



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 13 – NO. 15

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 29, 2015

## Window Opens for Shea Theater Proposals

By TIA FATTARUSO

**TURNERS FALLS** – On January 21, the town of Montague issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the community-based, non-profit Shea Theater, detailing the town's requirements and expectations for applicants.

"The town of Montague is planning to lease the building, beginning on January 1, 2016, for a period of up to ten years, to the entity that offers the most competitive proposal, to be measured in terms of financial feasibility, programming creativity and variety, governance structure and organizational capacity, and overall benefit, social and economic, to the community," the document says.

When the current board of the Shea neglected to renew their lease a year prior to its expiration, legal counsel advised town administrator Frank Abbondanzio that the town is required to open up the theater's operation to an RFP.

Consequently, a Civic Center Commission was re-formed, including Turners Falls residents Allen Fowler and Pam Allen, Rendezvous co-owner Jamie Berger, and River-Culture director Suzanne LoManto.

see SHEA page A4

## The Hamlets and Hollows We Lost

By ANNE HARDING

**TURNERS FALLS** – An exhibit of historic photographs of villages, hamlets and hollows, reproduced from the collection of the Swift River Valley Historical Society (SRVHS), is opening at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls on Saturday, February 7. The public is cordially invited to an opening reception for "What's in a Name? Villages, Hamlets and Hollows of the Swift River Valley" from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday.

On view will be images of families, houses, stores, mills, factories, schools, churches, and scenic vistas. This family-friendly exhibit

includes an interactive area inspired by village schoolhouses, and colorful 3-D art by Pioneer Valley Regional School District students, created under the guidance of their art teacher, Althea Dabrowski.

The general story of the Swift River Valley is fairly well known in Franklin County. In 1938, the Quabbin Reservoir was built to satisfy the growing water needs of the city of Boston. Three branches of the Swift River were dammed, and the towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott were disincorporated.

Through legislation, land was taken, residents were "compensated"

see QUABBIN page A4



Workers at Crawford & Tyler's woolen mill in North Dana, circa 1890.

## After Much Preparation, Worst of Blizzard Skips Western Region



JACKSON PHOTO

A tractor rests on the sidewalk in front of downtown Turners Falls' Spinner Park.

By MIKE JACKSON

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – The long and heavy nor'easter known in some quarters as the Blizzard of 2015 dumped significant snow from Worcester to the coast, but only brushed the Connecticut River Valley, leaving locals here wondering what all the fuss was about amid a statewide emergency shutdown.

By 1 p.m. on Tuesday, governor Charlie Baker had freed Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties of his travel ban, in an apparent early concession to different

conditions in these parts.

Far-reaching cancellations left students and non-essential workers time to enjoy the break from the ordinary routine, but not too much snow to romp in.

But for those who worked through the storm, the comparably light precipitation came as a relief.

Montague DPW foreman Dick Clough said that his crew was plowing straight through from 9:30 p.m. on Monday until 6 p.m. on Tuesday. "We don't have time for naps," said Clough.

see SNOW page A6

## Basketball: TFHS Outplays Athol And Mohawk, Qualifies for Playoffs

By MATT ROBINSON

Two wins against the Athol Red Raiders and the Mohawk Warriors last week have improved the Turners Falls boys basketball team's record to 10 and 2, qualifying them for the post-season.

The team defeated Athol at home on January 20. The game was a complete team effort and the Indian subs got plenty of playing time. Athol tied the Tribe for the first two minutes and 42 seconds of the game, but Powertown put on the press, aggressively went after the ball, and banged in the paint.

By the time the first quarter ended, Turners had a commanding 21 to 9 lead, and when the mid-game buzzer sounded, they had expanded it to 41 to 20.

Because of this commanding lead, Coach Gary Mullins had the luxury of sending in his substitutes early. This not only gave the starters a breather, it also gave the subs valuable playing time. And Coach Mullins tried different combinations throughout the game.

At times, Liam Ellis and Nick York stayed on the court with three less experienced players. At others, he put his tallest players on the court, regardless of their starting

position.

Throughout the game, every combination played as a team. They would switch from man-to-man defense to zone and back again.

When they got the ball, they skillfully passed the ball to the open man, time after time breaking the Red defense taking the ball to the hoop. They ran traps and boxed out players and aggressively went for any loose

ball.

After 3, Turners was up 61 to 38, and they coasted to a 69 – 51 home court victory.

"I'm really happy with the passing," Coach Mullins said after the game. "For almost every field goal, one of the players got an assist."

Tyler Charbonneau led the Tribe in scoring with 21, shooting 69% from the floor and going 3 for 4 from the

see GAMES page A8



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Tyler Charbonneau scored 21 points against Athol

## Locals Hear "Arts Bridge" Plan



PHOTO BY G.E. LOMAX, HALLMARK STUDENT

Millers Falls Arts Bridge program director Rick Widmer talks with David Detmold of Turners Falls at last Saturday's event at the Millers Pub.

By MARK HUDYMA

**MILLERS FALLS** – Supporters braved snow and ice Saturday to attend a show and benefit for the Millers Falls Arts Bridge. The banquet room of the Millers Falls Pub was crowded, with Boston's Last Shingle String Band playing two sets through the night.

While they recovered from their first set, Rick Widmer, organizer of the Arts Bridge project, stepped up to the microphone to reveal some more details about the project.

Widmer plans to renovate the St. John's Church, which he purchased in late Novem-

ber, into a center where members of an arts community in China can stay and work on residency programs.

"When I presented this project to people in China, they wanted three things: a vision, a beautiful location, and a community around them, Widmer said."

He spoke repeatedly of the beauty both of St. John's and of the village of Millers Falls, which he hopes to use "as a canvas for social practice art," benefiting the town not only economically but culturally.

"The immediate goal is getting the doors open," he explained. "It doesn't make sense to think about the long

term before we've started."

In order to open those doors, he said, the project needs to raise \$100,000 for repairs to the water-damaged building. Widmer has set up a Kickstarter site to raise that money. As of January 28, he must still raise \$65,775 by February 22 to reach his goal.

"It's natural to be skeptical," Widmer said, "but I can't do it by myself! The question to the people of Millers is: Do they want it to happen? Do they want to be part of it?"

Many of the 30 or so attendees at the event showed optimism for the project. "I

see PLAN page A5

# The Montague Reporter

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## Good Work, Everybody

This week, the big news, and for many the good news, is that a blizzard just about missed our little river valley. This was disappointing for snow leisure enthusiasts, but there will always be another one.

We've heard a lot about the snowfall totals coming in lower than predicted, including criticism of meteorologists (and meteorology pundits) and complaint about official shutdowns, travel and parking bans and event postponements.

Just to be clear, this is nuts. We came within 40 miles of getting absolutely clobbered.

Check out the accumulation maps: there was a very sudden drop-off west of Worcester. Ashburnham saw 10 inches, and just ten miles east and two towns over, Lunenburg registered 36.

A significant portion of the state is digging out from two or more feet of snow thanks to Tuesday's storm, and since 88% of Massachusetts residents live east of the Quabbin reservoir, it was a very good thing we were prepared for the storm.

Out here in Franklin County, of course we're laughing at a measly six or seven inches of powder and some wind. But it was a good dry run for our emergency management systems. Think of these near-misses as day-long drills with a holiday added.

So could meteorologists have done a better job? Perhaps. The United States National Weather Service is criticized by many, including Cliff Mass of the University of Washington Mesoscale Analysis and Forecasting Group, as lagging behind its counterpart across the sea, the European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting. In some cases the Europeans have more accurately predicted major weather events in the US even though their models are not as finely focused here.

Last spring, a bill, H.R. 2413, passed the House, which would have allocated over \$360 million to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, largely to upgrade its computing capacity and play catch-up.

H.R. 2413 had an interesting history. Its first seven sponsors were all from one of the country's many political parties, and two of its four original sponsors were from Texas and Oklahoma, states known for tornadoes.

They were hoping to improve our capacity to predict these violent weather events. And their initial idea for building our capacity to forecast them was to order a redi-

rection of NOAA's resources away from research into climate change, since they felt the latter either did not exist or in any case was not the result of human activity.

Happily, a compromise was reached with members of a second party, and it was significantly amended so as not to defund climate research.

It passed the House by a voice vote last April Fool's Day, and was sent to the Senate the following morning, where, in accordance with our nation's timeworn procedural tradition, it was read aloud, referred to a committee, and died.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 11,100 people are employed in this country as "atmospheric scientists, including meteorologists."

An analysis Cliff Mass ran a few years ago estimated that over 600 Americans were graduating each year with bachelor's degrees in meteorology, contending for about 285 entry-level positions. As with most fields, education is outrunning job growth - a second lost opportunity, alongside under-equipping our scientists.

So we could probably be doing just a little better. But we'll never truly be able to predict the weather very far in advance, and we roll the dice every time we set a date for an event in the New England winter.

We hope our readers have stayed safe and warm over the last few blustery, windy, powdery days. And we hope their postponements have not been too inconvenient.

As for us, it has been a bit of a drag. Our Wine and Canvas benefit at the French King Entertainment Center has been knocked back a week to February 3. And we came up short one feature article and two selectboard notes as a result of the snow - collectors may note the rare appearance of our monthly poetry page in the A section.

But even though "news media" such as ourselves were officially exempt from the travel ban, the storm was a good reminder of the men and women who prepare, year round, to keep the rest of us safe when the real storms hit.

Hats off to all the road crews, line crews, plow drivers, medical and healthcare professionals, shelter staff, utility workers and first responders, and to all the cooks, dispatchers, pharmacy staff, gas station attendants, roommates and families who support them.

We see you working through these dress rehearsals. Get some rest, and please accept our thanks.



## LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The impending doom of the blockbuster snow storm for January 27 never quite happened.

The Wine and Canvas fundraiser for *The Montague Reporter* was re-scheduled to Tuesday, February 3, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the French King Bowling Center. For ticket info please call Lyn at 863-4779, Kathleen at 367-2856 or Margaret at (413) 768-8533.

GSB branch in Turners Falls is offering snow blower safety and maintenance tips plus demonstration, courtesy of Green River Honda on Saturday, January 31, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Tips will include: Are you properly handling your snow blower? Does it start hard? Stalls frequently? Has no traction? Do you know the correct types and combination of gas/oil/specialty additives? Correct tire pressure? Do you want or need a snow blower?

Let the experts from Green River Honda help you out with all your questions. This is a low-impact event and everyone should feel welcome to attend and ask any question: safety is first.

Stop by Cupid's Craft Fair on Sunday February 1, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. located at St. Kazimierz, 197 Avenue A, Turners Falls, and hosted by Simply Colorful Designs.

Come see vendors of all varieties. Some items include jewelry, crochet items, hand-sewn items, pottery, and much more. There will be a Chinese auction, with proceeds donated to Franklin County Sheriff's Office Regional Dog Shelter & Adoption Center in Turners Falls.

For more information you can contact Samantha at (413) 475-2839 or Dawn at (413) 475-2481, or email [simplycolorfuldesigns@gmail.com](mailto:simplycolorfuldesigns@gmail.com).

There will be an introduction to snowshoeing for women on Sunday, February 1, from 10:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. Learn how to snowshoe with other active women, and put your newfound skills to work exploring Northfield Mountain's trails.

Begin indoors with a brief session on equipment and then venture outside exploring some of our favorite trails as well as the natural history of this special season.

Tips on equipment and clothing, invigorating exercise, and sharing hot chocolate and tea around our wood stove will complete the afternoon. It is proven that people learn faster and have more fun in a supportive environment.

Please note that you will be snowshoeing for two miles over moderately hilly terrain (elevation gain of 400') and no prior experience is necessary. Dress in layers, and bring lunch, snacks and water.

This hike is suitable for women who engage in aerobic activity three or more times per week. All levels of experience are welcome. The event is free, \$18 with snowshoe rentals. Appropriate for women ages 16 and older. Please call to pre-register at 1-800-859-2960.

Sunday, February 1, Go Patriots, and check that ball pressure. Just another reason to like baseball more than football. Can't deflate a baseball, only spit on it or use Vaseline.

Great Falls Harvest, on Third Street in Turners Falls, is hosting a three-course buffet dinner to benefit Access to Technology (A2T) on Tuesday, February 3, from 6 to 9 p.m.

A2T is a Franklin County based non profit that works to bridge the digital divide in Western MA by giving working recycled computers to people who need them. Through their partnerships with local corpora-

tions and private schools, they have been able to supply over 1,500 computers to students, artists, job seekers, activists, foster kids and classrooms. A few have even made their way to Haiti and East Timor.

A2T is raising money for grant writing services to move to the next phase of building out the organization. Vegetarian options will be available, and a cash bar. Tickets are \$30 for adult, \$15 for child and can be purchased at: <http://a2t.ticketleap.com/harvest/>

On Saturday morning, February 7, Mass Slavery Apology's free monthly program series will feature local Black Lives Matter activists. The program will include screening of a new documentary of the group's October trip to Ferguson, a discussion of their local organizing, and a question and answer session featuring youth leaders.

The program, at the First Congregational Church, 43 Silver Street in Greenfield, will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Doors open at 9:30. Admission is free; donations are welcome. To reserve childcare, RSVP by January 31 with number and ages of children to 413-625-2951 or email [massslaveryapology.org](mailto:massslaveryapology.org).

For more information, see [www.massslaveryapology.org](http://www.massslaveryapology.org) or contact email [massslaveryapology.org](mailto:massslaveryapology.org).

There will be an animal tracking workshop on Sunday, February 8, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Fiske Pond Conservation Area, Wendell.

Join Paul Wanta for a tracking workshop around the conservation area where you will search for, identify and interpret tracks of the forest animals inhabiting our landscape.

Depending on weather, wear boots (snowshoes optional) and warm clothing/wet weather gear. Space is limited, contact Ray DiDonato to register ([rdidonat@hotmail.com](mailto:rdidonat@hotmail.com); (978) 544-8270).

This event is sponsored by the Wendell Open Space Committee with generous support from the Wendell Cultural Council which is a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

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



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

# Special Town Meeting Moved to February 18

By JEFF SINGLETON

Due to "Unforeseen Events," in the words of the January 26 Montague selectboard agenda, the special town meeting originally scheduled for February 11 will be moved to February 18.

The events also caused the agenda itself to be amended on the day of the board meeting, potentially in violation of the state open meeting law, but allowed under such unforeseen circumstances.

The unforeseen event in question was a potential major snow event that might have caused the closing of town hall for several days. This, in turn, could have made the required posting of the town meeting and its warrant fourteen days in advance impossible.

The warrant, which "warns" town meeting members and other citizens of the articles to be voted on, was also approved by the selectboard.

This contained only seven articles, ranging from \$10,078 to pay for a new collective bargaining agreement, to \$22,500 to supplement the current year's legal budget, to an article authorizing the selectboard to acquire the land, building and parking lot on 62 Fifth Street in Turners Falls, the current Montague Senior Center.

The warrant also included \$15,000 to supplement the police budget; \$40,000 for a sander and plow attachment for a DPW truck; and two articles granting the selectboard authority to acquire permanent easements to reconstruct sewer pump stations on First and Poplar streets.

In response to a question from the audience, the board stated that more information on these articles would be available prior to town meeting.

Audience member Jeanne Golrick questioned the need for a town meeting, which she called "a waste of taxpayers' money."

**Proceed to Administer Skating**

Joe Dobias, who was scheduled to report on the "training status" of his dog, was not able to attend the meeting. His place on the agenda was taken, appropriately, by Jon Dobosz, the director of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Dobosz asked the board to sign something called a "notice to proceed" which allocates \$24,000 to the Berkshire Design Group. The money is apparently to begin administrative activities associated with the construction of the new skate park.

Dobosz stated that work on the

skate park will probably begin this coming summer, since construction funds will become available on July 1. The board voted unanimously to sign the notice.

**Another Way To Dry Hill**

Speaking of long-awaited projects, Walter Ramsey, the town planner and conservation agent, requested that the selectboard sign a grant application to create an "access trail" to the Dry Hill Cemetery.

The cemetery is located off Wendell Road east of Millers Falls. But the access trail will connect it to so-called Dry Hill Cross Road, a very rough dirt road, to the south of the historic site.

This avoids the controversy over access via the town road on the north, a road that passes through property owned by James Senn. Ramsey stated that upgrading access from this direction would be, at this time, financially prohibitive.

Ramsey stated that he had recently met with a group of interested citizens, including members of the Cemetery Commission, to discuss the trail project.

**Closing on Millers Project**

Ramsey also requested that the board execute "closing documents" and a Land Development Agree-

ment for the properties on East Main Street in Millers Falls often called the "Powers Block."

The properties are being sold to the developer Robert Obear for renovation under the urban home-steading program. The official closing on the property is scheduled for January 30.

Audience member John Reynolds asked if there was "any private property in those buildings."

Selectboard member Mark Fairbrother stated he thought there was no such property in the buildings.

"Yes, there is," replied audience member Jeanne Golrick, and then asked, "how do I get my personal property out?"

Fairbrother replied that the issue was not on the agenda, to which Golrick declared that the selectboard was "on notice."

The board voted unanimously to sign the documents.

**Gas Pipeline**

The board discussed a request from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to Join a Regional Pipeline Advisory Committee.

The board appointed Walter Ramsey and audience member Ariel Elan to attend a February 2 meeting of the group pending more formal appointments.



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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

# Procedure Bogs Down Riverside Heat Pump Job

By TIA FATTARUSO

Gill's energy commission joined its selectboard Monday night to continue discussing options for an air-source heat pump to replace the current oil boiler in the Riverside building.

Claire Chang and Vicky Jenkins of the commission said some potential contractors had walked through the site, but were unable to create designs for the project without the surety that they would get the job.

The town has allocated \$55,000 to \$60,000 of its Green Community Grant funding for the work. However, to comply with procurement law, the town needs a completed design and several bids before hiring a contractor.

One potential solution has been proposed: having an engineering firm design the project. Using an engineer offers the possibility of not having to do competitive bidding on the design level. As the building has different spaces with varied uses, including a school with code requirements, it was generally agreed upon that the complexity of the project also lent it to be engineered.

"I think you're on the right path," board chair Randy Crochier assured the energy commission as they continue on their search.

Chang also asked the selectboard for ideas on what processes could be taken to help make the Energy Commission's workshop programming more self-sustaining. Fifteen workshops are planned for 2015 at a total cost of \$5,100. This funding currently comes out of the town's Green Community grant, which Chang reminded the meeting is "static, and limited."

There is lots of enthusiasm for the workshops, often held at town

hall or the elementary school. They almost always fill up, and currently have no fees and are all volunteer-run.

The next one is on "Winter Gardening Under Cover," with Daniel Botkin, on February 21, and is already full. For more information, contact Janet Masucci at (413) 863-8694 or [jmasucci@msn.com](mailto:jmasucci@msn.com).

**End of School Compact?**

Before leaving with the energy commission, Tupper Brown, then speaking as a private citizen, let it be known to the board that after the most recent school committee meeting his wife had reported back to him that the committee's chair, Joyce Phillips, had announced the expiration of the Compact for Funding Education.

There was apparently no further discussion or comment at the school committee meeting about the compact's expiration, and Brown offered it simply as information for the selectboard's further consideration.

Crochier commented that "the superintendent [Michael Sullivan] has every intention of working with the towns" and that "[his] layouts have been very, very good and very transparent."

In a follow-up email, Phillips said, "Although the compact has technically expired, the format and process established by the compact continues with the town authors and district leadership still actively collaborating on the district budget."

The agreement, originally approved in October 2010, had been created with the hope of moving toward a sustainable level of funding for the Gill-Montague Regional School District after several years of disagreement between the towns and the district.

**Clean and Well Lit**

The DEP consent order for the Gill Elementary well was agreed to and signed. The board opted for continuous disinfection, which could be chlorine tablets in the well, within 7 days of any positive results on monthly coliform bacteria tests.

This option requires that the town also submit plans for the design and installation of a mechanical disinfection system, which could be either a chlorine injection pump or ultra-violet disinfection. Purington is waiting to hear back from the USDA on a grant application to design UV disinfection equipment.

**Hay There**

Brian Peila's lease on the Mariamante hay field will be renewed at \$200 for the year. The Boyle lot, traditionally a hay field, is seeking bids for three one-year terms, renewable at the town's option, with the intent that the winner receives the renewal for all three years.

**Collaborations**

Town administrator Ray Purington reported back on his recent meeting with the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program, which allows small towns to collaborate and share inspection and zoning responsibilities.

Most notable were the decision that town fees over \$500 cannot be waived, and that the \$6,500 annual program fee will remain the same. The usefulness of the program also raised the question of cooperative public health services, but only momentarily.

Purington also shared his initial research into fixed price contracts for electricity. The Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative had given prices of 9.78 cents per

KWH for a 12-month contract, or 9.94 cents for a 24-month one.

Hampshire COG also offers municipal aggregation electricity services which Purington hopes may even be a little lower, as there are already around 35 participating towns.

Franklin Regional Retirement System notified the selectboard, as it has for at least the last four years, that it is contemplating adopting a 3% cost of living allowance (COLA) for retirees in FY'16. This is in keeping with state rules that members must be notified if the COLA is to be more than that of social security, which is 1.7% for next year.

Gill's selectboard has traditionally taken issue with this seemingly automatic 3% COLA, as many area seniors do their best to make ends meet with just the social security increase, and current town employees get that at best, according to Purington. He said he will "freshen up" and submit last year's letter, which stated that, "as a matter of perception and fairness it sends the wrong message to grant a COLA in excess of social security."

"It's not like I don't want retirees to get an income," Crochier said, "but rather that retirees should perhaps not receive double the raise of current employees."

**Announcements**

The agricultural commission will be showing "Sweet Tradition," a locally-made film about maple sugaring, at town hall at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 4.

Also that Wednesday, 6-7:30 p.m., and again the following Thursday, February 12, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., "Public Input on Regional Transportation Needs" will be sought at the Olver Transit Center in Greenfield.

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## QUABBIN from page A1

and ordered to leave. The project displaced over two thousand people; more than 7,500 bodies were moved from their resting places to a new cemetery; buildings were moved, salvaged or burned; and vegetation was destroyed.

In addition to the four "lost towns," land was purchased from nine other towns: Belchertown, Hardwick, New Salem, Orange, Pelham, Petersham, Shutesbury, Ware, and Wendell. These towns were made up of small villages and even smaller hamlets and hollows.

People settled near each other for one reason or another – perhaps they were extended family, or worked in a certain mill or factory.

Sometimes the name of the village or hamlet gives us a clue as to its origins: for example, the names Atkinson Hollow and Cooleyville came from families, Bobbinville from the factory that made bobbins, and Soapstone Station from the quarries nearby.

Other tiny settlements include Doubleday Village, Millington, Nichewaug, Packardville, Pupperville, Smith's Village, and Storrsville.

The towns and villages are lost, but their stories are not. The objects entrusted to the Swift River Valley Historical Society provide a glimpse into life before the Quabbin – and honor the sacrifice and sorrow of the many who once called it home.

"Especially for those less familiar with the story," says Sheila Damkoehler, SRVHS executive director, "I think we see the 'lost towns' in a more personal way when we picture small clusters of people who are related or closely connected. We can imagine these neighbors going about their daily lives in their homes, posting a letter, learning their lessons at school, or working at the mill or factory up the road."

The youngest displaced Swift River Valley residents are now in their late 70s, and many of their descendants have scattered across the country. As fewer local people are directly related to those who lived in the Valley, it becomes even more important to remember this important environmental and human story.

This is one reason Damkoehler takes advantage of the opportunity to install exhibits away from home and reach a broader audience that might not know about SRVHS and

## SHEA from page A1

Along with former Shea executive director Debra J'Anthony, brought back as an administrative consultant, the commission "recently conducted a visioning process, consisting of two public meetings, to determine what the community would like to see at the Shea Theater in the future."

These sessions formed the basis for the content of the RFP and criteria upon which applicants will be evaluated. "There is already so much going well at the Shea, but this is an opportunity to re-energize [it], that's where the committee is," said Fowler, the commission chair.

Fowler added they would like to see a "diverse, healthy, functioning source of collaboration," and recognized that a paid, part-time theater director would be instrumental in effecting that.

"Hopefully [the Shea] will earn enough to pay the director's salary, so the volunteer board isn't overextended."

their mission.

This is the third off-site exhibit since Damkoehler came on board as director nearly two years ago. "The Children of the Swift River Valley" was on display last February and March in Turners Falls, and more recently at the Holyoke Heritage State Park Visitors Center this December and January. Hundreds of visitors had an opportunity to see the historic images and learn a piece of the Quabbin story.

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human story.**

Because their own museums are only open May through October, the traveling exhibits are a chance to do some winter programming and keep the organization visible.

The exhibits are designed so they can easily travel, and both host and visiting organization typically benefit from an expanded audience base. By working with area schools, Damkoehler reaches out to the next local generation, ensuring the story is remembered.

It would be nice to see an exhibit in the Boston area to reach a much larger community that may not understand the history of its water supply.

### Life As It Was

Visitors to the new exhibit will also have the opportunity to meet author Elizabeth Peirce, whose recently published third book "Quabbin Valley: Life As It Was" will be available for purchase. Peirce is the long-time curator of SRVHS and served as its board president for many years.

While she never lived in the valley, she has a decades-long passion for preserving its stories.

Her husband of many years, Clifton Peirce, was raised in the small town of Prescott where his family lived in the same home for six generations. The family was forced to move to Greenwich where he finished eighth grade, and then to Orange in 1938 during the final evacuation.

It was in high school that Eliza-

beth Peirce met her husband. They married and raised their children together in Orange. Their daughter Jane is also a long-time member of the SRVHS, and serves on its board of directors.

Peirce also published "The Lost Towns of the Quabbin Valley" in 2003, a pictorial archive organized on a town-by-town basis; and "Quabbin Valley People and Places" in 2006, a look at life in the lost valley organized by themes such as Recreation and Celebration, Beautiful Children, Earning a Living, Animal Friends and Helpers, Hats, Hair, and Mustaches, Schools and Schoolchildren, and Final Memories.

Her new book, "Quabbin Valley: Life As It Was" focuses on the social aspects of life in the lost Quabbin towns and shares more vintage photographs from the museum's collection. Peirce thanked Betty Sue Pratt for her tireless work and technical expertise in preparing the photographs for publication.

The forces of change that shaped the Swift River Valley's landscape and its people – and later the Quabbin Reservoir – tell a compelling story of both resilience and loss. The rivers and hills of the valley were sculpted by melting glaciers more than 10,000 years ago.

In time, forests were hunted, crops were planted, and rivers were fished by the Nipmuc, later driven from their homeland by English settlement, war, and disease.

By the 1700s, English settlers had taken over. Land was cleared and divided for farms, churches, schools and businesses. Railroads and small factories appeared, new immigrants arrived, and towns grew and thrived.



The former Atkinson Hollow general store in Prescott.

"excited to help in that capacity."

The Civic Center Commission asks that programming "addresses the needs of a broad cultural community that is defined by a diversity of age groups, interests (theater, live music, film, touring groups, adult literary readings, lectures, standup comedy, choirs and orchestras), and the broadest access possible."

The document acknowledges the town's need "to make a serious commitment to the fund maintenance of the capital infrastructure of the Shea Theater," consistent with its responsibility under the lease to make capital improvements to major systems. Improvements beyond the scope of the town's duties would be the responsibility of the operating entity.

According to the RFP, "proposals will be judged by (1) the quality and scope of that work; (2) responsiveness of the proposal to the needs of the community, as defined in the Turners Falls Downtown Livability Plan (2013) and the re-


By the early 1900s, the valley's population had declined as the lure of industrial centers and westward expansion drew increasing numbers away.

It was a similar story to many New England towns until 1927, when the fate of this particular valley changed trajectories. The Massachusetts legislature passed the Swift River Act, something that had been rumored, debated, and dreaded by local residents for many years. They were compelled to sacrifice their tiny communities for the greater good of the Boston population of 750,000.

It is an important tale for both eastern Massachusetts and Franklin County to remember. Reviewing the events may provide historical perspective and shed light on some of today's issues and proceedings.

The Discovery Center exhibit is on view from February 7 through March 28 on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (The Great Hall is used for many community activities; to confirm the exhibit is accessible on a given day, call 863-3221.)

For more information, to become a member, or to learn how you can help preserve photographs such as those on exhibit, visit [www.swift-rivermuseum.org](http://www.swift-rivermuseum.org) or call (978) 544-6882. Research appointments are scheduled year-round, and genealogy research is usually available during open hours.

The program is supported in part by grants from the cultural councils of Bernardston, Colrain, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Montague, Northfield, and Shelburne, local agencies supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. 

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**PLAN** from page A1

think it's great, I wish him the best. I think it'll be a great boon to the town," said Turners Falls sculptor Tim DeChristopher.

Others expressed hopes that art could help revive the village. "I've lived here since 1976. Millers was once a lively community. It would be nice to see it revived," said Sand Jen, of Millers Falls.

"My son Chuck is helping out to get this building into shape, said Jeff Masters of Medfield. "We're excited about the possibilities of the project. He really is dealing with the highest-level arts group in China."

The night ended at St. John's, a short but frigid walk from the

Millers Pub, where the latest work of Chinese artist Geng Xue was shown. Extension cords ran across the room, and the smell of the waterlogged basement was in the air.

The first piece of art to be shown in the new space was a short film featuring ceramic figures in stop motion. It told the story of a mythical island Eden and its downfall.

The ceramic figures were interspersed with calligraphy and animation by a team of artists.

Asked why he chose Millers Falls for the project, Widmer was succinct: "It's beautiful. It has an empty church. It's New England."



**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG**

**Non-Resident Moved Along from Town Sand**

**Wednesday, 1/21**  
1:30 p.m. Criminal complaint application issued to [redacted] for breaking into and entering a building in the daytime, larceny from a building, and trespassing.  
**Thursday, 1/22**  
11:15 a.m. Mutual aid to Orange PD for reported larceny of a firearm.

**Friday, 1/23**  
11:30 a.m. Past suspicious vehicle reported in River Road area.  
1:50 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Northfield Road.  
**Saturday, 1/24**  
11:30 a.m. Took report of larceny from Weatherheads convenience store. Under investigation.  
5:45 p.m. Assisted on scene

of medical emergency on Warner Street.  
**Sunday, 1/25**  
11:30 a.m. Report of non-resident getting town sand. Moved same along.  
1:35 p.m. Report of gunfire in Flagg Hill Road area. Checked same; no guns observed.  
5:05 p.m. Criminal complaint application issued to [redacted]

[redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration.  
6:55 p.m. Motor vehicle crash on Lester Street. Report taken.  
**Monday, 1/26**  
12 p.m. Criminal complaint application issued to [redacted] for operating to endanger and marked lanes violation.

**Keeping the Light Alive: Low-Carbon Food Farming on the Dark Side**

By DANIEL BOTKIN

**GILL & WENDELL** – Most people assume that edible crops die once the full force of winter descends upon our New England landscape. Most would agree that to garden through winter, you'd surely need propane, oil, or wood heat inside insulated greenhouses to have even a prayer of harvesting anything edible on the "dark side." But in fact, neither is true!

Come to find out, not all crops die in the bitter cold, and with the right set-up and timing, you don't even need to burn any fuel to keep high-quality, green food alive under cover during severe winter weather conditions. None. Zero.

This miracle of botany is performed by a club of cold-hardy cultivars, both annuals and perennials, that are more numerous than we may have realized. This club continues to inspire new foodies and backyard farmers of all ilk to try their hands at winter growing.

Who knew the entire brassica (broccoli and cabbage) family was frost-resistant, including the Asian greens, arugulas, bok choy, turnips, radishes, kales, collards, and brussels sprouts? Who realized that the whole allium family (onions, leeks, garlic, and shallots) were also super cold-hardy?

Plus lettuces, endives, chicories, spinach and a lovely selection of aromatic herbs like cilantro, parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme. All these are in fact cold hardy to some degree, and the list goes on!

How do these "miracle" plants tolerate freezing conditions without perishing? Apparently, they have several nifty survival tricks such as making their sap thicker and eliminating excess water under duress (defensive wilting). Essentially, the harsh cold induces these plants to make more sugars as a form of anti-freeze, which protects them from freezing.

These clever cold-hardy plants also shed moisture, night after frosty night, and then rehydrate their cells when the temperature rises above freezing. Every bitter

night further hardens and sweetens them all winter long. These cold-sweetened greens end up much tastier and more nutrient dense than anything grown under the summer sun.

We used to believe it was the cold that killed the late autumn gardens, but later came to understand that it is actually wind and wetness, combined with the bitter cold, that ultimately causes the fatal damage.

By keeping our winter gardens under cover in high and low tunnel hoop houses, we eliminate driving rain and biting wind from the equation, and offer these crops at least a shot at winter survival.

Another essential secret of winter gardening is to plant the cold-hardy crops early enough (August – October) so that they are big and well-established and under cover before the actual winter sets in.

This is a perennial psychological obstacle, since it is counter-intuitive to plant cool weather crops during the dog days of summer. However, if you wait until later in the autumn, it quickly becomes too late to begin planting your winter garden!

For years, we resisted the notion of building unheated winter greenhouses on our tiny Gill homestead, since the idea of steel pipe and polyethylene plastic (both products of unsustainable and extractive industries) was, well, off-putting. And besides, for years we'd performed minor miracles germinating and propagating on window sills and kitchen counters, using grow lights, heat mats, and the like.

We also assumed (wrongly) that running a hoop house was a highly technical operation, requiring advanced botanical knowledge and climate management skills, and perhaps only suited for "real" farmers. We also worried that the tax man and/or the neighbors might have something not-nice to say about the "hobbit tunnels" we dreamed of erecting on our hillside.

The real problem, however, is not plastic, extraction, or mining/refining itself, but rather their chronic misappropriation on wasteful, proprietary (read: "profitable")

and unsustainable ends.

But these hoop houses are low-tech greenhouses which, with intelligent design and management, can last for years and produce untold thousands of pounds of food. And the tax man actually has nothing to say about hoop houses, as they're categorized as temporary agricultural structures, and as for the neighbors? – they're now building their own!

We built our first unheated hoop house in 2007, bartering with a fellow farmer for recycled hoops which helped to reduce the cost (as well as using salvaged lumber and volunteer labor) to erect what ultimately became a 65" by 26" high tunnel.

Although built without a clear business plan, within weeks this serious, lifelong gardener and fan of homegrown cuisine was hopelessly smitten by the vast array of horticultural possibilities it opened up, and not just in winter!

Some folks hear this four-season hoop house message and mistakenly imagine that winter tunnel gardening could be a lucrative endeavor, yielding tomatoes, beans and basil at New Years! Indeed, with more elaborate, fuel-intensive hot hous-

es, this is technically possible. But we're actually exploring something diametrically opposite, that is, passively exploiting the margins of the thermometer and the calendar, while using less technology, less intervention, and fewer inputs.

We seek to harness nature, time, and the plants' own biennial, cold-hardy tendencies, to do most of the heavy lifting. We are not trying to hit a home run (as in producing ginger, okra, or pineapples in winter) but rather we are re-learning to play small ball by simply keeping cold hardy food alive.

These survivors are then gleaned repeatedly throughout the winter before coming back to life in a final spring burst.

This kind of low input, passive, cold-weather horticulture may not win contests for aesthetics, productivity or profitability, but the emotional, spiritual and health benefits of having even a trickle of uber fresh green food available through winter cannot be overestimated. Also, keeping food alive invariably becomes a potent metaphor for keeping hope alive.

Permaculture teaches us that with some basic planning, tools, and knowledge, nearly anyone can

produce healthy foods, even those with marginal land, knowledge, energy, or resources. In these turbulent times, we all can (and should) grow some food, yes, but not because our backyard plots and kraut crocks are necessarily going to feed the hungry or save the planet, but because they might actually help us save ourselves.

At Laughing Dog Farm, we've experienced the acutely healing effects of growing, nurturing and consuming healthy green food around the calendar.

We believe similar practices could bring greater health, peace and well-being to many of those similarly affected by the angst, fear and ennui of living in a world wracked by climate change, racial tension and war.

What keeps *you* going, during this dark time of the year?

*Daniel Botkin farms (and teaches) around the calendar in Gill. Visit the farm online at [www.laughingdogfarm.com](http://www.laughingdogfarm.com).*

*He will be giving a slide show and talk this Tuesday, February 3, at 7 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library.*



*Lettuce and chives grow in one of Laughing Dog Farm's hoop houses in spite of winter outside.*

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## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on January 27, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

### MEDIC Backs Strathmore Purchase

On January 24, the Montague Economic Development Industrial Corporation (EDIC) unanimously endorsed a motion to sign the purchase and sale agreement the town has negotiated with the owner of the Strathmore Mill, Western Properties, LLC.

The proposal to purchase that 134-year-old 250,000 square-foot mill complex for \$300,000 will be on the warrant of a special town meeting on February 3.

### Wendell To Buy Possible Office Site

At a Wendell town meeting on January 26, voters approved a warrant article allocating \$150,000 to purchase a 3.4 acre lot to the east of the town common, at 9 Morse Village Road, owned by Anne Marie Meltzer.

The town is considering using the parcel for a variety of options, in-

cluding the siting of the new town office building or a septic system to serve various town buildings.

### Regional EPA Head Inspects Dubois Cleanup

US Environmental Protection Agency regional administrator Robert Varney arrived at the site of the former Sweeney Ford garage on the corner of Canal and Third streets in Turners Falls on January 25.

Varney came out from Boston in part to inspect cleanup at the half-acre canal side site of the former Ford dealership, and also to look over progress at the renovation of the old National Bank building on Bank Row in Greenfield. The cleanups are funded through the EPA's Brownfields program.

The lot in Turners had been contaminated with lead and PCBs. Other toxics found included low concentrations of arsenic, barium, cadmium, and petroleum products.

Varney congratulated the assembled local and state officials for their vision and commitment. "You are doing a great job. It is wonderful to see the site - visually and

symbolically - in the context of the community."

He lauded the Brownfields cleanup program for its ability to "enhance the local tax base, eliminate eyesores, threats to local health and safety, and create jobs. What better way to promote smart growth than to invest in downtowns and the redevelopment of existing buildings?"

### Waiting on Turtles in Gill

On January 24, the Gill selectboard was updated on progress of the Main Road reconstruction project. The three-mile, \$3.7 million project slated to begin in the spring, still seems to be waiting on the lowly wood turtle.

The wood turtles, protected under the Endangered Species Act, have two known points of crossing on Main Road. The local conservation commission has been cooperating with MassHighway and the town's engineering firm for the project, Greenman Pederson, in attempting to redesign culverts at these points to make them more turtle-friendly.

SNOW from page A1

"If it's a plowable storm, everyone" - including the superintendent - "is on."

Clough said the snow was powdery enough "this time," that plowing wasn't too difficult. And, of course, "this storm was nowhere near where they predicted.... It was what it was, and thank God it didn't come down like they said it was going to."

The department relies on many forecasts. "We have to take everything into account, and make our own judgment."

Clough reported that residents seemed to have complied "for the most part" with the statewide travel ban - better than other storms.

And he said that when it came time for snow removal from the municipal lots Wednesday morning, vehicle owners finally seemed to know the drill: "I don't believe they towed very many."

Nevertheless, Clough said, the storm's duration took its toll. "Everyone's pretty wrung out. It was a long, tedious storm."

Up in Gill, it was much the same. "We were prepared for it, but nothing happened," said town administrative assistant Ray Purington. "For police and fire, it was a non-event, and there were no real issues as far as I recall from talking with [highway superintendent] Mickey [LaClaire] this morning."

Purington noted that because it was a long storm, there was overtime work, but "the roads are in good shape, and the equipment is

holding up. I think we all lucked out."

Reached at the highway department, LaClaire was nonchalant. "It was just a regular snowstorm," he said. "The wind was blowing, but I've seen worse.... It was light and fluffy, and it cleaned up well."

Erving postponed their Monday night selectboard meeting until Wednesday. (Our coverage of that meeting will be included in next week's Erving selectboard notes.)

"We did a lot of preparation," said administrative coordinator Tom Sharp. "Like everyone else in the area, we really dodged the bullet."

Sharp said that heads of town departments met ahead of the storm, and that the emergency management director Philip Wonkka "was way on top of things."

"We got together and came up with a game plan," said Wonkka, who also serves as the town's fire chief. "And then pretty much all we did was watch the weather!"

In Leverett, the selectboard postponed a scheduled Tuesday night budget hearing with the building department, transfer station and libraries by one week to February 3.

But in the end, "it was a quiet storm," according to highway superintendent Will Stratford. "But the crew did excellent. We went in early, and finished up late."

Forecasters, if they are ever again to be trusted, predict another inch or two of snow on Friday.



## Update on the Leverett Broadband Project

As of Friday, January 23, 2015, work continues throughout Leverett on the 'last mile' fiber optic broadband network. Due to vagaries of the construction process, the planned completion by the end of 2014 was not achieved. We regret this delay.

The Town is working with the contractor, Millennium Communications Group, to complete the network build in a timely manner. Our joint goal is to begin lighting portions of the network in April 2015, as final connections are made and tested. You will see workers completing the remaining work on the build and running tests.

HG&E, the Network Operator, and Crocker Communications, the Internet Service Provider, have coordinated their roles and are pre-

pared to provide subscriber services as the network comes online.

The Leverett network - a Fiber-to-the-Home 'Active Ethernet' system - is designed for state-of-the-art Internet access and telephone service throughout Town.

Leverett's project has attracted national (and even international) attention. It is featured in the January 2015 White House Report on Broadband, from the Executive Office of the President, available online: [www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/community-based\\_broadband\\_report\\_by\\_executive\\_office\\_of\\_the\\_president.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/community-based_broadband_report_by_executive_office_of_the_president.pdf)

Leverett subscription costs are among the lowest anywhere for equivalent service. Pre-subscribers have already paid - in two parts - their bill for the first month's service

(which includes a second month of service free) and network operation (the Municipal Light Plant). Subscribers will not be billed again until they are receiving services.

We look forward to a speedy conclusion to the build and a successful testing, followed by lighting the network and providing service. We will keep you informed.

Residents with questions about their home's installation can contact Millennium directly at [leverett@millenniuminc.com](mailto:leverett@millenniuminc.com).

General questions are always welcome at the Town Hall by calling (413)548-9699.

**Leverett Broadband Committee, for the Leverett Municipal Light Plant**

## TOWN OF LEVERETT CONSERVATION AGENT

The Conservation Commission is hiring a part-time Agent beginning as soon as possible. Duties to include, but are not limited to, reviewing, processing and making recommendations on wetlands applications, responding to public inquiries, recording minutes, preparing for hearings and meetings, working on special projects, maintaining budgets, and organizing the Commission's files.

Must be able to work days, evenings and weekends for an average of 5-8 hours per week. Pay is \$15 to 18 per hour. A job description and application are available in the Town Hall or by calling (413) 548-9150. Questions should be directed to Isaiah Robison, Conservation Commission Chair, [Isaiahrobison2@gmail.com](mailto:Isaiahrobison2@gmail.com). Applications accepted until position is filled.

Leverett is an AA/EOE.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

## Coyotes on Hoe Shop, West Gill Roads

#### Friday, 1/16

11 a.m. Assisted with a motor vehicle repossession at a Maple Street residence.  
5:30 p.m. Issued a harassment order to an Oak Street resident.

#### Sunday, 1/18

9:15 a.m. One-car accident on Route 2 at French King Bridge. No injuries.  
11:55 a.m. One-car accident on Route 2 at Camp Road. No injuries.

2:15 p.m. One-car accident on Main Road. No injuries.  
3 p.m. One-car accident with rollover on Route 2. No injuries.

#### Monday, 1/19

6:40 a.m. Located damaged vehicle parked on the side of Main Road. Under investigation.

7:45 a.m. Complaint of coyotes near Hoe

Shop Road residence.

12:40 p.m. Housing complaint on Oak Street.  
1:20 p.m. Located MA license plate from previous unreported accident on Mountain Road.

3:40 p.m. Two-car accident with injury at Route 2 and Main Road. No one transported.  
6:50 p.m. Report of motor vehicle vs. deer accident on Main Road.

#### Tuesday, 1/20

2:10 p.m. Complaint of coyotes near Hoe Shop Road residence.

#### Wednesday, 1/21

5:10 p.m. Subject placed in protective custody on Oak Street due to alcohol.

#### Thursday, 1/22

7:20 a.m. Complaint of coyotes near West Gill Road residence.

10 a.m. Court process served to Dole Road resident.

3:30 p.m. Firearms issue with French King Highway resident.  
10:25 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle located at French King Highway. Moved same along.

#### Friday, 1/23

10:35 p.m. Disturbance reported on Walnut Street. Spoke with residents regarding noise.

#### Saturday, 1/24

10 a.m. Past motor vehicle accident investigated on River Road.  
11:35 a.m. French King Highway resident reported harassing phone calls.

#### Sunday, 1/25

12:25 p.m. Medical emergency on Pisgah Mountain Road. Subject transported.

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*the poetry page*

It is difficult  
to get the news from poems  
yet men die miserably every day  
for lack  
of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

edited by Patricia Pruitt  
Readers are invited to send poems  
to the Montague Reporter at:  
177 Avenue A  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
or to: [poetry@montagureporter.org](mailto:poetry@montagureporter.org)

swinging a hammer  
i can feel  
the circle  
upright and spinning  
the centripetal force of life  
start the swing  
and the momentum  
carries around  
to the place it is sighted  
where the blow comes down  
the body pinwheel  
as though this life  
is different than the last war  
the last shout  
all the necessary diligence  
simple tools slipped  
into the palm of the hand  
all human memory  
in the body  
measuring the weight of one breast  
the sound  
of a circle

- Al Miller

a Quick Song for Dee Dee

I think  
that the  
Object is to allow one's  
Self to have Place and  
from that to adventure in thought or body  
out and then out again  
until in rime  
we can and do  
return  
to find that the "same" has led us off again and into  
the glorious obscurities  
where in some certain  
moments everything  
is Clear  
I cling to this  
ride it for the Wave it is and try  
at least to remember  
on those days when Nothing at all makes sense that  
not sense is the boundary of  
Everything

- Michael Franco

Mourning is Horizon

and settles dew-like on anything it can  
yet a verdant leaf floating ahead the outstretched leap of a cat  
is a far better instructor  
How repetitive Time's lessons are and annoy like clock-tick  
from another room when it is the call of all these City birds I take in and  
imitate  
hoping in some way to Participate at long last.  
Hearken then unto a Verser who would bring to you  
what he took to Heart  
in what was  
without bounds sent

- Michael Franco

lines stolen from Mr. Herbert

Thou, whose sweet Voice and gentle Nature  
mark thee a treasure,  
hearken unto a Verser whose quick eye and slow heart  
will call upon such Song as he needs to lift your own sight up  
when only the hint of Melody remains  
and keep as my poet said  
your Wandering self before you  
A gaze has no tenancy that cannot by a bee be distracted.  
As a star in the dark which is defined by what it sees through will seem to blink  
But a Song will linger upon the bark of a thought and across Time float  
toward an Evening's rime.

- Michael Franco

Clouds make  
a hole in us. Yielding  
white, almost  
intolerable, beeches  
pillar vacancies. Absences  
to inhabit.

How quiet  
is lost in words, winter's  
insistence inside us.

- Jess Mynes

Poets Contributing to the Poetry Page include:

Michael Franco of Somerville makes his second appearance on the MR poetry page and works tirelessly on poetry to which he has dedicated years from a young age.  
W. Allen Miller of Montague Center lives a fast moving life on

his Farm, but still finds time to shape words and spaces into what we can only call poetry.  
We offer this poem by Jess Mynes of Wendell, one of poetry's lights, a second time for it is so to the point of this week's reality.

February is Valentines month. Please send the Montague Reporter your love poems. Poets of all ages are encouraged to write love poems and send them to [editor@montagureporter.org](mailto:editor@montagureporter.org).

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**BASKETBALL** from page A1  
foul line. He also had 8 rebounds and an assist.

Liam Ellis had 15 points, and was 3 for 4 from three-point land. He gave 8 assists and grabbed 5 rebounds. Nick York scored 13 points and had 4 rebounds and 4 assists. Jalen Sanders had 7 points, 4 rebounds and 3 assists.

Tionne Brown added 5 points, 4 rebounds and 4 assists. Eulalio Veras came off the bench to score 4 points, and had 1 assist. Nick Croteau and Emmett Turn each contributed 2 points. Emmett also had a defensive rebound. Spencer Hubert didn't score but helped the team by snagging 2 defensive rebounds.

The real story in Tuesday's game was the amount of time that the bench saw action. Against Hopkins, the starters had been forced to play almost the entire game while Hopkins were able to rest their starting five. In the fourth quarter, fatigue plagued the Indians and Hopkins was able to pull away.

But on Tuesday, every single Indian starter rested for at least 8 minutes: Croteau stayed on the court for almost 11 minutes, Veras more than 10, and Turn more than 9.

Spencer Hubert played for almost 8 minutes. Colby Dobias, 4:19. James Vaughn and Jeremy Wolfram each played more than two minutes, and Rick Carver played for 1:27.

Hopefully, in future games, Coach Mullins can freely substitute his players.

**Clinching a Berth**

The team then moved on to defeat the Mohawk Warriors 75 - 68 on Friday January 23, qualifying them for the playoffs. Turners was firing on all cylinders in the first period and into the second, with steals, passes to the open man and sweet arching shots bringing them to a wide early lead.

Powertown played a tight defense

and aggressively contested every pass and every rebound. When Turners got the ball back, they would set up the play, shoot from the outside or put the pass to the open man underneath.

This style of play gave them a 10-point early lead, 26 to 16. But they didn't let up. Down by 10, Mohawk began moving the ball to the paint. And as they tried a pass, Nick York intercepted and fed the ball to Liam Ellis who promptly put up two more points.

Then, before Mohawk could react, Jalen Sanders stole another pass and also fed the ball to Liam. Liam sunk an arching bucket expanding the lead. When Nick York netted a 3-pointer, Turners took a 42 to 18 second quarter lead, with three minutes and 26 seconds left in the half.

That's when Mohawk came alive, outscoring the Tribe 10 to 2 in the final minutes of the half and narrowing the deficit to 44 - 28.

"It's hard to convince the kids not to sit on a lead," Coach Mullins said after the game. "Mohawk is a big strong team, and we simply didn't play defense."

Mohawk further narrowed the lead in the third quarter, and with 29 seconds left in the period, sunk a 3-pointer and pulled to within 8. Liam Ellis responded with a 3-pointer of his own and when the buzzer sounded, Powertown held a 61 to 50 lead.

In the final period, Mohawk pulled even closer, 61 - 57. Coach Mullins called a time out. Turners got two points to expand their lead, but with 1 minute 13 seconds to play, their lead was a razor-thin 71 to 68.

That was as close as the Warriors got. Coach Mullins called plays from the sidelines and his team responded and Turners walked off the court with a hard-fought 75 - 68 victory.

Unlike the Athol game, Coach Mullins kept his starters on the court for most of the game. In fact, it

wasn't until the second quarter that he sent in Emmett Turn to relieve Tionne Brown when Tionne received his second foul. Emmett put up the most minutes for the subs with 14:10. Spencer Hubert and Eulalio Veras each played more than 3 minutes. Nick Croteau (1:32) and Colby Dobias (1:22) also saw action.

Liam Ellis led all scorers with 29. He also had 5 rebounds and 8 assists. Nick York scored 17 points, grabbed a rebound and had 5 assists. Jalen Sanders got 14 points, 2 rebounds and gave 2 assists.

Tyler Charbonneau contributed 11 points, 7 rebounds and 3 assists. Tionne Brown scored 4 points, snagged 3 rebounds and gave 3 assists. Eulalio Veras helped out by pulling down 4 rebounds and Emmett Turn added 2 assists.

Turners hosts Lee on Wednesday, January 28, and Greenfield on Friday, January 30. Then on Tuesday, February 3, they travel to Hopkins. That team sits at the top of the Hampshire Conference, a mere half-game ahead of the Tribe, and is the only conference team to beat Powertown this season.

Stayed tuned!



At right: "Tangled up in Blue"? Not really. Liam Ellis does it again.



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

**"Read It Leverett!"**

Read it Leverett! is underway with this year's selection, *The Art Forger* by B.A. Shapiro. The book covers topics including art forgery, art theft, the professional art world and the creative process, and we are offering a range of fun events based around these themes:

**Thursday, February 19 at 7 p.m.:**

Book discussion with the wonderful Arlyn Diamond

**Friday, February 27 at 7 p.m.:**

Screening of the documentary *Stolen*, about the 1990 Gardner museum heist.

**Sunday, March 1 from 1 to 4:30 p.m.:**

Forgery Day at the library. No talent required. Pick your favorite painting and try to capture its spirit. You can use whatever medium you desire. Art supplies will be made available along with pictures and books from which to choose your forgery. All entries created at this time (or on your own time) should be submitted to the library by Saturday, March 7. Artwork will be displayed in the Community Room.

**Thursday, March 19 at 6:30 p.m.:**

Talk on art forgery by Julia Courtney, curator of art at the Springfield Museums.

**Sunday, March 29 at 2 p.m.**

Finale: reception and forgery critique.

Events are held at the Leverett Library, at 75 Montague Road, and are open and free to all. Books are available now for check out or purchase. See [www.leverettlibrary.org](http://www.leverettlibrary.org) for more information. Get reading!

**Friends of the Montague Libraries**

The Friends have recently reformed after a long break. There will be an open meeting on Wednesday, February 11, at 5 p.m.

Come find out how you can become involved and help your local libraries.

If you are unable to attend but interested, call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

**"Love Your Library Month" at the Erving Public Library**

Sunday, February 1, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.:

**Craft Day for Kids with Katie Stetson.**

Make crayons and use them to make your Valentines at the craft table. All materials will be provided, but participants are encouraged to bring their supply of broken crayons. Free!

Wednesday, February 4, 6:30 to 8 p.m.:

**iPad Basics with Tom Smith.**

Open to all adults. This is a great opportunity for parents to meet the EES technology coordinator, and learn how iPads work and how they are being used at the Erving Elementary School. Free! Pre-register.

Saturday, February 7, 11 a.m. to noon

**STEAM PROGRAM - LEGO DUPLO - For Children ages 3 to 6.** With story and snack. Free.

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# MOR

YEAR 13 – NO. 15

B1

FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORER.ORG

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

JANUARY 29, 2015

## The Impending Flood: The Lentils & Grape Room Come to Turners



Luke Csehak describes the Lentils as “the wussiest punk music you’ve ever heard.”

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

This Friday holds in store the Franklin County debut of two new Brattleboro bands, The Lentils and Grape Room.

While it will be a coming-out spectacular for these bands, the songwriters behind them have played here many times in their recent, and lamentably, deceased projects, Happy Jawbone Family Band and Great Valley. It’s easy to hear the echoes of the past groups in these new bands.

Happy Jawbone’s sound, eponymously self-described in their song “Junk Pop,” was full to the brim with percussively-soft rock ‘n roll. Singer-songwriter Luke Csehak carried the melody and inertia of the song, while other band members would often musically diverge, playing their own song in simultaneity. This had the effect of producing a vibrant, layered sound.

Csehak describes his new band, The Lentils, as “the wussiest punk

music you’ve ever heard.” This is the commonality at the core of the two bands.

Grape Room is Peter Nichols’ project, a continuation of his long-running band Great Valley after his bandmates moved to large metropolises. Nichols thinks of his music as “futuristic pop music.”

Grape Room sounds like what would have happened if the Voyager spacecraft had contained the Beach Boys instead of all that Mozart, and the space-faring, technologically advanced aliens who discovered it were inspired to write the catchiest music ever heard in the Alpha Centauri system.

Though their lineups have been shifting, the Lentils and Grape Room are currently made up of almost exactly the same members. While they have very different sounds, they are built on a similarity of ideas. Both bands’ songs have a self-aware deconstruction of pop music that manages to be easy on the ear.

I scheduled an interview with

Csehak and Nichols last week and decided to have it aboard the 2/3-length school bus in our side yard, for atmosphere. My roommate had been working for months converting it into a useable space and had just installed the item I cared most about for *mise-en-scène* – a stainless steel woodstove.

I moved all the construction equipment to the back and hung a sheet covered in images of sports-playing squirrels to enclose the space into a size resembling that of a sauna. Then I loaded up the stove, and waited.

It was dark outside and close to zero degrees. I just kept feeding the fire, both for the heat and as a kind of preparatory meditation. I wanted everyone to experience that ego-melting, full body-fatigue of the sauna. I did not account for them being very, very late.

While I waited, the air temperature aboard the bus kept rising, and I became lethargic and weak. I knew that I had to be pretty far-gone when the realization to remove my clothing felt like a *eureka!* moment. I barely had the will, but a minute later I was feeling a little more comfortable, solely in my long underwear and *Montague Reporter* lanyard.

I was in this half-dressed repose when Csehak and Nichols arrived. They were over an hour late (but they are not late *people*). I mustered all the mental acuity I had to talk to them about their music and theory of writing.

Csehak and Nichols are both writers who converted to music, seeking an art form that they believed to be more viable.

Csehak studied at the Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetry, and said his songwriting is influenced by

see LENTILS page B4

## 2 MORE NOT TO MISS

By MIKE JACKSON

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – This weekend brings an embarrassment of riches to adventurous music lovers. Back-to-back-to-back shows on Friday at the Brick House (see article at left), Saturday at the Rendezvous, and Sunday at John Doe, Jr. are sure to delight and challenge listeners.

Saturday’s show at the Rendezvous in Turners Falls is a CD release party for **The Ambiguities**, a side project of Daniel Hales of Greenfield chamber-indie group Daniel Hales and the Frost Heaves.

The band’s new EP, “Basement Suite,” clocks in at 26 minutes, and is comprised of eight songs that seem to have been built around their lyrics. This makes sense – Hales is a poet and English teacher, and last year he composed a score around Lewis Carroll poems for a staging of *Alice in Wonderland* at the Shea Theater.

But the live show is bound to sound different than the album, a largely self-recorded and multi-tracked bedroom effort which runs

the gamut from sincere MOR pop to rap-rock, moved along by sequenced drums.

The EP’s centerpiece, the title track, raises its head above the rest. A single stanza is repeated over a three-chord cycle, in three dramatically different settings: first stately dream-pop with piano and violin, then a discordant, woozy industrial breakdown, and finally an extended, atmospheric outro.

A \$3 cover wins a copy of the CD and a multimedia experience, including a set from fellow Greenfielders, stoner-rock duo **Rebel Base**, as well as “slide projector, puppets, performance art, and belly dancing,” according to the band. Starts at 9:30.

Sunday night, musicians from Maine, Vermont, and Hampshire and Franklin counties converge at John Doe, Jr. on Main Street in Greenfield. The store has a packed in-store performance schedule this spring, especially for a record store, especially in Greenfield.

The headliner is **Caethua**, a.k.a. Clare Hubbard, who plays dark,

see SHOWS page B4



The Ambiguities

## WEST ALONG THE RIVER: The Durkees of Point Pleasant

By DAVID BRULE

**ERVING/NORTHFIELD** – A late Monday afternoon, on the eve of the Big Snowstorm predicted for overnight, the abandoned road past French King Rock is leading me to Point Pleasant.

Slipping along on silent skis just before dusk, now down through a hemlock grove, I reach the spot where the track swings to the right. I’m following the trace of the Indian path that led for millennia from Pocumtuck (Deerfield) to Squakheag (Northfield).

This is the trail also used by the arrogant and doomed Captain Richard Beers who led his men to their deaths on Northfield Plain in September of 1675 during King Philip’s War.

But this evening, the snow-covered dirt road is quiet and peaceful. The Connecticut is frozen over for the most part since mid-December, now that the nuclear plant north of here is shut down, and no longer flushes its superheated water into our river.

I’ve skied past this spot for many winters in the past, always stopping at this curve in the road where an ancient maple stands, battered by the years, but clearly put there by a human hand, put there for a purpose.

I would never have known that this quiet spot I’ve been drawn to over the years was actually called Point Pleasant, if not for a tattered scrapbook compiled by one Mrs. Florence Chaffin of Millers Falls, who donated her collection of articles and photos to the now defunct Erving Historical Society.

Flipping through the yellowed pages of the scrapbook the other day, a sudden leap

of the heart and a dizzying, telescoping sense of time travel brought me up short on the page where Mrs. Chaffin penned in careful handwriting: “*Durkee Tavern, built in 1789.*”

The accompanying snapshots depicted

see WEST ALONG page B4



L.C. Durkee

## Take It Easy Yoga

By LEE WICKS

**LEVERETT** – One of the worst things to ever happen to yoga has been the magazines and videos showing young people with perfect bodies stretched into impossible postures. It’s an image few can attain, and it has probably deterred as many people as it has encouraged. How easy it is to take one look, shake your head, and decide “Not me. Never in a million years.”

Local yoga instructor Nancy Paglia is doing her part to dispel some of the myths surrounding yoga, so that she can attract a wide audience of people who will benefit from gentle stretches, deep breathing, and the sense of community derived from joining a group activity.

Her “Senior Stretch and Balance” class meets on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. in the Leverett Town Hall. Interested people can drop in any Wednesday or join the next session, which starts on February 4. The cost per session is five dollars and the program has been supported by the Council on Aging, but Paglia is quick to mention that you don’t need to be a senior to benefit from the Senior Stretch and Balance class, affectionately named the “take it easy yoga” class by its participants.

She promises “no pretzel bends, no mats, and no head stands.” What participants get instead is a renewed sense of wellbeing within a lovely setting. The Leverett Town Hall building has been beautifully maintained. Sun streams in through clean windows and bounces on a polished floor. It’s warm and cozy, and completely accessible with parking behind the building. On the icy morning I visited, the lot had been well sanded, so there’s no problem of falling in pursuit of fitness.

Inside, a dozen women sat in a circle of chairs wearing comfortable street clothes. Six of them had never tried

yoga before taking this class. All of them extolled its virtues, and would also love to see some men join the group.

Frankie Hankinson has spinal stenosis. She said, “I can walk because of Nancy and this class.” Judy Hobart said, “Learning to breathe correctly relaxes the entire body.” She used the breathing techniques learned in this class during an MRI when she began to feel claustrophobic and anxious.

Fay Zipkowitz is not new to yoga. She said, “I’ve been doing yoga for years. The shared experience is important.” To this Paglia added

see YOGA page B2



Nancy Paglia leads the senior stretch class at town hall.

# Pet of the Week

Help Find a Home for Shadow!  
Shadow needs a home – indoors only please. Her human companion passed away recently. She is very sweet and friendly, and loves to sit

on your lap and purr!  
She's healthy at approximately 12 years old, and her double paws add extra cuteness. She has an adorable ballerina way of walking. Shadow will steal your heart!  
If you're interested (or know someone who is), please call Bev Montague at (413) 527-1068.



“SHADOW”

## Senior Center Activities February 2 to 6

### GILL and MONTAGUE

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

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

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

#### Monday 2/2

10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

#### Tuesday 2/3

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
Noon Lunch  
12:45 p.m. COA Meeting

#### Wednesday 2/4

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

#### Thursday 2/5

9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:30 a.m. - Noon Brown Bag  
Noon Lunch

#### Friday 2/6

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

### WENDELL

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

### ERVING

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

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

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

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

#### Typical Schedule:

#### Monday 2/2

9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise

#### Tuesday 2/3

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10 a.m. ZumbaToning

#### Wednesday 2/4

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

#### Thursday 2/5

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

#### Friday 2/6

9 a.m. Bowling

### 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.

## YOGA from page B1

that doctors and psychologists agree that socialization can increase longevity.

Many of the women in this class also meet at the senior lunch on Fridays. Some have been attending this class for years, but they are not cliquish at all. Urging me to join them next time, I felt their warmth and sincerity, and knew that this group would embrace any new person.

Aging can be lonely. Retirement immediately isolates an individual from colleagues whose chatter once filled their days. One needs to recon-

nect with community, but how? We New Englanders are not wont to go knocking on doors, and sometimes neighborhood friendships were put on the back burner while people were busy building careers.

This class addresses those problems and more. The participants in Paglia's class enjoy better health. Sue Swartz was able to go off her blood pressure medication after a few months of stretching, breathing and gentle movement.

Perhaps a number of falls have been prevented by the balance poses –and what's more, while putting on boots and bundling into coats these

women recommend books to each other, make dates for card games or knitting circles, and inquire about people they haven't seen in a while.

The Senior Stretch and Balance class offers a wonderful opportunity for socialization and new learning. The Council on Aging has been subsidizing this class; the cost for each session is just \$5. If ten people sign up for the next 8-week session, Paglia will be able to maintain this rate, even if there is no grant from the Council. Interested people may call Judy Hobart at (413) 548-9415 for additional information.



## LGBTIQA Elders Invited to Share Predictions

**TURNERS FALLS** – Believe it or not, it's 2015. We might not yet be driving hovercrafts to work, but for the LGBTIQA community, a lot has happened in the past few years – and there's still a lot of change to come. What do you think will happen in the coming year? Will gay marriage be legalized in all 50 states?

Which LGBTIQ issues will take the main stage in the US? How will inequalities be addressed globally?

You're invited to share your predictions about these and other issues related to LGBTIQ elders at the next LGBTIQA\* Social, themed, "Predictions – Personal or Global - for 2015," on Wednesday, February 11, 2015, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center, located at 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls. The

event is free, and donations to the hosting nonprofit organization, Franklin County Home Care Corporation (FCHCC) are accepted.

Participants will enjoy a light breakfast as well as activities and socialization with their peers. Discuss the upcoming year and make written predictions, which will be stored until you join us again in 2016 to open this "time capsule" and test your predictions!

Please RSVP by February 6 online at [www.fchcc.org/LGBTIQA](http://www.fchcc.org/LGBTIQA). Contact Lynne Feldman, Director of Community Services at FCHCC, with any questions at [lfeldman@fchcc.org](mailto:lfeldman@fchcc.org), (413)773-5555 x2215 or (978) 544-2259 x2215.



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

*Q. I'm tired most days and I never feel rested. Could I have sleep apnea?*

I urge you to get to a doctor for a diagnosis because sleep apnea can be a serious disorder. High blood pressure is common in sleep apnea. Sudden drops in blood oxygen levels that occur during sleep stoppages increase blood pressure and strain the cardiovascular system, raising the risk of heart failure and stroke.

About 18 million Americans have sleep apnea. It's much more common in older adults and men. Apnea is Greek for "without breath."

People with sleep apnea stop breathing for as long as 30 seconds at a time. These interruptions can happen hundreds of times a night. The breathing cessations may wake you and prevent you from getting a good night's sleep. These awakenings usually are so brief that you don't recall them.

There are two kinds of sleep ap-

nea: central and obstructive.

If you have central sleep apnea, there's a communication breakdown between the breathing muscles and your brain. It's uncommon.

About 90 percent of sleep-apnea victims have obstructive apnea, which is caused by a blockage in the windpipe. Obstructive sleep apnea occurs when the muscles in the back of your throat relax.

These muscles support the soft palate, tonsils, tongue and uvula—that doohickey that hangs in the back of your mouth. When the muscles relax, your airway is narrowed and breathing is cut off. A blockage can also be caused by a lot of fatty tissue in the throat.

The most common symptoms of sleep apnea include:

- Excessive daytime sleepiness
- Loud snoring
- Observed episodes of breathing stoppages during sleep
- Abrupt awakenings with shortness of breath
- Awakening with a dry mouth or sore throat
- Morning headache
- Problems associated with sleep deprivation such as forgetfulness and mood changes.

A common treatment for sleep apnea that helps most sufferers is Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP). You sleep with a special mask that adds pressure to the air you breathe. Mild cases of apnea

can be treated with dental devices that move your jaw forward to make breathing easier. In very few cases, surgery is necessary to remove tonsils or extra tissue from the throat.

There are some self-help techniques:

- Sleep on your side instead of your back. Sleeping on your back can cause your tongue and soft palate to rest against the back of your throat and block your airway.
- Eliminate alcoholic beverages and sleep medicines, which relax the muscles in your throat.
- Quit smoking. Nicotine is a stimulant and can interfere with sleep. Smoke is an irritant to nose, throat and lungs.
- Lose weight. A fat neck tends to narrow the airway in your throat.

(Note: In my research, I often seem to run into warnings against alcohol, tobacco and fat. Must be something to it.)

When you go to a doctor for a diagnosis, he or she may refer you to a sleep disorder center. You may be asked to undergo overnight monitoring of your breathing and other body functions during sleep.

You may also be referred to an ear, nose and throat doctor to rule out any blockage in your nose or throat.

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


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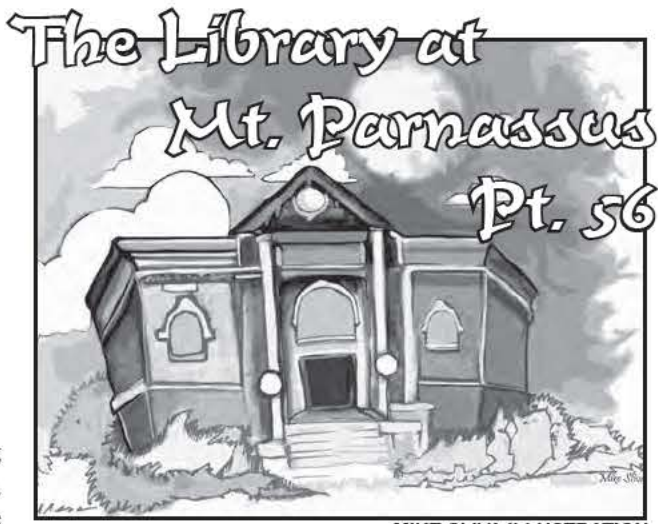
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"What is a website? That sounds familiar..."



MIKE SLIVA ILLUSTRATION

By DAVID DETMOLD

The reading room was quiet, but from the lobby came the sound of slamming drawers. Melantha was working behind the main desk.

Only the top of her head showed above the counter. I wandered over to see what she was doing.

"Melantha?" She was kneeling on the floor, rummaging and rearranging things.

"Hi. I just came by to see if maybe you had thought about what we talked about the other day, remember? About that computer? I was thinking, I'm sure my company would be glad to donate a new one to the library. They seem very civic minded. Once you get on line... Melantha? You could provide access to the world wide web... I guess I mentioned that. You could even start a website for the library if you wanted to."

She stood up suddenly, holding a large tortoiseshell. "What's that?" she asked.

She was wearing unseasonable attire, a knotted macrame blouse, beaded with mirrors, and next to nothing underneath.

"What is what?" I mumbled. "A website," she said. "That sounds familiar."

She bent to search a different cubby. A moment later she reappeared, holding a distaff and a wooden shuttle.

"Aren't those Penelope's?" "Yes. She keeps misplacing things."

"It's all those kids," I said. "They must be quite a handful for her."

"Let's not exaggerate." "I've never seen that top before."

"Do you like it?" She tossed the staff and shuttle in a drawer.

"Yes," I said. "It reflects beautifully on you." I thought of mariachi gourds.

She pulled open another drawer and her python appeared and raised its deltoid head.

Herr Klee strode in from the reference room, carrying a giant Atlas. He slammed it on the desk, scattering dust.

"Melantha!" he yelled. "This index is driving me mad! Here! You see? It refers to pages missing from the book. Pages that were never even printed!"

"Look here," he said. "Look. Under Lydia it says, 'see: Ottoman Empire. Turn to O, look it up... Ottoman... and there it tells you to see Turkey. Look up Turkey... it says... 'B-4, page 314'. The book ends at page 296!"

"Now. Look. Look up Asia Minor. Page 8. But try to find the same coordinates. B-4 does not appear! The whole left side of the page has been torn out. It is maddening!" His voice rumbled in his chest.

In a fit of pique he knocked the bronze of Hermes off its pedestal. As the god's statue flew off the desktop, he grabbed it onehanded, caught the snakes of the caduceus

by their throats and squeezed, reforming their inverted essences into a constricted figure 8.

"Never mind, mein Herr," Melantha said. "It's there, you'll find it, there, you'll find it, never fear." Her voice could be quite soothing.

"This damned book!" boomed Klee. "I look up the Isles of the Hesperides just to confirm my senses and according to this..." he was choked with anger... "Index!... the Isles of the Hesperides do not even exist!"

"Perhaps they don't," I suggested. "Really."

He turned on me. "They do," he roared. "I've been there!"

"I've been to lots of places that haven't really existed," said Melantha mildly. "And some that have."

Klee picked up the Atlas and tore the binding down the middle and tossed the pieces up into the air.

The lighter section, containing just the first few folios, hit the ceiling with such force it stuck there. Most of the colorful midsection plus appendices slammed against the wall on the way up and exploded in a mass of maps and supporting text, some of which remained drifting for a time on the updraft from the furnace and sailed off into the dim recesses of the stacks before settling back to Earth.

"There'll be a fine for that," said Melantha. "Reference books are not supposed to leave the library."

"The Hell you say!" yelled Klee.

He turned his mad gaze on me again. "Out of my way!" He slapped me on the chest with the back of his hand and knocked me through the double doors. One step behind, breathing like a bellows, he followed me with his eyes on fire.

I put my hands up, gently patting the air between us.

"Klee... Klee... What'd I do, Klee? I just happened to stop by. Eine kleine unterhaltungslektüre, eh, old man? Don't... don't do anything rash."

He caught me by the collar and lifted me off the floor and held me there, glaring up at me.

"Let's have a drink!" He growled. He dropped me and ran his hand through his shaggy hair. "Come on."

"No, thanks, Klee. Not... not now. Later, perhaps. I'll see you at the Golden Mean."

"I need a drink," said Klee. "Of course you do, old man. Just the thing."

"I'm sick to death of antiquated reference materials."

"I agree with you wholeheartedly. I've consulted that Atlas myself, a number of times. It's extremely outdated... vexing... very."

"Aaugh!" cried Klee.

He stormed out and left the double doors wide open.

Continued next week.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Attack of the Clowns: Balloons, Flower Delivery Trigger Alarms; Scammers Impersonate Energy Reps and Police; Valley Advocate Driver Abandons Wrecked Van On Lawn

Monday, 1/19

9:41 a.m. Caller from Tennessee attempting to reach Montague, MI police department reports that his mother took out an electric bill in his name in the amount of \$1,300. Referred to other police department.

12:11 p.m. Caller reports that last night she struck a utility pole on Main Road in Gill; she was too shaken up about the accident to call and report it at the time. Referred to Gill PD and MSP.

1 p.m. Caller expressing concern about water pooling in the roadway on Highland Street. DPW will check area.

2:02 p.m. Report of a syringe on the sidewalk on Third Street. Services rendered.

3:43 p.m. Assisted Gill PD with a motor vehicle collision with injury at Main Road and Route 2.

Tuesday, 1/20

12:36 a.m. Pan Am operator advises that one of their engines broke down and is blocking the Lake Pleasant road crossing. Another engine should be able to clear train from crossing within 45 minutes.

2:32 p.m. Caller from Maine reports that her niece, who is homeless in Turners Falls right now, and others are reportedly inside a vacant building behind Food City and attempting to start a fire inside the building to keep warm. Information relayed to TFFD and officers, who will perform extra checks of building.

5:08 p.m. Accident with FRTA bus at Avenue A and Third Street. Sedan was parked in a parking space; operator of bus given verbal warning for failure to use care.

5:18 p.m. Caller advises that there appears to be a possible jumper on the rail of the White Bridge. Officer located male party, who was taking pictures. No problems.

9:53 p.m. Car on East Mineral Road hit a patch of ice and slid into a telephone pole. No injuries. WMECO and DPW notified. Car towed.

10:55 p.m. Burglar alarm, "stock room motion," at Family Dollar. Keyholder stated that last time, a ceiling tile had fallen and triggered the alarm. This time, helium balloons in the back were tripping the sensor. Clear.

Wednesday, 1/21

1:03 a.m. Caller from Sunderland Road advises that a smashed-up white van is parked on his lawn. Nobody is around it at this time. Responding of-

ficer states that it appears to be a Valley Advocate van that hit the guardrail approximately 50 feet away. Vehicle towed. Registered owner (intoxicated) located by Deerfield PD and held for protective custody. Citation issued.

10:50 a.m. DPW reports tractor trailer unit stuck on the hill going into Millers Falls. Request assist with traffic. Services rendered.

2:14 p.m. Caller from K Street reports that his neighbor, who has a wood stove, has been burning something that is emitting terrible fumes; the odor "take[s] your breath away." TFFD and officers advised.

4:37 p.m. Caller reports that her 9 year old son was assaulted at Sheffield Elementary School today and that this is the second or third time this has happened. Report taken; advised of options.

Thursday, 1/22

12:31 a.m. Disturbance on G Street; parties reportedly yelling at each other. Situation mediated.

1:26 a.m. Shoplifting at F.L. Roberts. Investigated.

5:47 a.m. Caller reports lines down on Kingsley Avenue, believed to have been taken down by a trash truck. TFFD on scene; reports that this is a Comcast wire. Comcast notified. Spoke with supervisors at waste company, who report that driver denies taking down wire. TFFD cut line to prevent hazard to motorists.

8:52 a.m. Report of an overdue UHaul vehicle; request for officer to attempt to make contact with party who rented vehicle. Officer advised renter of options.

9:17 a.m. Report of icy sidewalks on Third Street. Property owners/managers advised.

10:49 a.m. Party into station to speak with officer about an energy company solicitor who came to her door last week. Officer advised party that company did not seem to be legitimate and that officers had seized original (white) forms completed by residents when they responded to the complaint regarding these solicitors last week. Advised of options.

Friday, 1/23

8:25 a.m. Report of a phone scam whose perpetrator was spoofing the MPD phone number and impersonating a detective on the force. Dispatch has received calls from other residents who report having a missed call from MPD on their caller

ID despite not having any recent involvement with the department. Chief will put an announcement on MPD Facebook page and send out a Code Red message to residents advising them of this scam. Contacted Greenfield PD and MSP to advise in case scammers start to pose as members of surrounding police departments.

10:05 a.m. Report of dangerous icy driving conditions at Old Stage Road and East Taylor Hill Road; caller requests that DPW sand area. Responding officer reports that both roads are mostly ice but as long as operators are driving appropriately and at safe speeds, they should not have a problem.

11:50 a.m. Caller expresses concern about a junk-filled pickup truck in the parking lot of Food City. Operator found to have an active warrant. Chester [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

11:50 a.m. Caller reports icy driving conditions at Oakman Street and Turnpike Road; states that she slid and almost struck another vehicle. Officer advises that he drove that area approximately 10 minutes ago; states that it is icy, but as long as motorists are driving appropriately, it is not a hazard.

1:43 p.m. Assisted DCF with an investigation/home visit.

4:11 p.m. Report of soliciting on Millers Falls Road. No permit found on file. Referred to an officer.

5:06 p.m. Caller requests sanding on Vladish Road, stating that where the sun doesn't hit, it is very icy. Responding officer reports that road is glare ice but that if people drive slowly enough, they should be fine. DPW advised; will come out if there are more complaints, but will otherwise wait and sand during pending storm.

9:10 p.m. Report of an assault in/near the Pizza House. Parties will provide statements. Advised of options.

11:12 p.m. Party from Avenue C into station with a needle that she found in her driveway. Item disposed of.

Saturday, 1/24

2:23 p.m. Burglar alarm at McCarthy Funeral Home. Officer advises that the alarm was set off by a flower delivery driver and that everything checks out.

5:23 p.m. Report of suspected drug deal on Ave-

nue A. Area search negative.

5:30 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road concerned about an elderly male in a blue coat and hat who came to her door asking where Fuller Road or Street was; he indicated that he was looking for a liquor store near a river. Party seemed confused and left on foot in direction of Scotty's. Officers located and assisted party, who was from out of town and had gotten turned around.

8:19 p.m. Caller complains that a train has been idling in Lake Pleasant for 45 minutes. Call placed to Pan Am, who advised that the train would be out of the area in an hour and fifteen minutes.

9:04 p.m. Caller reports that she was parking her vehicle on Sixth Street when she was approached by a male party who appeared to be highly intoxicated. She stated that the party was trying to talk to her while at the same time grabbing her by the shoulders. Party located and taken into protective custody.

Sunday, 1/25

2:27 a.m. Two vehicles ticketed and towed on Third Street for snow removal.

8:55 a.m. Officer reports that Turners Falls Road and other roads are glare ice. DPW will get a crew together.

10:19 a.m. Inquiry regarding parking spaces at L Street and Eighth Street. Referred to officer and DPW superintendent.

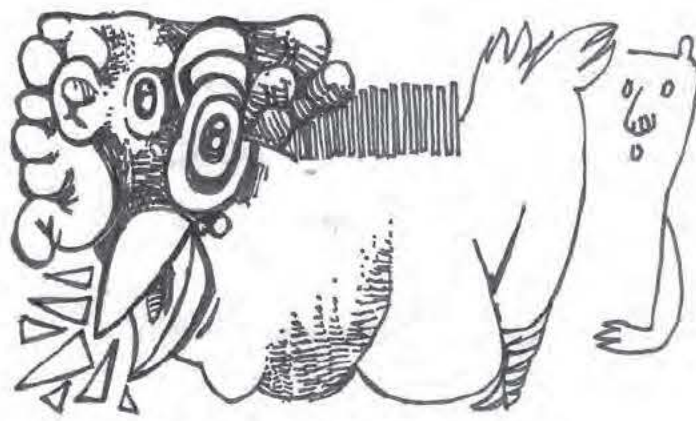
4:19 p.m. Call from a personal care attendant whose client reports that he was assaulted by an unwanted party in his apartment several times over the weekend. Investigated.

4:26 p.m. Caller states that her boyfriend stole her vehicle approximately 3-1/2 hours ago; is unsure where he would go with it. Vehicle located behind 25 Fourth Street. Investigated.

6:56 p.m. Report of an abandoned vehicle that had crashed on Moore Street in Erving. Second caller reported that a bartender from Millers Pub had been driving the intoxicated owner of the crashed vehicle home when they hit a patch of ice and hit a wall. All involved parties returned to the pub. Info passed to MSP and Erving PD. Medicare requested for one party with neck and back pain.

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LENTILS from page B1



Most of the Lentils, and Grape Room: Csehak, Nichols, and Nebemiah St. Danger.

ideas learned there about the psychic consequences of language. He's critical of the way language affects our perceived environment because it exerts a strong dualizing force: saying that something *is*, implicitly states everything that it *is not*.

Csehak said he writes poetry and music because these forms allow for the creative use of language, where meaning can be shaped by the writer. As part of his practice of avoiding dichotomizing structures, Csehak never asks himself what a song is *about*. "Meaning is a violent act," he declared – violent, I assumed, toward art.

Instead of writing words, he first sets syllables, or vowel sounds, to his music. Words are not attached linearly to these syllables like in sentences, but instead sprout randomly, like watching popcorn explode into our world inside a glass pot.

Csehak said his goal is for his music to be embodying, for himself and the listener. In his experimental approach to language, and his use of melody and rhythm to amplify the emotional medium that it's communicated through, he seeks to unite

the dualities that we live with.

I asked Csehak to choose from a deck of playing cards titled "Portable Fortitude," by Philadelphia artist Corina Dross. Each card offers the bearer a specific protection. He chose "Protection from the Impending Flood."

"I exist in a permanent flood scenario," he explained. The forthcoming Lentils album is called *Brattleboro's Flooding*, after a track written during the carnival-like mayhem that occurred when Tropical Storm Irene hit in 2012.

Their upcoming show is this Friday, January 30. It will be a fitting time to celebrate the last Beatles concert, on the roof of Apple Records in London, which was prematurely broken up by police exactly 46 years ago.

In addition to The Lentils and Grape Room, Northampton-based superstitious rockers Rabbit Rabbit will be playing, as well as locals The Carbuncles. The show is for all ages and will take place at 8 p.m. at the Brick House, at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls.  Donations are welcome.

WEST ALONG from page B1

that exact spot and that exact maple tree where I always paused while out skiing. Only, in the snapshot, the tree was young, and there was a broad expanse of meadow leading downhill to it, instead of thick woods.

Now if you've ever had anything to do with Millers Falls, you've heard the name of Durkee's Tavern, infamous and legendary in local lore for raucous nights on the riverbank, a gathering place for story-tellers, riverboat men, log drivers, carousers and drinkers of bad, low-quality New England rum (called "blue ruin" at the time).

Durkee's holds a mystical place in the region's oral history. There were even witches involved: Granny Stowell and her daughter Dycie, who worked at the Tavern, and who tried to cast a spell on one young boatman with whom she fell in love.

Dycie's effort at casting the spell ended badly, causing the young man to be crushed by a falling tree near the tavern. The local legend has it that Granny's husband later danced on her grave in the cemetery on Mineral Road, and that Dycie finished her days in the Northampton Asylum.

*Harper's Weekly* published the tale in 1882, Millers Falls historian John Taggart documented the story in the early 1900s, and it was passed on in this column last October 2014.

But back to the Durkees. According to actual historical records, three generations of Durkees ran the Tavern, and farmed at the Point, officially within the town boundary of Northfield, in the neighborhood known as Northfield Farms.

The tavern was built by Thomas Durkee and was run by Thomas and his son Jeremiah. Two of Thomas' grandsons, Oscar and Lauriston, were born in the tavern and kept the farm going into the 1920s.

Built along the traditional Indian path to Squakheag, the tavern was well situated when that trail became a stagecoach road in the 1770s. The tavern became a regular stop on the

Hartford-to-Brattleboro stage line.

As the region developed, to promote commerce, locks and canals were built in the 1820s to help move goods up the rapids surrounding French King Rock. The tavern prospered with the canal and locks traffic, and with the advent of the legendary log drives on the Connecticut.

Lauriston C. Durkee, born on the estate in 1840, became an influential and wealthy entrepreneur. Perhaps owing to the experience of his father and grandfather in the tavern business, L.C. made his money importing and selling liquor.

He invested in real estate in Boston and continued to prosper. Apparently he was a generous and kindly person, who donated considerable sums to charity, as we will see further on.

After a stint as an officer in the Civil War, he built a ten-room home at Point Pleasant, with a beautiful view up the river, next to the ancestral tavern site (which burned in 1880). The homestead became a favorite gathering place for family and friends. A photograph in the Chaffin scrapbook shows the front door with its sign:

"You are always welcome here."

Hardly into his forties, L.C. became blind, and brought his older brother Oscar and Oscar's wife Nettie Morgan Durkee, born in Gill, to care for him and his farm.

When L.C. died in 1894, he left his property to Oscar, along with considerable machinery, farm animals and a tobacco barn filled with 7,900 pounds of leaf tobacco!

He was buried, as he had wished, in a vault on the front lawn of his homestead,

"so that his spirit might eternally see the beautiful Connecticut River."

Oscar and Nettie lived out their lives at Point Pleasant, and when Oscar died in 1923 and Nettie in 1927, they too were buried in that family vault overlooking the river.

In his will, L.C. stipulated that when Oscar and Nettie passed away, the ten-room home on the

river would become a Home for the Aged of Franklin County. However, the trustees of the estate determined that the location at Point Pleasant was too remote, and not practical for a rest home. So no action was taken on L.C.'s wish. The homestead itself burned to the ground in 1940.

However, in 1941, income from the Durkee fund and other donations financed the purchase of the John W. Haigis house at 24 Church Street in Greenfield, which became the Home for Aged People of Franklin County.


The Home recently closed its doors in 2013, after seventy years of operation. Lynn Stowe Tomb, local historian and graphic designer, was commissioned by the Board of Directors to publish a history of this institution, entitled *Memoirs of the Church Street Home*.

So now today, in the gathering dusk before the Big Snow, all is quiet here at Point Pleasant, as it has been for the past seventy years. The burial vault of the Durkees stands guard over the site, far up on the rolling hillside that was the front lawn.

Trees, brush, brambles, wild grasses, nature and time have reclaimed the spot where the boisterous and busy tavern stood, and where the gentle L.C. Durkee lived out his days.

I'm left standing under the ancient maple, straining ears and imagination, trying to make out what the wind in the trees and the landscape are saying.

There's little to be heard but the sweep of history in the maple's branches, and maybe the faint sound of the first snowflakes settling on the granite burial vault bearing the Durkee family name.

*Story gathered from various sources: the 1927-1970 scrapbook of Mrs. Florence Chaffin, the writings of Mrs. Elsie Scott of the Northfield Historical Society (1975), and the research of Lynn Stowe Tomb (2014).* 

SHOWS from page B1



Caethua

sometimes droning, folk-derived music on multiple instruments that can be alternately hypnotic and confrontational. Her current eastern seaboard tour is a treat, since she has seldom emerged from the Maine woods since settling there.

Caethua is touring with fellow weird-Mainer Colby Nathan, who gets out much more often and even just played at that store a couple weeks back with his maximalist noise-rock group the (New England) Patriots.


Nathan's solo material is com-

prised of freaky folk-rock, evoking the Incredible String Band's randid moments, and supported by a suitcase full of toy instruments.

Dredd Foole, who back in the '80s was backed by the Volcano Suns as Dredd Foole and the Din, lives in southern Vermont these days and continues to explore the outer reach of vocal technique.

His scattling, glossolalia and overtone warbling can at first seem indulgent, especially in an apparent singer-songwriter performance format, but it is worth following him where he goes with it.

Rounding out the bill are Curse Purse, a dissonant local trio, and future superstar Omeed Goodarzi, who blew us all away at Madison on the Ave last month crooning some wandery Tim Buckleyish lines while his hands clawed and scabbled over an impossibly dense scaffolding of never-before-heard chords on his 12-string.

That show is said to start at 7:30, and I'm not going to tell you when would be the best time to dip out to get pizza and check the Super Bowl score, but make sure you don't miss either Goodarzi or Caethua if you venture out to John Doe, Jr. this Sunday. 




This picture of the Durkee property was found in Mrs. Chaffin's scrapbook.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

**ONGOING:**

**EVERY SUNDAY**

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

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

**EVERY 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 POETRY:**

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 Rod-



*The Suitcase Junket with Rache Reis at The Rendezvous, Turners Falls on Tuesday, February 3rd, 8:30pm, \$5-10 sliding scale.*

ley at [laurarodley@hotmail.com](mailto:laurarodley@hotmail.com) or Faith Kindness at [fdk617@gmail.com](mailto:fdk617@gmail.com). By 2/1/15.

*The Friends of the Greenfield Public Library* are seeking poems for the 24th annual *Poet's Seat Poetry Contest*, which is open to all Franklin County residents and students. Submit up to three poems. Deadline 3/9/15. The competition is held in honor of Frederick Goddard Tuckerman who lived in Greenfield from 1847 until his death in 1873. Awards will be given in adult and youth categories. Awards ceremony and poetry reading April 28th. Info contact Hope Schneider, 772-0257.

**AUDITIONS**

Mutton and Mead Medieval Festival: Shire cast auditions on **February 6 through February 9** at the Montague Common Hall. For specific times, please email David Argo at [Media@MuttonAndMead.org](mailto:Media@MuttonAndMead.org) or call (413) 992-6572.

**EVENTS:**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 29**

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

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 30**

Wendell Town Hall: *Wendell Community Chorus Winter Concert*. Chase away the winter blues with an evening of inspiring music from many cultures. Some singalongs, refreshments offered, \$, 7 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *The Lentils, Grape Room, Rabbit Rabbit*, and *The Carbuncles*. All ages/substance free, 8 p.m.

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: *Makaya McCraven*. Chicago-based jazz percussionist, \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wedell: *Grave Diggers Union*, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *All Too Human, Adam Buynecki*,

Chorus. 4 p.m., Sweeney Concert Hall, Sage Hall

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Gender Role Free Contra Dance*, caller and band TBD, \$, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Free Range Cats*, 9 p.m.

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: *Butterfly Swing Band Music & Swing Party*. Playing hot classic swing grooves from the 20's, 30's and 40's, with creative improvisation and spontaneous riffing, guaranteed to get you schmoozin' and movin'. Admission includes a professional dance lesson by Emily Fox of Dance Northampton! \$, 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Multimedia Album Release Show for *Basement Suite, The Ambiguities, Rebel Base*, and more, \$, 9:30 p.m.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2**

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quiznight*, 8 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4**

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

Smith College, Northampton: New Play Reading Series "Reasons to Live" by Meryl Cohen. 7:30 p.m., Earle Recital Hall, Sage Hall

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5**

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series featuring Jeffrey Harrison & Mark Hart*. \$, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wedell: *The Roosters*, classic rock dance, Bruce Scofield & Mark Feller 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: *Tony Vacca and the Impulse Ensemble*. Electric violin, vocals, percussion, spoken word, lautar, vocals, with special guest from Senegal: Massamba Diop. A fusion of World Music, Jazz and Spoken Word! \$, 8 p.m.

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

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Valentine's Party* Make fun valentine inspired crafts, cards, and other heart themed projects. Free, refreshments, designed for children of all ages and their families. 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Square Dance*, \$, 6 to 10 p.m.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Triple SSS, Sensual, Sexual, Smut* opening reception. Held at Madison's on the Ave, Turners Falls, 6 p.m.

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *Lux Delux*, zesty rock 'n roll dance party! Proceeds go

to the Unity Skate Park in Turners Falls. Open mic begins at 7:30 p.m. \$, Dessert-O-Rama!


Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Yani Batteau*, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Jukin*, rock/reggae/funk, 9 p.m.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8**

Fiske Pond Conservation Area, Wendell: *Animal Tracking Workshop*. Join Paul Wanta for a tracking workshop, 1 to 4 p.m. Space is limited, contact Ray DiDonato to register: [rdidonat@hotmail.com](mailto:rdidonat@hotmail.com); 978-544-8270.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Crow's Rebellion*, 8 p.m.



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Adam Buynecki  
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## Seascape Study

Last week, we introduced local artist Max Armen and his Third Street Studio project in Turners Falls. He will be sharing some of his artistic process with us over the next few issues.

This is a lifetime project in which I am studying the physical documents that display my own vision and memory as I first grasped the world with sight.

This is the research into a time capsule of the language of form buried deep within the roots of my subjective self, while simultaneously suspended in an objective paper trail saved in its entirety: the drawings from my first 6 years of life.

The first two years of this passion for drawing occurred before

pre-school. I am bringing these drawings into the light of my awareness as a visual artist today. I am interpreting these old drawings as a musician would study the classical repertoire of an ancient and soulful melodic instrument.

I am exploring all the possibilities for permutations with the diverse variabilities of material, composition, and the expressive quality of the calligraphic line of my childhood hand.

Max Armen



"Seascape Study" by Max Armen, December 2014. Ink and acrylic gel medium on watercolor paper, 9 by 12 inches. The subject is a seascape of boats inspired by a childhood composition drawn sometime between 1992-96 in Turners Falls.

## FACES & PLACES



ALISTAIR MACMARTIN PHOTO

Seniors from the plumbing shop at Franklin County Vocational Tech School stand next to some of the work they have completed in the Wendell Town Hall Kitchen. Students from the plumbing, carpentry and electrical shops have been getting on the job experience while Wendell is getting a completely renovated community kitchen.

Pictured, left to right, are: Kyle Curtiss, Chris Wetherby, Katelyn Littlefield, Nate Boyer, Jake Hagen and Joey DiDonato. Voted out of the picture by the students is plumbing instructor Holland Herzig.

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