence of something or having some kind of issue. Area search negative.

Friday, 1/9

10:41 a.m. Caller from Grove Street reports receiving harassing phone calls since November. Caller’s friend is also reportedly receiving these calls. Advised of options.

11:06 a.m. Caller from Main Street reports an ongoing issue with a neighbor blowing snow into her backyard; the snow that he puts back there ends up flooding her basement in the spring. Advised of options.

11:35 a.m. Report of suspicious parties in green truck at Millers Falls Rod & Gun. Parties were chasing down a lost dog. All is well.

12:11 p.m. Caller reports that he was traveling on Millers Falls Road when a DPW bucket loader came out of Chester Street and did not stop and look but drove right out. Caller was forced to slam on brakes and spun out to the side of the road. Caller requests that this be addressed with the DPW supervisor. Complaint given to DPW supervisor by phone; similar incident experienced by officer on Fifth Street this morning also conveyed. Supervisor advised he would speak to involved drivers.

4:26 p.m. Complaint from Fifteenth Street of neighbor plowing neighborhood driveways and pushing snow into caller’s yard. Referred to an officer.

11:14 p.m. Commercial burglar alarm at Franklin County Tech showing “superior hall motion.” False alarm.

Saturday, 1/10

12:22 p.m. Caller reports that approximately one hour ago, two vehicles were doing donuts at the four corners near East Taylor Hill Road. Vehicles have since left area. Officer will be on lookout.

3:11 p.m. Caller reports that there is graffiti on the side of the Colle Opera House reading “Fuck

Islam.” Officers on duty notified. DPW contacted; stated they would take care of it on Monday. Officers stated that they had brought down some supplies and were going to attempt to clean it off. Unable to get much off. Later, detective drove by location and noticed additional graffiti.

8:29 p.m. Report that two parties just kicked in an apartment door on Third Street then left in a red Chevy. Parties were just part of an altercation in Greenfield. Summons issued.

10:57 p.m. Caller reports large bonfire in area of 71 Main Street; large number of youths having party. Officer and MCFD on scene. Bonfire will be knocked down.

11:14 p.m. Complaint regarding Red Prius parked in private parking area on K Street. Dispatcher was able to contact wife of registered owner, who moved vehicle.

11:42 p.m. 911 caller reporting pickup truck roll-over on Mormon Hollow Road. Two occupants out and complaining of minor injuries. Medcare and TFFD advised. Medical transport refused.

Sunday, 1/11

1:40 p.m. Caller reports damage to her vehicle from a hit and run that she thinks occurred on Central Street last night. Officer observed damage to vehicle. Report taken.

1:57 p.m. Report of two suspicious males at a vacant house on Chestnut Street. Subjects work for the bank that took over the property from the previous bank; subjects did not have keys, so had to change locks. Detective advises that information checks out.

3:18 p.m. Second complaint regarding property owners not shoveling sidewalk on Burnett Street; it has now been seven days. Referred to an officer.

11:13 p.m. Caller from Third Street reports that his twelve year old daughter and her friend just left the apartment; requesting officer. Officer located females and transported them back to residence.

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## LOOKING BACK

### 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on January 13, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

#### Another Assessor Resigns

Amy Williams has resigned from the Gill board of assessors, citing personal reasons. Williams is the second assessor to resign following the creation of the new property tax assessment Riverfront district, pegged to rising property values along the Connecticut River, which provoked controversy and lead to heated meetings between residents, the assessors, and the selectboard.

Some of the 30 or so affected landowners property values rise more than 200%, as opposed to an average rise of 25% in the rest of Gill.

#### Sewer Bills Adjusted

Pausing midway through a list of 22 requests for sewer abatements, Water Pollution Control Facility superintendent Bob Trombley told the Montague selectboard "This has been a banner year for sewer abatements."

On January 10, Trombley presented abatement requests from seven households complaining of leaky plumbing. All the abatement requests were denied, in favor of adjustments to their second half water bills to reflect the average us-

age from past years, when leaking plumbing had not been a problem.

One case involved a house on G Street, where the homeowner complained of a leaking water tap. Within the course of a six-month period during which time the homeowner had the faucet repaired, the leak in the tap accounted for approximately 32,000 gallons of wasted water down the drain.

#### Town Meeting to Revisit Strathmore for Purchase

The Montague selectboard has set the date for a special town meeting to focus on the town's proposed purchase of the 134-year-old Strathmore mill.

On February 3 the 124 elected town meeting members from the six precincts of Montague will gather to deliberate the same question that split them nearly down the middle on October 21, 2004, namely, should the town spend \$300,000 to purchase the 250,000 square-foot complex in order to resolve, if possible, the infrastructure problems that are standing in the way of private redevelopment of the site.

Town officials have stated their intent to resolve infrastructure problems in short order and – if possible – find a private developer to then take over ownership of the Strathmore.

#### ART from page B1

white and silver or black lines are painted side by side, adding to the vibrancy of the imagery.

The heavy use of lines contrasts with flat shapes, usually depicting hearts or animals, e.g., chicken, turtle, pig, and goat. In one piece, the lines make a circular center piece where the addition of a mirror and smaller circles create a composition within a composition.

There is a strong sense of the physical in all these works. The substrata of wood panels is visible at the edges, and the heavy use of compound building up the lines, along with a mirror in one, and a small doll in another, make for paintings that are shallow reliefs.

Most notable in six of the paintings are wood boards with short statements, i.e., "WE ARE ALL DIFFERENT / WE ARE ALL THE SAME," "DO YOU DREAM," "TORTUGA," "PASSING," "PASSED," "WILD," and "DO YOU DREAM" branded into the wood. Being burned into the wood emphasizes the strength of the letters and the physicality of the pieces.

The bold colors, especially red and orange, gold and silver; the use of lines to suggest light in several paintings, or water in "TORTUGA"

and "PASSED"; the bold flat shapes: all indicate that these works may be secular, private icons.

The lettering on attached panels suggests that the pieces are also to be understood as signs filled with energy and symbols. These paintings, taken as metaphors for the individual, make for an exhibition that is energizing and inspiring.

In Shaw's gallery statement he writes, "I've been inspired by the everyday world around me. I've watched my children obtain their dreams and that has inspired me to seek my own. I hope you enjoy what you see."

Charlie Shaw has shown work at Green Trees Gallery in Northfield and Pale Circus in Greenfield. He will exhibit at Madison on the Avenue in Turners Falls at the end of January. He can be contacted at (858) 663-9049.

Please visit Prodigal Son during library hours: Tuesdays 12 to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Thursdays 3 to 7 p.m.; Saturdays 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; and Sundays 12 to 4 p.m. The exhibition runs from January 3 to February 28.

All are welcome to the artist's reception on Saturday, February 14 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.



#### REVIEW from page B1

the album are those I think of as "sermons." These are highly instructive to the listener, and were perhaps directed toward the membership of the commune.

In "Clear the Way," Metelica sings encouragement for counter-culturalists who may be finding their chosen path too hard. The title seems to refer to "clearing the way" for "earth changes," the Age of Aquarius, or some other type of minor apocalypse that they believed was imminent.

While Metelica displayed a clear talent for expressing his views, the voice that was his instrument would perhaps not have won his high school talent show.

His throatiness and syllabic utterances seemed put-on, and his voice did not hold the inspirational power I was looking for – frankly, it seemed better suited to a book-on-tape reading of the New Testament.

The deep question that I come up against is: "what is 'good' music?"

I think that a better, more relative way of asking this is, "What is the band trying to create?" This can also be stated as, "Why does this band *rock*?" or even "To what

end, what greater purpose, does this band proceed to go forth and *rock*?"

There are many legitimate reasons to rock. One is to make the musician feel good or possibly invincible. Another is to make the audience feel a particular way, such as nostalgic.

A great reason to rock is to create a party. The band I am in, The Final Frontiers, rocks because we are best friends, and because we are usually excited.

The overarching message of a good band can be distilled from its sound. To be understood by the listener, it must be like a well-organized ship-of-the-line: a complicated, multi-faceted organism where every part knows its purpose, and moves toward the same destination.

In this way, because of the strength of their message, Spirit in Flesh was a great band. They didn't have Zeppelin-esque, virtuoso guitar wizardry but, hey, they were teetotalers from Warwick. What they were was a tuned-in public address system, communicating Metelica's ideas to the commune and to greater American Culture.

But just say you don't believe in judging a band by how well they

#### WEST ALONG from page B1

myself of the smell and the sound of silent snow falling.

But for once I didn't bolt down the stairs like some kid expecting a snow day off from school: I just looked at the white landscape for a minute.

Swirls of jays, our flock now up to thirty or more, were pouring out of the pines, blue on white, looking for corn and seed in the usual places. Animated and busy, heads bobbing as they shoveled down the cracked corn, they worked away at getting breakfast.

After a day or two of numbers below zero, ten degrees on the plus side of zero feels totally tolerable.

*11 January.* First cup of coffee outdoors at zero degrees. Winter porch-sitting every day on the edge of the woods where the river runs by.

This is an experiment: noting how fast the cold gets to my body. Fingers chill first, in spite of clutching the stout porcelain of Paris coffee cup.

The cold then inches its way through wool mittens, LL Bean wool duffle coat with hood, bright red inner down vest, wool turtle-neck sweater, flannel shirt. I'm layered up for sure.

But the cold gets to my inner core at just about the same speed as the cup and its contents chill to ice cold. If I were moving and working out here, I'd manage. But sitting still is inviting a morning-

long, hard-to-shake chill.

OK! Experiment over! Back indoors for a fresh cup in the warm kitchen, enough of this!

Sunday morning classical music drifts from the radio, soft light of the kitchen lamp, the poetry of Billy Collins, and outside the kitchen window, sudden carnage.

A magnificent goshawk, second only in skill and ferocity to the mighty peregrine falcon and the great horned owl, is ripping apart one of our blue jays, who mercifully expired immediately under the attack and shock of the impact of the predator's talons.

Feathers were flying as the goshawk went to work, often covering his victim with wide spread wings, to keep it out of sight of any other hawks who might be passing by.

From our vantage point in the kitchen, just three yards away from the scene, we can check the field marks to be sure it's not some mundane Cooper's hawk. Nope: chunky size, mottled feathers on the back, uneven bars on the tail feathers; goshawk for sure.

He spends an hour dissecting the jay, while the rest of the flock of jays, sparrows, and juncos, resume their feeding further away. The hawk has been busy for a while now, and not a threat to them while he's occupied. The predator has his prey, everybody else has to get on with it.

The best spin I can put on our lovely jay's death, is that this is another example of our biodiver-

sity affirming itself. The jay's life force will go to fuel the life of the goshawk, who will produce another generation of goshawks in a few months. That energy and protein will be recycled into another form of life.

We'll mourn our individual jay, but the others will continue to mirror what he was, just outside our windows, all winter.

The food chain, from the four-pawed and winged predators, on down through the cheery chickadees and their insect prey, seems to be intact in this small settlement, our neighborhood, along the ancient river.

Reaffirming this are the myriad of tracks in the fresh snow throughout the woods: rabbits have gamboled and traversed through the low bushes, deer mice by the dozens have been gleaning the fallen winterberries that the robins missed, the fox has been scouring the same sites for a tasty mouse or vole, fisher cat has bounded through here looking for the rabbit, or a house cat.

So now those of us with some mystical, unexplainable spiritual connection with snow can find a renewed sense of a familiar joy: the snow has finally come, we can feel good about winter, and therefore, the coming spring.

But for now, our world has

turned cold and white, and we can finally set our winter clocks to the correct time.



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## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

## ONGOING:

## EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

## EVERY MONDAY

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

## EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

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

## EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

## EVERY THURSDAY

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

## EVERY FRIDAY

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

## CALL FOR ART:

Call for original poetry submissions. "Love Your Food, Love Your Co-op" theme. All welcome to enter, all styles. Falling near Valentine's Day, the event's theme includes love, friends, romance, or an ode to your favorite food. Poetry Reading on Friday February 13, 6-8p.m. at Green Fields Market Co-op. Audience to vote for people's choice award; prizes will be given. Send up to 3 poems to event coordinators Laura Rodley at [laurarodley@hotmail.com](mailto:laurarodley@hotmail.com) or Faith Kindness at [fdk617@gmail.com](mailto:fdk617@gmail.com). By 2/1/15.

Call for art submissions for the Fourth Annual *Triple S: Sensual, Sexual, Smut* show. Looking for a wide spectrum of erotic art from regional artists, previous participants encouraged. Exhibit opens February 2015 at Nina's Nook, Turners Falls. Send to [naban@verizon.net](mailto:naban@verizon.net) before Jan 23. [www.ninasnook.com](http://www.ninasnook.com)

## CASTING CALL

Young Shakespeare Players East Spring Production: *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare, casting begins Wednesday, January 21, for people ages 7-18. Rehearsals sixteen weeks on Sundays & Wednesdays, Shea Theater, Turners Falls.

## EVENTS:

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

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

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

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

Stoneleigh-Burnham School, Greenfield: *Opening Reception for Allen Fowler* with work on display in the Geissler Gallery. 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Put young Hassan Kadam in a kitchen*, and he's bound to emerge with a dish that will dazzle. When Hassan's family is forced to move from their native India, his Papa relocates the family to a peaceful village in the south of France and opens a restaurant. But when their business starts

to thrive, a competing restaurateur launches a war between the eateries. PG. 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Glenn Roth & special guest Kristen Graves*, 8 p.m.

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

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Fascinating Animal Adaptations*. Tasha Daniels, Park Ranger presents about local mammals and their unique winter adaptations. Touchable artifacts (pelts, replica skulls, and replica tracks) included. Appropriate for ages 5 to adult. 10:30 a.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Missy Ashton Art Reception*, 7 p.m. Then: *Ray Mason*, 8 p.m.



Ray Mason at Mocha Maya's in Shelburne Falls on Saturday, 1/17, 8 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Lehar's The Merry Widow*, The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD. Victor Léon and Leo Stein, based on the play L'Attaché d'Ambassade by Henri Meilhac English translation by Jeremy Sams. \$, 12:55 p.m.

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: *Juke Joint Jazz & the Lexi Weege Band*. Weege's sultry voice and sugar-brandy songs of endless summer and the cold, bittersweet winters are not to be missed. Juke Joint Jazz delivers hard drivin' jazz. \$, 8:30 p.m.

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

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

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

Fraternal Order of Eagles, Shelburne Falls: *Zydeco Connection*

performs at the 19th Annual Chili Cookoff, \$, 4 to 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Lexi Weege*, sassy, jazzy blues, 8 p.m.

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

## MONDAY, JANUARY 19

Greenfield Community College, Main Campus: *Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.* All invited to celebrate the legacy and birthday of this civil rights leader. Activities for children and families 10 a.m. to noon, conclude with lunch.

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *rCredits seminar*. Realizing the potential of rCredits, informational session led by William Spademan and John Root, 6:30 p.m. More info: (413) 628-1021

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *BINGO!* Great prizes, free! 8 p.m.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

Jones Library, Amherst: *Don Ogden* reads from his recently released Levellers Press book, "Bad Atmosphere - A Collection of Poetry & Prose on the Climate Crisis," Woodbury Rm, 7 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

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

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *Let's Talk Ayurveda with Danielle Frodyma*, Ayurvedic Consultant. Learn one-minute mind-body techniques. Simple, effective, time-tested ways to reveal harmony, peace and ease in your daily life.

Info: (413) 624-3411, 5 p.m.

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

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

*People's Music Network Winter Gathering* held at the Greenfield Middle School. Kick off concert featuring Kim and Reggie Harris and many others, starting at 7:30 p.m. Throughout the weekend: educational workshops, songswaps, one-on-one mentoring sessions with Kim and Reggie. The PMN Winter Gathering brings together a rich blend of activists and artists using music for social change. Workshops, skills sharing, peer support and performances. \$, continues 1/24 & 1/25. Info: [peoplesmusic.org](http://peoplesmusic.org)

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Roman Holiday*. Roman-

tic comedy classic with Audrey Hepburn as a bored and sheltered princess on a whirlwind tour of Rome with debonair reporter Gregory Peck. Cole Porter songs provide the soundtrack. Shot on location. 1953. B & W. NR. \$, 7:30 p.m. with music before the movie at 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Misty Blues Band*, 9:30 p.m.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

French King Bowling Center, Erving: *Wine and Canvas fundraiser for the Montague Reporter*. 6 to 9 p.m. For tickets contact Kathleen, (413) 367-2867, Lyn (413) 863-4779 or Margaret, (413) 768-8533.

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# MONTAGUE REPORTER



## ON THE ROAD

Visitare  
**Crateri Silvestri**  
1986 s.l.m.

*Jennifer Bennett braves freezing temperatures and a sleet squall to bring the Montague Reporter to one of the Silvestri Craters, which blew open on the side of Mount Etna in Sicily during that volcano's 1892 eruption.*

*Going somewhere? "Pics or it didn't happen."  
Bring us along, strike a pose, and send the evidence to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).*

**BENEFIT** from page B1

wearing a Sriracha sauce shirt that I really liked...

**DS:** OFC went on second. They are fast and destructive, like a flash flood. As soon as they started playing, the crowd, as if aware of the chaos to come, began to dance and mosh as if possessed.

The band's sound is erratic, volatile, vile and in style: primarily

punk, with some dashes of hip-hop and ska, and the heaviness of metal. The vocals pierce barriers only high-tech military aircraft have known firsthand.

I don't know if you like punk music, but to me this seems the epitome.

**BB:** OFC had the most energy, and got the biggest reaction out of the crowd. I went to this show be-

cause I like OFC and I wanted to donate money to the skatepark... Saint Kaz is a good venue for music. The show probably could have done better with more advertising.

**DS:** Last to go on were the Warblers. This band surprised me immediately upon playing.

The guitar riffs and solos vague-

ly reminded me of classic rock, but at times their sound was also a little punk. They sounded like older Dinosaur Jr. to me, but more straightforward.

Being made up of more mature musicians, and with a band name like the Warblers – the warbler being a small bird – I was expecting them to sound folksy or country-ish.

But their sound was as explosive and manic as either of the preceding bands.

**SL:** When you follow OFC, you really can play as loud as you want. Normally we have a problem where people are like, "it's too loud," but we were happy to be able to crank it, play as fast as we wanted to and be as crazy as we wanted to be.




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