

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 15 – NO. 5

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 3, 2016

Selectboard Taps Steve Ellis As New Town Administrator

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – The Montague selectboard, after interviewing two finalists for the position last week, voted to offer Steve Ellis the position of town administrator.

Ellis, who moved to Turners Falls in the 1990s, has been a town meeting member and served on a number of local committees, including a recent committee to evaluate the Strathmore building. Steve has also raised two children here who attended the Gill-Montague Regional School District.

Though Ellis is well known to local residents involved in town affairs, his appointment may be seen as an “out of the box” choice for the selectboard. Ellis



Steven Ellis

holds a senior administrative position with the Donahue Institute, a policy research organization at UMass-Amherst. He has limited practical experience overseeing roads, sewers, police departments and municipal budgets – a fact he freely admitted at his October 27 interview.

The other finalist interviewed for the administrator

position was Andrea Llamas, who serves as administrator for the town of Buckland. She does deal with roads and municipal budgets, as well as economic development issues in a rural town with vacant factory buildings.

“They both have phenomenal backgrounds,” said selectboard member Michael Nelson at the October 27 meeting.

“It’s a much more difficult decision than we had a few weeks ago,” added chair Rich Kuklewicz, referring to the appointments of the treasurer-collector and Water Pollution Control Facility superintendent.

Current town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, who is retiring in December, told see **ELLIS** page A5

Customers Rally Around Wendell Egg Farm

Reporting by KATIE NOLAN and JONATHAN von RANSON

About 50 people attended a “buy-in” at Diemand Farm on Wednesday, to support a “no” vote on Question 3.

Brian Klippenstein of *Protect the Harvest* and Diane Sullivan of *Citizens Against Food Tax Injustice* spoke to the crowd. Klippenstein said small farms like Diemand are necessary for food sustainability, and Sullivan said that Question 3’s passage will lead to higher food prices.



JOSH HEINEMANN PHOTO

Diemand is the only farm in Massachusetts directly affected by the question’s mandate that laying hens not live in cages. The main impact would be in retail.



Diane Sullivan of *Citizens Against Food Tax Injustice* talks with Ray McIntyre at the rally.



Speakers described the farm as a “sacrificial lamb” to a Humane Society strategy actually aimed at large factory farms outside the state. Attendees bought eggs, meat and prepared foods at the Diemand Farm Store.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Obear Awarded Annex Rehab Project

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard made further progress Tuesday on the revitalization of Turners Falls by approving a proposal to renovate a building at 15 Power Street. The structure, which the town acquired last year



FILE PHOTO

The developer hopes to turn the town-owned building into apartments and commercial spaces.

through tax title, is known as the “Railroad Salvage Annex.” It sits behind the crumbling former cotton mill which used to house the discount store called Railroad Salvage.

The development proposal was made by the Obear Construction company, which is also in the process of completing the renovation of the Powers Block in Millers Falls, has upgraded two abandoned apartment buildings in Turners Falls, and has applied to rehabilitate a portion of the town-owned Strathmore Mill complex.

The proposal, presented by Robert Obear, Jr., who sat at the front table with town planner Walter Ramsey, will provide for residential units on the upper floors of the building and “smaller spaces” on the ground floor for offices, artist studios, or “whatever the market demands,” in Obear’s words.

see **ANNEX** page A5

BEFORE THE FREEZE



DAVID JAMES PHOTO

A tranquil Lake Pleasant, as photographed by village resident David James.

A Transfer Station Like No Other

By NINA ROSSI

LEVERETT – The Leverett Transfer Station is a busy and social place, where residents intersect as they sort through and deal with their refuse and recyclable trash, with the help of several attendants and volunteers. It’s a meeting place with the attraction of a state of flux, being a place where things exist briefly before moving on to another place or material condition.

In this stream of motion, people fish for useful items and socialize. No longer do people go to “dumps” where things are permanently deposited into the earth. The process we are engaged in with our trash is all about sorting and hauling and re-using.

About half the households of Leverett (pop. 1,869) pay for private trash removal services. Others buy an annual transfer station sticker for \$30, and drive their garbage and recycling to the station.

Last year, five or six hundred stickers were sold, and they average almost a car a minute during weekend hours on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The station provides an opportunity to socialize, as well as browse through constantly changing offerings, in the many re-use sheds that line its “Main Street,” all built and maintained by community volunteers.



ROSSI PHOTO

Susana and Natalia browse used books.

Supervisor Sam Karlin and his 17-year-old son Max were on duty last Sunday when I visited. Max has already worked at the station for three years. When he started as an attendant, a big part of his job was working inside the paper

see **STATION** page A4

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

A “Strong Internal Candidate”

By MIKE JACKSON

Leverett’s selectboard wrestled Tuesday night with criticism over the planned promotion of Sergeant Scott Minckler to police chief. The opening was not widely advertised, given the board’s feeling that Minckler, whose position had been created in an effort to ensure department continuity, was probably right for the job, and the board did not receive any other applications.

Stuart Olson expressed the fire department’s support for Minckler. “He’s been hired, apparently, to take over for the chief, and I think it would be a good fit for the department and the town. He has a great rapport with the other department heads in town as

well,” Olson said.

But Gordon Fretwell, who had sat on both outgoing chief Gary Billings’ and Minckler’s hiring committees, came to express concerns about the process. He pointed out that when Minckler was hired for sergeant, he was not assured of succession to the chief position. “He was not hired as a chief-in-waiting,” Fretwell said.

Selectboard chair Peter d’Errico argued that the position had been created specifically “to get somebody of a caliber who could become a chief,” and that hiring a new chief from outside would leave the town with an excess sergeant.

He said that he feared advertising for the position without acknowledging Minckler

was likely to get the job would “be opening us up to charges of disingenuousness.”

Selectboard member Tom Hankinson argued that it was reasonable for someone hired into a role such as Minckler’s to expect to face outside competition. “The advantage that is provided to them by working in the system,” he said, “should logically give them a big step up ... and if that does not carry them,” they should not get the promotion.

“I don’t believe that’s the case here,” he clarified.

Selectboard member Julie Shively pointed out that until this month, the town did not have a personnel policy allowing for promotion.

“It’s not like it’s opening the door to some kind of see **LEVERETT** page A6

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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Technical Administration

About Face Computing

Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August, 2002

The Hall of Mirrors

We said at the outset that we would not be endorsing any candidates for public office this year, and we are perfectly happy to stick to that pledge.

2016 will go down in history books as a year of rupture in American national politics. The gravity and intensity of this year's presidential contest seem likely to leave deep marks, which will serve as reference points for years to come.

Decades of simple polarization, and the strain it placed on the institutions that have to maintain a stable center, have finally matured into a new era of fragmentation and utter confusion. The general ferment of distrust has blossomed, and dozens of ardently, angrily, actively misinformed camps now clamor to convince an uncaring world of their grievances.

These ideological divergences have gone past the point of anyone's ability to retrace their steps, regroup around an earlier consensus, and work back up to the present through rational argument.

Science, which unscrupulous characters have for years been unscrewing from public policy, has come loose entirely, and is simply one weapon among all the others. The very function of expertise has turned to burnt ash and blown away in the wind of public discourse, since education and experience are increasingly taken as hallmarks of corruption.

And everywhere, it's men who seem to be snapping. Yesterday morning a white man in Des Moines ambushed and killed two police officers, apparently because he was angry at police officers for stopping him from waving a Confederate flag in the faces of black women at a high school football game.

"I was offended by the blacks sitting through our anthem," he announced, to nobody in particular, on the internet. "Thousands more whites fought and died for

their freedom. However this is not about the Armed forces, they are cop haters."

The fact that people like this are not well is beside the point. Everyone is less healthy, everyone more at risk, in a culture that feeds each person's paranoia, vindicates their suspicion, in isolation.

This culture is partly encouraged by certain leaders, and it is partly the unintended consequence of wiring so many of our interactions through consumer electronics.

But it also stems from a third source, which is the *absence* of contexts in which we have to research, engage with and analyze the structures of power collectively.

Fifty or a hundred years ago, our society was being actively shaped by movements and struggles for freedom, safety, comfort and inclusion; there were powerful and oppressive forces, but sometimes they could be made to contend with popular will.

Today, we are anxious and tired, and we are presented with images of innumerable famous, wealthy, powerful people; their well-being is somehow connected to the whole unjust system, but not always in easily comprehensible ways.

But it's easy to find out bad things about these famous people, if we look for it; it may not shed light on how the world works, but it confirms that they are corrupt and undeserving.

Nothing that happens in this election, or because of it, will fix this root problem: a growing number of people feel cheated, feel ashamed, feel confused, and want revenge.

Unless they can be convinced to work alongside the rest of us to solve the urgent problems we face, they will keep lashing out at enemies of their own choosing.

And next time, they may not choose such an easily defeatable clown to carry their banner: next time, we might really have to fight.



Letters to the Editors

Breathe In, Breathe Out...

There is a Sanskrit proverb that observes: "For breath is life, and if you breathe well, you will live long on earth."

Breathing is the only autonomous system of the body that we can also control. This means that, although the body governs our breathing, we can change how we breathe through conscious breathing practices such as *pranayama*.

Think about this in the context of new data compiled by sixteen scientists from eight international institutions who worked with the World Health Organization (WHO), which found that more than nine out of ten people on Earth – a mind-numbing 6.76 billion people – are breathing polluted air. The WHO analysis, which gathered data from 3,000 locations, using pollution monitors on the ground, modeling and satellite readings, found China to be the world's deadliest country for outdoor air pollution.

Air pollution is now claiming about 6.5 million lives each year according to the WHO report, with most deaths in China, India and other developing countries. That said, America does not get off easily: about 15% of the affluent cities in the USA, from Los Angeles to New York City, fail to meet air quality standards.

Air pollution is but one of the life-threatening impacts of human-caused global warming. Denial of global warming is not just an opinion, it has become a dominant mark of people's political identity. Putting that aside, I want to suggest an approach to understanding the importance of air quality for those who reject the conclusions of over 97% of the world's scientific community about global warming.

Here's a question: how dangerous is it to operate a gasoline engine in a closed garage? What happens is that carbon monoxide emissions reduce the amount of oxygen to the brain, causing CO2 intoxication, and lack of reasoning.

CO2 concentrations reach the "Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health" (IDLH) concentration of 1,200 parts per million (ppm) in only 7 minutes when a small 5-horsepower gasoline engine is run in a 10,000 cubic foot room. Now consider the CO2 air impacts of a 135-horsepower automobile in a single-car garage of 1,600 cubic feet.

If one can comprehend those scientifically demonstrable facts, here's a follow-up to this example. In 2014, some 260 million vehicles were registered in the US. This figure includes passenger cars, motorcycles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles – but not jet aircraft, which emit massive amounts of carbon dioxide.

While calculating the total number of motor vehicles on the planet is an inexact science, the number is growing rapidly. The automotive trade journal *Ward's Auto* has estimated that the vehicle count exceeded 1 billion sometime during 2010. Another calculation in July 2014 estimated that there were 1.2 billion vehicles on the world's roads, and that there would be 2 billion vehicles in service by 2035.

Our planetary garage is not big enough to prevent CO2 pollution from killing people. This is why the Chinese government has announced plans to take up to 6 million vehicles that don't meet emission standards off the roads by the end of the year, in a bid to mitigate that country's air pollution crisis.

Petroleum-powered vehicles are only one source of CO2 pollution that we humans do control. As a culture, we are in deep denial about the irreparable damage we have visited upon our collective home. Earth cannot begin to reverse its slide into an uninhabitable climate without the help from those who live on it.

Breathe in, breathe out...

Speedy Recovery!



We were very sorry to hear that our longtime writer, Joe Parzych, is laid up this month, recovering from a procedure. Joe has been writing for this newspaper since its first issue, and is a favorite of many of our readers.

You may recognize his byline from detailed and engaging bridge and road construction reports, or from his memoir of growing up in Gill, *Jep's Place*, which this newspaper syndicated.

We wish Joe a speedy recovery, and urge him to take it easy. Well-wishers can mail cards to 180 Main Road, Gill, MA 01354.

Aw, Thanks

I enjoyed the sweep and richness of Mike Jackson's long article in the October 27 issue, "Before All This."

It evoked a hilly, caribou-speckled pre-Lake Hitchcockian landscape beneath a Northampton farm field as it spun a yarn about a beautiful, intact Clovis point (early native spearpoint). It conjured possibilities of intrigue around the relic's discovery, and suggestions of ostracism, hoarding and funny business in Massachusetts archaeology.

Personalities emerged – a casually defiant Harvard PhD archaeologist, a generous finder, a taciturn farmer. I suspect the headline (quoted above) supplied a little dry contemporary political commentary.

Quite a treat!

Jonathan von Ranson
Wendell

John Bos
Shelburne Falls

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

CiderDays returns to Franklin County for the 22nd year, this weekend, November 4 to 6. There will be dozens of free workshops and activities for backyard orchardists, homebrewers, apple lovers, and families.

The festival also features a cider cocktails workshop; the Cider Salon, the world's longest-running hard cider tasting; and the CiderDays Harvest Supper, a locally grown feast. Events happen all over the county. For details, schedule, locations, and tickets, see www.ciderdays.org.

The Greenfield Savings Bank branch in Turners Falls has three public events scheduled for the upcoming week. Well-known singer, songwriter and poet **Annie Hassett** will be in the house for a fun-filled hour on Saturday, November 5, starting at 11 a.m. Highlights will include a sing-along plus listening to heartfelt poetry.

On Thursday, November 10, GSB will offer a seminar on **Elder Medical and Financial Planning for Veterans** and their dependents, from 9 to 11 a.m.

And on Saturday, November 12, **The Farley Five** comes back to Turners Falls from 10 a.m. to noon. This mainly stringed group has been

featured at the bank several times in the past, and is sure to again delight both young and old alike!

They have developed a following, and the bank is pleased to provide an entertaining two hours to its community friends. Enjoy a light refreshment and relax for a few hours on a Saturday morning.

Learn which seeds to buy, how to prevent cross pollination, wet and dry methods of **seed saving**, and proper techniques of drying and storing seeds on Saturday, November 5, from 1 to 2:30 pm in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

This workshop is presented by Moonlight Turtle Lodge, and funded by the Montague Cultural Council.

Nancy Salwen, a music teacher based in Keene, will introduce her new book, *The Fear of Singing Breakthrough Program: Learn to Sing Even if You Think You Can't Carry a Tune!*, at the Montague Bookmill on Saturday, November 5, at 2 p.m.

Salwen will lead a conversation about the techniques, strategies, and ideas she reveals in the book, and participants can try a few simple activities to discover how even non-singers can have an opportunity to experience the joy of singing.

The *Fear of Singing* book is specifically geared toward “non-singers” who wish they could sing, as well as anyone who would like to feel more comfortable and freer using their voice. In conjunction with the printed book, readers get access to online videos and audio tracks, which allow them to work at their own pace.

This Sunday, November 6 at 1 p.m., the Montague Elks lodge will host a **cultural awareness event** featuring Bryan Blanchette of the Nulhegan Abenaki Tribe.

Blanchette, who spoke at last week's high school forum on the school's use of an Indian mascot, writes: “My heart goes out to the students that have expressed online and at the meeting that they want to honor the Indigenous people. They are the ones being affected by this the most and don't appear to understand how the past is very much parallel to the present.

“I will discuss who I am, about my tribe and a discussion of the current event of what is happening with the pipeline in Standing Rock North Dakota.” The event is open to the public. The lodge is located at Columbus Avenue in Turners Falls, off L Street.

Greenfield Community College will hold a **Veterans Information Fair** on Tuesday, November 8, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the Cohn Family Dining Commons on GCC's main campus.

This event is open to all local veterans to meet with local and national organizations face-to-face who provide services and resources in our community, in addition

to learning about the opportunities available at the college.

For more information, contact Chris Demars, career/veterans affairs counselor, at demarsc@gcc.mass.edu or (413) 775-1825.

A liturgy is defined literally as “the work of the people.” **Join the Millers Falls community** on Veterans' Day weekend, November 12 and 13, for a weekend of art, food, service and celebration.

Saturday will be a work day. Volunteers will clean the Highland Park stairs, tidy up the Veterans' monument, and paint a mural. Sunday morning you will reflect praise with yoga and figure drawing.

Sunday afternoon activities will begin with a Capture the Flag game at Highland Park, co-sponsored by Montague Parks and Recreation, and a re-commemoration of the 80-year-old monument. Sunday evening will conclude with art, music, spoken word and a public feast.

For times and locations, see the “Millers Falls Improvement Association” page on Facebook.

And on Sunday, November 13, from 1 to 3 p.m., join Turners Falls RiverCulture in a reception in the Great Hall of the Discovery Center **honoring retiring town administrator Frank Abbondanzio** for his 30 years of service to the Town of Montague.

Light refreshments, and an exhibit of Frank's many preservation and redevelopment projects, follow a formal program at 2 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

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week ending 11/28/2016:

Grade 6
Tyler Tetreault

Grade 7
Sujal Manandhar

Grade 8
Jade Tyler

Another Letter to the Editors Against A Referendum

I was sorry to read that there may be a non-binding referendum on the school mascot issue.

I recently finished reading a book that features Al Gerhardstein, a well-known attorney who has dedicated his life to litigating civil rights cases for individuals whose rights as members of minority groups have not been guaranteed.

He states, “The worst way to protect minority rights is to put them up for a vote.” If we think about the past, his statement seems obvious.

I appreciate the process that the school committee is facilitating. I hope that as dialogue and education continues, proponents of keeping the mascot will see that moving forward with a respectful change will not diminish all of the accomplishments and memories that they are rightly proud of.

So many have come forward to testify how the mascot name and image is hurtful to them and their children. If we had never had a mascot, would this be the image and name we would choose now? Of course not. When we know better, we have the opportunity to do better.

I am hopeful that some of the individuals – including the brave students – who spoke at the first forum in favor of keeping the mascot will have a change of heart after hearing the words of the Native Americans who had the courage to come and speak.

I hope that as we continue with this process we grow stronger as a community and end up on the right side of history.

Anne Jemas
Turners Falls

November 7: Free Soup and Games Night to Benefit Diaper Bank

GREENFIELD – The Franklin County Diaper Task Force is the beneficiary of this month's Free Soup and Games Night, held Monday, November 7 from 5 to 7:30 p.m., at Greenfield's Hope and Olive restaurant.

Free Soup and Games Night is a monthly benefit event held at Hope & Olive the first Monday of each month. People come and enjoy a free buffet of soups & breads, grab a drink from the bar if they wish, purchase goodies from a bake sale, and sit down with friends to play games or chat.

It is the intention of Free Soup and Games Night to bring support to under-funded community organizations, and at the same time, to bring people together for a cheap and fun night out.

One out of three families struggles to afford diapers. Food stamps and WIC can't be used to purchase them, and a gap in the supply of diapers can have major implications for health and the parent-child relationship. Supplying diapers can allow a parent to enroll a child in childcare

and pursue school or work.

The Diaper Bank is run by the Franklin County Resource Network, a Community Action program. This is its third year of operation. It provides free diapers to families in tough financial times when they are struggling to make ends meet. It is currently distributing over 3,600 diapers a month, and the need is rising. The Bank is currently low on diapers, and needs funds to purchase them.

To find out other ways you can help, go to communityaction.org and click “Ways to Give.” The Bank purchases diapers at discount prices, and can provide a week's supply for \$15 to \$20, and a month's for \$50 to \$75.

You can also directly drop off diapers at one of the Drop Off Centers listed on the website. Diapers are needed now in sizes 4-6; kids outgrow those small sizes pretty quickly!

For information about the Diaper Bank or Task Force, contact coordinator Judith Weinthal at jweinthal@gmail.com.

Greenfield rCredits Offers Funding for Community Projects

FRANKLIN COUNTY – The Greenfield Area rCredits Community is now accepting proposals to award \$10,000 in funds for multiple community projects. Applications can be submitted for projects in the areas of renewable energy, small business development, social justice, food systems, and the arts. Possible types of funding include investments, loans, grants, and incentives.

The size of a typical award is expected to be between \$1,000 and \$2,000, though requests may be made for any amount up to \$10,000. Proposals can also be submitted for partial funding, where additional funding is (or will be) available from other sources.

To apply, complete a simple application form online at rcredits.org/funding by December 15, 2016. Awards will be announced in early 2017.

Greenfield rCredits is the oldest of four rCredits programs operating in the United States, and the first to offer funding for community projects. Developed by Ashfield-based nonprofit Common Good Finance, the rCredits program aims to empower individuals, small businesses, and communities through economic democracy.

“This first request for proposals is a huge milestone for Greenfield and for rCredits,” says William Spademan, Executive Director. “Democratic funding of community initiatives could be the key to a people- and planet-friendly economy.”

Proposals will be reviewed and scored by Greenfield Area rCredits members. If you have questions about the application process, or want to help score proposals, email info@rcredits.org or call Common Good Finance at (413) 628-1723.

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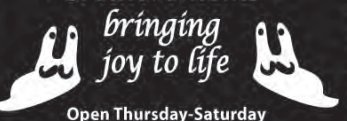
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Saturday, Nov. 12
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Portion of proceeds goes to
Farren Care Center residents.

STATION from page A1

recycling dumpster, stacking and compressing the paper and cardboard as people put it in to eliminate as much air as possible in the load.

Max is applying to colleges this year, and his top choice is Hampshire College. There might be a sustainable-energy-related focus to his future studies, he admitted, but it didn't sound like garbology would be a lasting interest.

His father Sam has been a supervisor at the station for about a year. He said with some pride, "When the position opened up, Max said, 'Come on, Dad!' And I thought, when is the next time a teenager is going to want to spend time with his father?"

Transporting materials out of the station is the biggest expense in the operation. On Sunday the shout "Paper's full!" brought Sam over with a key to run the new compactor and squash it all down some more. Before the compactor, paper was hauled at 2-1/2 tons; now, they can haul at 8 tons.

The biggest expense to get rid of is the trash, in terms of the hauling fees. This is passed on to residents who pay \$2 a bag to throw non-recyclable household trash. If folks sort out their food and non-recyclable paper waste into separate containers and add it to the composting dumpster at the station, they can reduce the pay-per-throw fees. Compostables go to Martin's Farm in Greenfield, a commercial composting facility.

Cans and Conservation

Bottles and cans can be donated to the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust in the first shed, the one with the big green dryer-hose "rattlesnake" hanging over the door. Over one million bottles and cans have been redeemed for the benefit of the Trust since its inception in 1987.

The RGT, which one Trust volunteer admitted "sounds like a Texas savings and loan," seeks to conserve land in Leverett. It owns and manages ten properties of over 300 acres, and has conservation restrictions on seven privately-owned properties (186 acres). It also holds restrictions on six properties (143 acres) owned by the town and purchased with funds from the Community Preservation Act. Those nickels really do add up!

At the door of the RGT donation shed, I was invited by volunteers Brooke Thomas and Rocky Adriance to come in and see the "art gallery". The egg crate insulated walls were covered with framed prints and a variety of paintings curated from the "take it or leave it" pile. Rocky let on that the complexities of sorting the various sizes and brands of bottles and cans into separate bins had actually halted cognitive decline among the Trust's senior volunteers.

Silver pull tabs are saved up and brought to the Shriners Hospital by one of the founders, Les Allen. Other pull tabs with color finishes are saved for a local jewelry maker.

Every two weeks or so, the group piles the returnables into a pickup truck ("looking like a fraternity") and redeems their load. "We earn about \$4,000 a year," commented Brooke. The money goes towards conservation and creating and maintaining a trails system through those lands. They sponsor various programs and presentations throughout the year as well. More information is available at rattlesnakeguttertrust.org.

Toys, Tours and Trainings

The latest addition this year is a kids' shed, for clothes, toys, and



The station's sheds are a popular hunting, and gathering, spot in the town.

other stuff for little people. There is a plan to make some shelves in the shed. A boy was very busy experimenting with the properties of magnetism in the form of several used games when I poked my head in. He said he wasn't going to bring the games home, though.

To one side of the shed, lots of large bulky plastic items sat in a pile, the kind of kids' toys that are hard to get rid of and that, in fact, the transfer station does not want to take but ends up with anyway. One resident commented that "these will be around after the big nuclear blast, just sticking up out of the sand."

Getting a container for these rigid plastics is on station coordinator Ananda Larson's wish list, along with an increased budget to pay for hauling it away.

Luckily, the city of Northampton is doing a Recycling & Reuse Rally this Saturday, November 5 at Smith Vocational High School. Volunteer Patricia Duffy said they will be bringing some of these bulky rigid plastic items down there for recycling. Details are available on northamptonma.gov and the event is open to the public and to people from beyond Northampton.

Volunteers play an important role, keeping the sheds organized and helping direct people to put stuff in the right pile. Larson said they are always looking for people to help out.

Along with the other volunteers, Patricia attended training through the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, and she said she is seriously into garbology.

The training included a field trip to the "Murf," the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility, where all the stuff except the compost for Martin's Farm, and metal scrap that goes to WTe in Greenfield, ends up. The SMRF handles waste from 73 municipalities. Individuals may be able to hop on to one of these tours by contacting the Franklin County Solid Waste Management district office at (413) 772-2438.

The Leverett Transfer Station's Facebook page is worth mentioning, because they continually post interesting links having to do with recycling and the story of stuff in general. I learned a lot by following some of the posts concerning textile recycling, the psychology of re-use, and other matters.

During my visit, I saw people carrying hunks of concrete, mercury thermometers, and plastic bins, and getting directions for disposal in various parts of the station. Often, these objects became the catalyst for conversation about a home improvement project or other life event. The next shed to be built, according to

Larson, might be a construction re-use one, where people could donate windows, doors and other materials.

Books, Brokers and Bake Sales

The library was getting a lot of use by young and old on Sunday, and the books were helpfully sorted by genre on the shelves. A Viking carpenter (his mother was Norwegian) named Steven L. Paul was hanging out there when I went in. He offered me a choice of candy treats. "Everywhere I go, I bring little candies, like Home Depot – they expect it now. I like to spread a little joy, and it helps," he said. "Now and then they'll say, 'how about this piece of plywood, it's got a ding in it!'" We looked over the books and agreed that the organization was much better than, say, the Salvation Army store.

My next conversation in the book shed was with an older couple, who asked me if Turners Falls was a good place for someone in recovery to get an apartment. We reached no conclusion, but they donated some interesting books to the collection. Recyclers seem a self-selected group of friendly people. Or Leverett is just a friendly town.

In the "take it or leave it" shed, a guy named Terry was leaving with a pair of handmade ceramic candlesticks. "This transfer station is the best," he commented. "The book shed is crazy. I come here with my daughter and I can get books, she can get books, and look – mugs!" he laughed, pointing at several shelves of them. "It's great! There's always stuff here. Hockey equipment! This is my chore, but I can bring my kid

and she has a ball. I think Leverett is really good for recycling, and as a town, we do really well." Terry wandered off to round up his daughter.

Perhaps because of the high price of disposal, there was no one poking around in the electronics shed to talk to. Sam said he had taken a brand new, but broken, dehumidifier out of there recently and managed to fix it. I asked him if the station had a policy about people taking stuff and reselling it.

"What is the point? It is being re-used, so what if someone makes something on it? We don't have a policy," he answered. "If someone wants to be that entrepreneurial, well, the stuff that winds up here isn't that great."

He thought about it for a while. "I guess if there were arguments when people got here, that would be different. But we haven't seen that. Sometimes the car parking gets a bit of an issue when it gets really crowded. But that only lasts about ten minutes."

Down by the bin where the metal scrap is thrown was what looked like a birthday cake. It was big enough to sit in. A local artist brought it there when he moved out of town, and they've kept it around as an item of curiosity.

But Sam remembers bake sales with edible cakes that were held at the transfer station by the elementary school, so-called "Dump Day" fundraisers. "It's where everyone congregates, after all," he said. "I like it here. I get to see my neighbors. It's a great place."



Sam Karlin (left) and Max Karlin (right) supervise and attend the station.

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ELLIS from page A1

the board that the appointed hiring committee had ranked their preferences, although he did not publicly reveal the ranking.

The committee was comprised of Abbondanzio; former selectboard members Pat Allen and Mark Fairbrother; Greg Garrison; Don Valley; and executive assistant Wendy Bogusz. Town accountant Carolyn Olsen resigned from the committee.

Kuklewicz stated that when making a decision like this, he makes a “list of boxes,” and that Llamas “ticks a lot of those kinds of boxes. But then if you look at what [Ellis] does, it’s a little more analytical. It started me thinking about things going on in town that might benefit from a different approach to problem solving.”

Kuklewicz then mentioned the issues at the town’s wastewater treatment plant: “Those things clicked a little stronger for me.”

Abbondanzio said he was impressed with Ellis’ experience in program evaluation. “We have a lot of programs in place that could probably use that attention,” he stated.

After a brief discussion, the board unanimously voted to appoint Ellis.

Background

Steve Ellis was born in the Brighton section of Boston. Brighton is a densely populated middle- and working-class neighborhood dominated by three-story apartment buildings – “triple deckers,” as they are called in the Boston metro area. After a brief stay in neighboring Brookline, Ellis’ mother moved the family out West to Conway, a town “about the size of my [Brookline] grammar school,” Ellis told the *Reporter*.

Ellis received an undergraduate degree in political science and soci-

ology at North Adams State College. His first job, from 1989 to 1992, was an administrative position with the Boy Scouts of Franklin County.

Living in Gill, he became familiar with every town in the region. Between 1992 and 1994 he completed a graduate degree in public administration at UMass. In the latter year he graduated, married, joined the Donahue Institute, and bought a house in Turners Falls with his wife Diane.

The Donahue Institute describes itself as a research institute focusing on organizational issues in both the public and private sector. Founded “nearly half a century ago... it evolved from the Institute for Governmental Services, primarily focused on consulting for state and local governments, into an organization known worldwide today for economic research, program evaluation, consultancy, and workforce and educational initiatives.”

Ellis has been the senior research manager for the Institute’s “Applied Research and Program Evaluation” unit. This group contracts with state and local governments, as well as school districts and private non-profits, for research that “informs strategic decision making” and “assesses the impact of... programs and meets accountability requirements.”

Examples of projects Ellis’ unit has recently completed include a study of the foreign-born population of Worcester; governance at the Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School; programs in the Lowell, Attleboro and North Adams school districts; and “Strategies to Support the Plastics Industry in Massachusetts.”

Ellis stresses that he does not consider himself primarily an “academic.” The institute works with “passionate engaged leaders from

the public and private sectors to improve the effectiveness of local organizations.”

“That’s the fun part,” he told the *Reporter*.

However, his career at the Donahue Institute, while “intellectually engaging... never allowed me to make a direct impact, a substantial contribution to my community.” That experience has been “held at bay by my role as a specialist.”

In deciding whether to apply for the Montague position, he stated, he needed to think about “what I want to do with my life.”

In his interview, Ellis shared with the selectboard his perspectives on Montague’s current needs. One of these, he said, is the need for stability.

“I think one of the things Montague has enjoyed is a level of stability,” he told them. “I think it is very important that we have consistent leadership moving forward. And in coming to this position, I hope you know that I am not coming as someone who has a short-term view and commitment to the community, but a longer term view...”

“We’ve certainly seen with the school district where there have been professionals – perhaps understandably – who have used the job as a stepping stone. There are ripple effects in an organization when you have that. So, I just want you to know that my intention would be to really make a commitment to this community.”

As of press time, Ellis has not finalized a contract with the town, but he says he hopes to begin work on November 28. He stated that there would be a “brief period of overlap” with current administrator Frank Abbondanzio.



ANNEX from page A1

The “biggest hurdle” for the project, he said, is the building’s lack of water and sewer connections. To make these connections will require negotiations with the utility which owns adjacent property, FirstLight Power Resources.

Proposals for 15 Power were requested under the town’s commercial homesteading program. Under this program, town buildings are sold to developers for a nominal fee, but the town retains some control over the development process, including the funding. One goal is to avoid the sale of decaying buildings to developers who do not have the resources to stabilize and upgrade them. The Annex is being sold by the town for \$10,001.

Ramsey described the process by which the Annex was marketed. A number of companies showed interest in the structure, but only Obear submitted a final proposal. The company, according to Ramsey, met the town’s criteria. He noted that Obear will be applying for historic tax credits, and the project will require the approval of the planning board for a special permit.

The board asked Obear for an update on his current projects. He stated that three of the four buildings in the Millers Falls project are finished and occupied. The fourth – the main building in the complex, known as the Powers Block – should be ready for occupancy in the spring.

Two apartment buildings in Turners, which Obear was assigned through the state receivership program, have been completed, with one occupied. As far as Building 11 in the Strathmore complex is concerned, the project is on hold until

the town develops a plan to create water and sewer connections.

The board also asked Obear some questions, culled from a list of 13 submitted by Millers Falls resident Jeanne Golrick. For example, Golrick asked about the adequacy of parking at the site, which she estimated requires over 90 spaces, and requested that the board declare the proposal “non-responsive” on the issue.

Obear stated that he planned to create “40 to 50” spaces, an answer that seemed to satisfy the board. They voted unanimously to accept the proposal.

During the discussion, the board was asked about the status of the adjacent Railroad Salvage building. That building has recently been owned by Solutions Consulting Group LLC, of which Golrick was the last remaining member, but which according to a public database maintained by the Corporations Division of the Secretary of Commonwealth’s office was dissolved, either by court order or by the Secretary, on June 30.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio stated that the building is in tax title, a legal process for forcing the payment of back taxes that could culminate in town ownership.

Obear said that if no progress was made on the building, he might call the federal Environmental Protection Agency to “hold the current owner liable.”

Expensive Waste

The board held a sewer rate hearing, and approved a significant hike in rates – 17% – for local sewer users. This would mean a rate increase of \$8.00 per 1,000 gallons for residents of four of the five villages. Millers

Falls is attached to the Erving sewer system. The rates apply to both residential and industrial users.

Selectboard member Michael Nelson said that he might not have approved such a large increase, were it not for the fact that the percentage was required by the budget voted by the May annual town meeting. Selectboard member Chris Boutwell agreed.

Charles Blanker of the paper company PaperLogic, which is renaming itself the Turners Falls Paper Company, noted that the town has an agreement with his firm to use all balances from the previous year, called “retained earnings,” to reduce sewer rates. According to Abbondanzio, \$376,000 in retained earning has been certified by the state.

Blanker stated that PaperLogic would be flexible on the issue, as it has been in the past. He also raised a number of concerns about the water pollution control facility (WPCF) budget, and the ability of the water districts to accurately measure water usage. The sewer rates are calculated based on water usage during the winter months.

The hearings represented the first appearance of newly appointed WPCF superintendent Bob McDonald, and the last of consultant Grant Weaver, who has served as the facility’s interim superintendent since the beginning of July. The meeting was, in Weaver’s words, his “swan song.”

The board approved a change order of \$23,850 for work on the main drain project. The project, which aims to stabilize the runoff drainage siphons under the power canal and the attached drain to the Connecticut River, is nearly complete. A good

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deal of the work was done when the canal was emptied for its annual cleaning in September.

“Do you think we could be a little more proactive?” asked Rich Kuklewicz, referring to cleaning the siphons.

“You mean more than once every hundred years?” said highway department head Tom Bergeron, who presented the change order request.

Other Business

The board approved a number of requests from Bruce Hunter connected to the 2016 Community Development Block Grant program. These included \$22,500 to the firm Berkshire Design to oversee lighting

extensions on Avenue A; \$27,466 to Montague Catholic Social Ministries for an adult English language literacy program; and \$35,000 to LifePath, Inc. for meals for the elderly.

The board approved a number of permits for a proposed November 18 walk against suicide, sponsored by an organization called the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. The event is called the “Out of the Darkness Walk to Fight Suicide.”

After approximately an hour and a half, the board adjourned to a non-public executive session to discuss legal strategy involving the Berkshire Gas moratorium. The next meeting is scheduled for November 7.



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LEVERETT from page A1

trouble,” Fretwell argued, to have a full hiring process. “What it’s doing is closing the door against future challenges.” He described the board’s actions as a “shortcut.”

“In this instance, I think we should go forward with it,” Hankinson said. The board agreed to refine the policy in the future.

“Each situation is going to have a somewhat unique quality to it, about whether we have a candidate in waiting or not,” d’Errico said.

“Be honest about it – not have a lot of people apply for a job they’re most likely not going to get,” said Shively.

“You can simply say in the ad, ‘Strong internal candidate,’” Hankinson suggested. “There’s nothing wrong with it.”

The board made a plan to interview Minckler at its November 15 meeting, and if they decide to hire him, invite the community to a meet-and-greet at a later date.

“Do I get a finder’s fee?” joked Billings, who had been listening quietly to the discussion.

Cracking the Whip

The board next met with a quorum of the town’s capital planning committee, which is tasked with devising a workable 20-year schedule for major purchases for the fire, police and highway departments, as well as the transfer station.

Ricky Roberts said that it had been three months since he had heard from fire chief John Ingram, though the fire department had indicated a desire for a rescue vehicle and brush truck.

“Medical calls are like 60% of their calls,” Roberts explained. “They were supposed to get back to me with definite prices and invoices.” One of the town’s fire trucks, Engine A, is in its 16th year of service.

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis speculated that Ingram’s lack of urgency may have been connected to the cancellation of the fall annual meeting.

Chief Billings has been maintaining his vehicle out of the police department’s budget, and it does not appear on the town’s capital plan-

ning schedule.

Some of the transfer station’s equipment will no longer be included in that schedule going forward, because the department has begun sharing containers with the county waste district.

Highway superintendent Dave Finn has indicated a desire to reconfigure the attachments and functions of various of his department’s trucks.

The capital planning committee was reminded of its mandate to independently pursue department heads, even if they are focused on more urgent priorities, for the information it needs in order to assemble its plan in time to make recommendations to the selectboard and finance committee.

“Feel free to crack the whip,” d’Errico told them, and Hankinson offered to have a word on the side with the department heads.

Throwing In the Towel

The town has received a response from the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to its letter objecting to Leverett Elementary School’s demotion to a “Level 3” school.

That designation was automatically assigned because six students too many “opted out” of the standardized PARCC test in the spring.

“State law (G.L. c.69, s.11) requires that all students who are educated with Massachusetts public funds participate in a statewide student assessment program,” wrote DESE senior associate commissioner Russell Johnston.

“In addition to state policy and law,” the letter continued, “the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) require a 95 percent participation rate.... We now consider this issue closed.”

“It doesn’t answer our question,” said d’Errico. “They didn’t respond at all to the non-applicability to a small school.”

“We’re not going to get anywhere with them,” said Shively. “And [state senate president] Stan [Rosenberg] has basically thrown in the towel.”

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Harrowing Debate Over Mariamante Lot

By KENT ALEXANDER

The Gill selectboard met on Monday night and very quickly soared through the scant business on hand before adjourning. While selectboard member Greg Snedeker was away with family, the remaining members dealt with the business items that administrative assistant Ray Purington brought for their consideration.

Purington reported that the work to build a filtration system on the Gill Elementary well was proceeding progressively, and that a civil engineer continued to prepare specs for the system that is replacing the outdated one.

The next order of business was a query by a local farmer about possibly using the Mariamante property field. Purington reminded selectboard chair John Ward and member Randy Crochier that they typically sought multi-year contract bids in January for use of the property’s open field.

Purington further explained that when the farmer inquired about using cow manure as a fertilizer on the field, he informed him that he could do so but would, more than likely, not get to use the field in the future.

A conversation then ensued about using fertilizers and other chemical products to eradicate weeds. Ward stated that he was totally opposed to the use of the product Roundup, and Crochier said that he, too, was “uncomfortable with something like that.”

Addressing the town’s opposition to tilling the soil, Janet Masucci, who tapes the meeting for the town’s cable committee, noted that there were other ways to “loosen the soil” without tilling. Crochier remarked that a “light harrowing” might be possible. Ward agreed, but then, with a smile, wondered how the selectboard might qualify what a “light” harrowing would be, and observed that any harrowing could begin a “slippery slope” towards tilling.

All present agreed that the town’s stipulation of not using pesticides or herbicides on that plot of land should stay in place, and that they would agree to leave things as they were.

Next came the announcement by Purington that Gill had received a FY’17 Cultural Council grant in the amount of \$4,400. Both Ward and Crochier remarked that they were pleased that this grant total had not been reduced.

Purington finished the night’s business with two public service announcements. He noted that early and absentee voting in Gill had really taken off this year before stating that November 3 was the last day for Gill residents to vote early.

The second was a first time home buyer’s workshop, sponsored by the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority. This workshop will be held from November 14 through 17, during the hours of 6 and 8:30 p.m., at Stoughton Place in Gill.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Dog, Child, Calf, Drivers: Some Lost, Some Found

Friday, 9/23 8:05 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with lost 4-year-old child. Monday, 9/26 2:45 p.m. Larceny reported at French King Highway residence. Under investigation. 3:35 p.m. Illegal dumping reported on Oak Street. Wednesday, 9/28 9:30 a.m. Unsecure boat found at state boat ramp. Owners located and returned same. 12:50 p.m. Section 12 on subject from Main Road business. Thursday, 9/29 2:18 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on West Gill Road. Under investigation.	1:41 p.m. Erratic operator of motor vehicle located on French King Highway. Spoke with same. 5:15 p.m. Loose dog found on River Road. Friday, 9/30 3:31 p.m. Medical emergency at Stoughton Place. Same transported. Saturday, 10/1 5:55 p.m. Motor vehicle accident, Main and Mountain roads. No injuries. Tuesday, 10/4 9:05 a.m. DCF requested assistance at Main Road residence. Thursday, 10/6 6:55 p.m. Removed subject from French King Bridge. Family member from Bernardston took party back	to residence. Sunday, 10/9 6 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle on French King Highway. Family member moving out. Monday, 10/10 7:15 a.m. Firearms issue at Dole Road residence. 10:10 a.m. Suspicious truck with NH plate reported on Mountain Road. Located same: hunters. Tuesday, 10/11 5:40 p.m. Medical emergency at Stoughton Place. Same transported. 6:30 p.m. Intoxicated operator reported, coming from Turners Falls into Gill. Not located. Wednesday, 10/12 9:20 a.m. Animal complaint	of loose calf in roadway on North Cross Road. 11 a.m. DSS requested assistance at River Road residence. 9:35 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with disturbance in their community. Thursday, 10/13 2 p.m. Assisted Riverside resident with harassment issue. 5:55 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with injured party on Turners Falls Road. Friday, 10/14 2:55 p.m. Animal complaint of dog locked in motor vehicle at Route 2 boat ramp.
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“When you get to the fact that the feds are behind it,” d’Errico said, adding that he liked to call the NCLB the No Child Left Act.

Other Business

Tim Haas has been working on an assessment of the town’s information technology needs, funded by a state Community Compact grant. The final report is nearly complete.

Leverett resident Mark Roch has been volunteering to help with the project. “He’s going to help us evaluate what we absolutely need going forward, that we should pay for first,” said d’Errico, “in a kind of triage of the budget for IT.”

The selectboard appointed Jane Sinauer, David Henion, Nancy Emond, and Dawn Marvin Ward to the cultural council, following the resignations of Carole King and

Laureen Shea.

The Council on Aging has suggested putting an outdoor, level walking trail around the school, having found a grant for \$1,500 that might be used for that purpose. D’Errico warned that he had read that Erving has run into projected costs an order of magnitude higher than that for a track at their elementary school.

The town is not planning on doing anything about an abandoned house on Dudleyville Road.

Edie Field has suggested that a house with 60 acres, for sale on Long Plain Road, could be used for affordable senior housing. “We haven’t really done senior housing in depth, because it seems so far-fetched in Leverett,” Shively said, but the board agreed to refer the idea to the affordable housing trust.

A new filtration system has been installed at a Teawaddle Hill Road house where the town is required to provide safe drinking water.

Either housing rehabilitation, or a project to connect the town’s problem houses with Amherst’s drinking water system, might be the target of the upcoming Community Development Block Grant application.

Along with that application, the town must submit an updated development strategy, and the board is required to allow for public input. They agreed to show up 15 minutes early to their next meeting in case anyone wants to give them input, though the event is not a hearing, and only needs to be posted at town hall.

Local residents are asked to report leaning trees, which might fall, because there is not enough water in the earth.



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NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Committee Discusses Buildings’ Needs; Hears of Pressures on Budget

By EDITE CUNHA

Superintendent Michael Sullivan told the Gill-Montague school committee at its Tuesday meeting that early release days continue to provide valuable time for educator professional development.

“On October 26, most middle school teachers participated in a session on how to implement restorative community building and conflict resolution practices in their small group ‘Circles’. Most high school teachers attended training on increasing the amount of higher order thinking tasks in their classes. Most elementary teachers and para-professionals attended a presentation by Sally Grimes on literary instructional strategies to improve student oral language skills and vocabulary acquisition,” he reported.

Also on October 26, state Senate president Stan Rosenberg attended a meeting of the Rural Schools Coalition. Senator Rosenberg recommended the Coalition draft language about its proposals that could be inserted into the RISE Act, an education funding bill that the Senate has passed and the House has not acted upon.

The Coalition has requested that area school committees vote in support of the Coalition’s rural school aid proposal, and vote to support its rural school resolution.

The superintendent said he is interested in learning more about a system called COPSYN911, which allows school teachers and administrators to contact police directly, with a couple of computer keystrokes, in the event of a serious emergency event. It has the potential to reduce police response time to an incident, and provides the police with the exact location of the caller. It also allows all school personnel hooked up to the system to be in direct two-way written contact with the dispatcher during an emergency.

The costs would include annual fees for the police department, as well as a start-up cost of \$3,600 per school building and \$1,800 per school annually.

Improvements and Maintenance

Joanne Blier, director of business and operations, presented an “early look” at capital planning for the FY’18 budget.

The Gill selectboard’s one-year study on the replacement of the Gill Elementary School roof is still in progress. Blier is awaiting the results before determining if that project will be included for completion in FY’19. Other proposed Gill projects include an upgrade to electrical panels, replacement of kitchen floor, and replacement of floor tiles throughout the building.

At Sheffield, the auditorium window project is in its final stages, and issues with failing windows on that project have been successfully resolved. In fact, according to Superintendent Sullivan, the gymnasium “is now too hot.” Thermostats have been lowered, resulting in some energy and cost savings.

Future proposed work at the school includes the installation of new fixtures and tiles in bathrooms, the replacement of water heaters for drinkable hot water, and replacement of rooftop AC units.

Many of these items date to the 1980s and are overdue for repair.

In addition, there is a need for new paving behind the building, and an elevator that would make the school handicapped accessible. Blier said this is still being studied, but she estimates costs to be approximately \$40,000.

Accessibility is also an issue at Hillcrest, where the stage is currently inaccessible; a ramp is planned to remedy this. In addition, Hillcrest also needs an upgrade of electrical panels, slated to cost \$50,000.

Committee member Marjorie Levenson brought up the issue of broken pavement in the main entry circle outside Hillcrest, which she thought to be a liability for the department. “Some of those holes are pretty deep,” she said.

Other committee members, Leslie Cogswell and Heather Katsoulis, were also concerned about areas in need of pavement behind Sheffield. “They are so bad that they are highlighted with paint,” said Katsoulis. Blier agreed to look into it, and add paving at both schools as a capital request for FY’18.

Blier reported that two hot-water heaters at the high school are in need of replacement, and could cost \$50,000 each. The department is currently studying the situation and looking for alternatives. They are considering creating an outdoor covered storage area to house equipment currently exposed to the weather.

The purchase of a dump truck has been pushed to the FY’19 budget.

Budget Worries

Blier reported that there are considerably fewer students from Erving enrolled than the 70 anticipated in the FY’17 budget, who were projected to bring \$900,000 in tuition revenue.

“We have 53 [Erving] students this year, and are at about \$750,000 now,” Blier said. “It is time to start tightening the belt, but I am not panicking yet.”

The district’s director of pupil services, Nancy Parlakulus, presented information on special education. There are 197 students with independent education plans (IEPs). The 6th and 7th grades have the highest numbers, at 25 and 24 students respectively. Students needing therapeutic support have increased. Overall, there is a higher number of students with needs being served in the district.

Most alarming has been the increase in students needing “out of district” services. There are currently 15 students being educated outside the district, in either day or residential programs. A residential program costs approximately \$100,000 per year. Students are sent out of district when a team of professionals decides in-district options have been exhausted. This is a difficult issue to manage because it is so unpredictable; students move in and out of districts when their families move.

Blier was still investigating a proposal to purchase net-metered solar electricity, and was not ready to report to the committee on it. “I am not comfortable with the standing proposal we’ve received,” she said.

Principals and administrators are

engaged in preliminary budget discussions and developing wishlists for FY’18. These are due in mid-November; Blier will return after that with updated plans.

Mascot Discussion

The committee discussed the first public forum on the high school “Indian” mascot issue. Overall, members were pleased with the process, and discussed ways to fine-tune the second forum, scheduled for November 15 at 5 p.m.

Chair Michael Langknecht said several people had approached him with concerns about the timekeeping for individual speakers. He said that they would work to tighten that up at the next forum, though all present agreed that the superintendent had done a fine job as timekeeper. “We want to keep it professional and low-key,” Langknecht said.

Jeff Singleton addressed the committee during the public comment period to inform them that he is considering placing a non-binding referendum on the May 2017 town election ballot, relative to the question of changing or keeping the mascot.

Vice chair Sandy Brown expressed a desire to keep the forums focused on education. She said she would like to see people on both sides of the issue approaching the forum in a spirit of self-education. She said that one thought she has about a ballot referendum is that although it gives people the opportunity to vote, it does not necessarily encourage them to educate themselves on the issue.

Jane Oakes said she felt it was not the school committee’s role to call for a referendum, and she hoped that the public understood that. Langknecht said the committee needs to get clarification on its role relative to a referendum.

Committee members also asked for direction and clarification on what their legal responsibilities are relative to the numerous emails they are receiving on the issue. While they read all emails, they are not responding to them. Emails received by members in their official capacity are public record, and must be presented for perusal upon request by any member of the public. The committee agreed to create a folder with the committee secretary to hold copies of emails forwarded by members to the chair.

Christina Postera said she wanted it made clear to the public that members do not discuss any business outside of public meetings, either in person or via email. Cogswell suggested that a message be included in the superintendent’s website thanking the senders and assuring them that they are being read.

Sullivan informed the committee that he has been lining up speakers for educational meetings after the forum. He has “penciled in” a lead archeologist and historian on the Battlefield Project for November 30 at 6:30 p.m., and, on December 8, speakers from UMass-Amherst will discuss stereotypes and bias.

He said he is hoping to get more Native American speakers and also representation from Turners Falls High School Alumni Association to speak. Educational programming is also planned for the middle and

Clerical Assistant to Boards (Part-Time)

The Town of Gill is seeking applicants for a part-time Clerical Assistant to attend monthly evening meetings of the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning Board.

Duties include taking & transcribing minutes of meetings & public hearings, filing, mailing meeting & hearing notices, and responding to email inquiries. Occasional clerical projects and filing for the Conservation Commission and Board of Health.

Workload fluctuates, and number of weekly hours is highly variable (averages out to 2-3 hrs/wk). Pay starts at \$13.44/hr. Requires excellent writing ability, basic secretarial & computer skills and ability to work independently. Municipal experience & zoning knowledge a plus!

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Request for Proposals

COMPUTER AND NETWORK SUPERVISION

Town Office Building, Town of Wendell,
6 Morse Village Road, Wendell MA 01379

The Town of Wendell requests proposals from individuals or organizations experienced in supporting computer use, and in supervising, maintaining, and planning computer networks, to provide these services to all Town departments operating in the Wendell Town Office building, located at 6 Morse Village Road in Wendell, Massachusetts.

Town departments are currently using an array of personal computers, approximately 10, all at individual work stations, and all running Windows OS, that are networked in a simple peer-to-peer arrangement, affording access to a central printer, and back-up to a central hard drive. Departments operating from this building include Selectboard, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Treasurer, Assessors, Board of Health, Finance Committee, Planning Board, and Conservation Commission. Typically these offices operate on average the equivalent of 2 work days per week.

The building is also used by several committees, which typically meet once a week, or more commonly once every 2 weeks, for 2 to 3 hours. These include the Broadband Committees, the Open Space Committee, the Energy Committee, the Agriculture Committee, the Cemetery Commission, the Technology Committee, and the Kitchen Committee. Computer use is varied among the committees, but generally if they do use computers members bring their own laptops, of various kinds with varying OS, and typically connect to the building network only for the internet connection.

The first responsibility of the Supervisor will be to maintain and support the computers and network as they now exist. This includes trouble-shooting any problems with individual computers, assistance with hardware and software upgrades or changes, and maintenance of the network and back-up system that now exists, network security, and coordination of any computer related purchases.

The second responsibility of the Supervisor will be to plan for the future development of this system. This will include an analysis of the technology needs of each department, and recommendations for improvements in individual department systems and in the network. One option for the future the Town is considering is an upgrade to a server based system. Another feature being considered is a central e-mail and document repository. The supervisor will consider the present and future needs of each department, research possible future options, and make a recommendation to the Town which will include a design for a future system, and a detailed budget showing the hardware requirements, costs, and the cost of labor for installation and implementation. The Town hopes to receive this recommendation in time to present it to our Annual Town Meeting in May, 2017. The Supervisor will work together with the Town Technology Committee to prepare a recommendation, or recommendations, to the Selectboard.

A proposal responding to this Request should include a summary of the qualifications of the proposer, references, and a not-to-exceed price for providing the above services from the current date until June 30, 2017. For further information, please contact Town Coordinator Nancy Aldrich at (978) 544-3395, or news@townofwendell.com. Town departments can also be contacted at this number or at wendellmass.us.


Proposals should be mailed or emailed to Nancy Aldrich at either address above, to arrive by **November 29, 2016** at 3 p.m.

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MONTAGUE REPORTER



Alice Thomas of Greenfield takes a break during her visit to the Heckscher Museum in Huntington, NY.

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ON THE ROAD



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TURNERS FALLS – With a mesmerizing intensity and presence, unique in voice, vision and guitar style, Tony Bird, the Malawi-born song man, is a complete original.

Growing up in southern Africa in the era of colonialism and apartheid, Bird developed a sharp, conscious, universal eye. His expansive, international repertoire ranges from topical and historical commentary to love songs, musical tone poems and exotic travelogues and stories that roam from bushmen to bicycles.

Tony is playing this Saturday, November 5 at a private home in Turners Falls. Seating is limited; reserve by calling (413) 834.8800 or email nalerossi@gmail.com. Suggested donation \$20 per person.

Arrive at 7 for light refreshments (bring your own bottle) and pre-concert schmooze. Concert starts at 7:45 p.m. Tony will be playing two sets with an intermission.


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Chasing our Tales

By LYN CLARK

TURNERS FALLS – Whether they came as colonists to this country in the 1600s, or were the indigent people who greeted the colonists when they arrived, or reached these shores in the 19th and 20th centuries, our ancestors participated in events that led through many permutations to... you and me.

And they left something behind for us: even though several generations removed, they may have left the color of their eyes, their quick wit, a tendency to blush, their big feet. We all carry bits and pieces of their DNA inside of us.

Not all of our ancestors left a story to tell, and not all, of course, had sterling characters. Our ancestries are sprinkled with as many rogues,

rascals and ne'er-do-wells as are found in any society, past and present; but unless they did something so outrageous that it was hard to sweep under the rug, their depravities were probably expunged from the records by those anxious to preserve an honorable family name.

We want you to tell us the stories of *your* ancestors, be they saints or sinners, be they happy or tragic tales – stories that you think will intrigue, amuse, entertain, illuminate, astound, educate, delight or in some way appeal to our readers.

I will kick this genealogy column off with a story of which I was recently reminded when I saw a review of the new Broadway show, see **ANCESTORS** page B4

Connecting through Culture: Local Immigrants Share Stories

TURNERS FALLS – Last Friday, a closing reception was held at the Great Falls Discovery Center for the month-long exhibit that has been showing there, “Migration: Connecting through Art and Culture of the Americas.”

The exhibit was sponsored by Montague Catholic Social Ministries, DCR, and the Guatemala Art and Culture Connection, and featured original arts and crafts from traditional Mayan villages around Lake Atitlan, Guatemala, as well as some pieces from Ecuador.

Friday's reception was open to the public and featured Guatemalan, Mexican, and Ecuadorian food, a Day of the Dead altar made by local Latin@ residents, and performances by both professional Ecuadorian dancers from Northampton and Turners Falls' Grupo Folklorico, a children's dance troupe that celebrates the Guatemalan and Mexican roots of its participants.

Also featured at the reception were personal stories by local Guatemalan and Mexican immigrants. Two of these stories were contributed by Neida Berdugo of Turners Falls and Audi Gonzalez of South Deerfield, who agreed to share adapted versions with the Montague Reporter.

That They Have Roots

By NEIDA BERDUGO

My name is Neida Berdugo. I have three children. I was born on the border of Mexico and Guatemala.

I lived with my mom until I was seven. Then my dad took me with him to live in Turners Falls. Since then I have lived in the United States.

I am 25 years old now, and I have very few memories of my country, my culture. The things that

I remember are the food – tamales, mole, coffee – and I remember the holidays – Christmas, Independence Day, the festivals. I also have my memories of my family.

My grandparents grew coffee. They owned their own machine that processed the coffee. The machine would separate the coffee beans, wash the beans, and then they were put to dry. From the time we were very little, we drank coffee. We

see **ROOTS** page B4



ABBY GRASECK PHOTO

Grupo Folklorico of Turners Falls performs at the exhibit's closing last week.

Meet the Artists at the ArtSalon

TURNERS FALLS – The Art Salon is back in Turners Falls on November 10 presenting six local artists and their work.

The ArtSalon calls itself “a dynamic social evening of engaging presentations by established and emerging artists in the Pioneer Valley.” The event provides an opportunity for artists and designers of

all mediums to present their work and ideas in a format called Pecha Kucha (pronounced peh-chak-cha) of 20 slides displaying for 20 seconds each.

The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. with mingling and light refreshments provided by Ellie's Oils, and presentations start at

see **ARTSALON** page B3

Franklin County Pumpkin Fest 2016



GRACE JILLSON PHOTO



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

ABOVE: Avenue A was packed with people for the Franklin County Pumpkin Fest on Saturday.
LEFT: One of the Friends of Sheffield's entries.
LOWER LEFT: Shirley Morawski, 91, and her son-in-law, Michael Brule, enjoy themselves at the Pumpkin Fest. Their “bumblebees,” Walter and Virgil, were both adopted from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office regional dog shelter.
LOWER RIGHT: The Mega Dance group gave a dynamic performance at Avenue A and Third.



CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO



GRACE JILLSON PHOTO

TFHS Sports: Playoff Preview!

By MATT ROBINSON

The Turners Falls sports machine hit a trifecta of sorts this week as three fall teams qualified for the playoffs. The Volleyball Spikers finished second in the Northern Class with a 7-3 league record, and ended the regular season with a sweep of Mount Everett. The Field Hockey Lady Indians climbed the rankings ladder, beating the two teams above them, and the Football Indians won a battle in Deerfield to win the ICN Title.

Field Hockey

TFHS 6 – Central 0

TFHS 3 – Southwick 1

Two weeks ago, I wrote that “mathematically, Turners can finish in second place.”

Since I wrote that, the field hockey team fell into fourth place behind both Pioneer and Southwick. But their fortunes were in their own sticks, because their last three contests were all against West opponents, Pioneer and Southwick included.

To take second, the Tribe had to win all three of those games. Last week, the Blue Ladies shut out Pioneer, and this week, they beat Central while Southwick lost to Holyoke, putting the two teams in a second place knot with one winner-take-all game left in the regular season.

Before Friday's game, the only sure way into the playoffs was with a win.

And Turners did get the win over Southwick, qualifying them for the postseason and giving them home field advantage against none other than Southwick.

“We like to keep things exciting and wait until the last game to qualify!” coach Megan Gilbert joked with me after the win.

On Wednesday, October 26, the Lady Indians defeated Springfield Central 6-0. Powertown scored five first-half goals, and an insurance goal in the second. The win kept them in the playoff hunt.

Cassidhe Wozniak scored three of Powertown's goals while Alysha Wozniak, Julie Sprinkle, and Jade Tyler each scored one. Nicole Thibeault gave an assist in the win, and goalkeeper Haleigh Greene netted a shutout.

Two days later, on October 28, Turners knocked Southwick off the second place rung with a 3-1 win. After the field was plowed, the Lady Indians scored a quick goal and never looked back. Both teams scored again in the first half, and Turners added another goal in the second.

Cassidhe Wozniak scored two goals and had an assist, while Ali McKenna scored the other goal, and Amber Taylor gave an assist. In goal, Maddie Currier made two saves.

The first round of the playoffs goes through Turners Falls as the

Lady Indians host the Southwick Rams on Thursday, November 3 at 5 p.m.

And what's Coach Gilbert's take on playing tournament class opponents in the postseason?

“This group of girls always rises to the challenge,” she said. “And have proven they are an incredible team that can compete with the best of them.”

Volleyball

Mohawk 3 – TFHS 2

TFHS 3 – Mount Everett 0

The Turners Falls Volleyers finished the regular season with a loss and a sweep. On Wednesday, October 26 they were upset in a five-match game against Mohawk, and on Friday, they swept Mount Everett 3-0, putting their regular season record at an even 10-10.

More importantly, the Mohawk upset put the Lady Indians a half game behind the Sabis Bulldogs, who finished 11-10. Consequently,

see **SPORTS** page B6



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners' Amber Taylor works around a Southwick-Tolland defender.

Pet of the Week

Hi, I'm Augustus! Augustus is the name of the first Roman emperor, but I'll be content to be the king of your heart.

I came here as a stray, so there isn't a great deal known about my background.

I am a handsome, mature guy

seeking a homey place to park my paws. Come down and ask an adoption counselor about me.

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



“AUGUSTUS”

Senior Center Activities NOVEMBER 7 to 11

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.

Tues & Weds Noon Lunch
M, W, F 10:10 a.m. Aerobics; 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

Monday 11/7
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 11/8 CLOSED

ELECTION DAY

Wednesday 11/9
9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach
11:30 a.m. Friends Meeting
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 11/10
9 a.m. Tai Chi!
10 a.m. Coffee & Conversation
1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 11/11
1 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING
Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for activities and congregat

meal information and reservations.

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

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

Monday 11/7
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance
11 a.m. Manicure appointments

Tuesday 11/8
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
9:30 a.m. COA Meeting
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
Homemade Lunch

Wednesday 11/9
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs

Thursday 11/10
8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic
8:45 a.m. Aerobics (fast)
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors

Friday 11/11 CLOSED

VETERANS' DAY

LEVERETT
For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us. Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

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.

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

It's impossible not to notice the dark coming earlier and earlier each day, at this point – and with Daylight Savings ending the first week-end of November, those of us who work the day shift will be coming home to nighttime once again.

How will you spend your time? Perhaps you can enjoy the light of your local community TV channel!

Here's some of the new programming available on TV and our

website (montaguetv.org):

- Gill Montague Regional School District - Mascot Public Forum, October 25: Hear many people's words and arguments on the topic of changing the mascot of Turners Falls High School from the "Indians."
- A Quabbin National Park, October 13: Michael Kellett, executive director of RESTORE the Northern Woods, explains the proposed creation of a 120,000-acre Quabbin National Park, which would protect the watershed, allow

the recovery of native wildlife and attract increased tourism, and business to local towns.

- And check out Democracy Now every weekday at 6 p.m.!

Something going on you think others would like to see? Get in touch to learn how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment. Contact us at (413) 863-9200, info-montaguetv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. We'd love to work with you!

What's New at Sheffield?

By RICK WIDMER

TURNERS FALLS – The Montague community flexed its collective muscles last week. From up on the hill, the Friends of Sheffield Elementary School group celebrated the harvest season with a massive pumpkin-carving event.

200 pumpkins grown by Patterson Farm were topped, scooped and carved by a roomful of creative, hard-working parents and students, with members of the Community Health Center of Franklin County, Turners Falls Fire Department, and Montague Police Department pitching in to make sure that the pumpkins arrived safely and then found their way down to Avenue A on Saturday morning. Grandmothers Kovalsick and Edwards also helped with pumpkin prep and face painting.

On Saturday morning, the Montague Rec soccer team of 5th and 6th graders from Sheffield Elementary, Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School, and Great Falls Middle School charged up the road to the Bernardston Soccer Jambo-ree and took on all comers, finishing the tournament undefeated.

After the game, players and parents headed back home to the Pumpkinfest to join in Turners' annual celebration of seasonal bounty – an organizational *tour de force*, orchestrated by Michael Nelson and supported by the work of many volunteers. Montague was strong this weekend.

If you went to the Pumpkinfest, squeezed between food vendors and the beer tent, maybe you noticed our small booth – the Sheffield Elementary School. With our 200 pumpkins displayed on the



Last Saturday, the Friends of Sheffield hosted a raucous pumpkin-carving.

street, we proudly reached out to passersby, seeking to reconnect with Sheffield Elementary and Turners Falls High School students from days gone by.

Several teachers were with us, including Mrs. Eichorn, Mrs. Lofland, and Mrs. Montalvo. Mrs. Wood collared her fair share of former students to come sign the chalkboard. Once inside our tent, former students were able to flip through the dozen or so scrapbooks on display to find memories of the school's past thirty years.

Listening to the stories of former students was an education. One old-timer stretched his memory to recall that the school used to be the Turners Falls High School (the original home of the Indians!), and that the football field behind the school was called "Shef's Field," or something like that. Who was Shef? A war hero?

A former fire chief from Millers remembered the great fire that destroyed half the school. A younger man bragged that he was

the school's best pitcher. Sisters remembered their youth. Retired third grade teacher Connie Sicard stopped by. Teachers Michele and Bill Hazlett recalled that their love story of thirty-three years had begun at Sheffield.

One of the goals of the Friends of Sheffield group is to celebrate the connection between the Sheffield School and our community. We have a great building, great teachers, and great students. We have a long tradition of teaching our children.

As such, we have begun to plan a Sheffield Reunion for the spring of 2017. We would like to invite former students back into the building to share your stories.

This is your community school – the pride of Montague. If you would like to attend the Sheffield Community Reunion event, for more information, please contact sheffieldcommunityreunion@gmail.com. We hope to hear from you soon!

Fire Prevention Tips from the TFFD

By CAPT. KYLE COGSWELL

The Turners Falls Fire Department recommends the following monthly safety tips.

- 1) We have reached the time of year where it is imperative to change your batteries on all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. "Change your clocks, change your batteries."
- 2) Check dates of all your detectors, if detectors are older than 10 years, they should be replaced. "Don't wait, check the date, detectors must be replaced after 10 years."
- 3) Make sure your family has a family meeting place. This is a location in your yard where all members of your household know where to meet in the event of an emergency.

If you need assistance with detectors, please contact the Turners Falls Fire Department (413) 863-9023. Give us a "LIKE" @ Facebook.com/turnersfallsfiredepartment. Also find us at www.turnersfallsfire.org.



Capt. Cogwell has been on the Turners Falls force since 2003.

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Shannon Madigan - Property Manager

ARTSALON from page B1

7 p.m. The public is invited to mingle with artists, creators, critics and collectors in a friendly social gathering full of conversations about the arts in our community. There will be a brief question and answer period after the presentations, and there is a suggested donation to attend of 5 dollars.

Slated to present their work on Thursday evening are:

Mishael Coggeshall-Burr: Mishael is an artist who integrates photography and oil painting to create novel and compelling images on canvas. Taking blurred shots with a 35mm camera, the artist searches for peripheral scenes with cinematic color and tone and then translates them into abstract-realist paintings. Images from his international travels inform his work, as do scenes of local New England color. He lives and works in Montague with his wife and four children. See [coggeshallburr.com](#).

Christopher Janke: Christopher is a poet, artist, and entrepreneur. His work centers on the ways consciousness manifests within material, on notions of irrepeatability, and on the intersections of value systems. Through use of shadows from sunlight, his time-and-place-specific installations look at how words and concepts attach to the physical world. See [christopherjanke.com](#).

Anja Schütz: Anja is a Franklin County-based artist whose current explorations involve the concepts of humanity and divinity. Raised in Germany and the U.S., she attended the Hallmark Institute of Photography. Her recent project *#GrabHimByTheBallot* has garnered much regional attention. See [anjaschutz.com](#).

Rodney Madison: Rodney was born on Chicago’s Southside, and grew up surrounded by art and artists. Though creativity has always been a part of Mr. Madison’s life, he has only recently begun to focus his energy upon his painting practice. He is still learning every day that he paints.

Jen Simms: Jen is a practicing artist who teaches full-time in the Art Department at Greenfield Community College and lives and works in western Massachusetts. See [jen-simms.com/home.html](#).

Richard Widmer: Richard is a documentary filmmaker and artist. His recent activity includes the newly formed Millers Falls Arts Bridge (MFAB), an emergent arts and education project that aims to renovate an abandoned church in Millers Falls to co-create an international artists residency program and to support engagement between artists and the local community. See [millersfallsartsbridge.org](#).



Three Trapped In Elevator; Three Bears In Yard; Early Winter Storm; Masked Prankster

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Sunday, 10/23
7:56 p.m. Report of car vs. deer near the Rod and Gun Club on Turners Falls Road.
11:07 p.m. Caller from Third Street reports small group of males were banging on the crosswalk sign outside her residence. Caller asked them to stop and was met with yelling and curse words. Patrol officers advised.
Monday, 10/24
2:56 p.m. Caller from Avenue C reports that someone may have dumped a couch in the front yard of her neighbor across the street. Officer advised.
Tuesday, 10/25
2:11 p.m. Caller reports that someone stole \$125 from her wallet in her office at Farren Care Center yesterday. Report taken.
2:29 p.m. Two-vehicle accident on grounds of Franklin County Tech School; landscaping equipment struck a parked vehicle. Reported to school resource officer today and confirmed via surveillance. Report taken.
7:16 p.m. Report of car vs. deer at Mineral Road/Millers Falls Road; however, there is no car on scene, just a bumper. Deer taken by Rod and Gun Club. License plate still attached to bumper. Located vehicle on Lake Pleasant Road; operator stated that she did not have her phone and was driving to the Ramblers to speak to her boyfriend.
8:29 p.m. Caller states that the gate to the Rod Shop is not closed at this time, but he has not seen anything weird in the area. Officer advised.
Wednesday, 10/26
4:27 a.m. Report of barking dog on Park Street. Officer clear; owner advised of complaint; dog in the house now.
8 a.m. Caller from Erving complaining of idling train in downtown Millers Falls; believes it is the same train she reported Sunday night. Caller did report to Erving PD, but train was determined to be on Millers side of town line, so she was advised to call MPD. Caller listed several additional agencies she has already or will be reporting this issue to. Made contact with Pan Am, who advised the train in question has not been there for a week as alleged; advised the train arrived last night, there was a problem with it, and arrangements have already been made for it to be moved in a few hours.
12:20 p.m. Report of shoplifting incident at Food City; subject stole energy bars, etc. from the store. Officer located vehicle/subject in the Patch. Subject admitted to stealing the items; he did not have his wallet with him

but advised he would go to Food City tomorrow to pay for what he took. Subject advised that he is not welcome back in the store, aside from coming in tomorrow to pay for the items he stole.
1:20 p.m. Report of loose rooster on G Street. Caller followed the rooster but lost sight of it. Animal control officer advised.
3:19 p.m. Business owner requesting removal of an intoxicated homeless person from Third Street Laundry. Party moved along.
4:14 p.m. Report of one adult and two children stuck in the elevator in the Crocker Building on Avenue A. Officer advises access gained to elevator; subjects freed; requests contact maintenance to respond and address issue, as elevator has gotten stuck a few times today. TFFD also advised and will be standing by for maintenance.
4:17 p.m. Caller from L Street reporting that her boyfriend took her debit card and drained her bank account. Report taken.
4:52 p.m. Caller from Green Pond Road reports that his dog got loose; requests a call if it is located. Black lab with red collar and red spot on eye. Second caller advises that her daughter found a dog wandering on Swamp Road and attempted to locate the owner; when she could not, she brought the dog home. Description matches first caller’s dog. Checked dog listing; dog is registered, but rabies vaccination expired in September. Contacted owner, who located vaccination paperwork and states that most recent vaccination was on 4/18/16. Dog already admitted to kennel; officer advises that due to the totality of the circumstances, dog will remain at kennel overnight and owner will have to follow up tomorrow. Identified 12 calls (prior to today’s) reporting this dog being loose, spanning from 2012 to 2015. Copy of call left for animal control officer.
11:16 p.m. Officer received call direct asking

him to check K Street location for a male party and ask him to contact Greenfield PD. Officer made contact; party will be contacting GPD.
Thursday, 10/27
4:03 a.m. Caller from Montague Center reports three bears in his front yard, two in trees. Advised caller to keep pets inside. Patrol units advised.
6:45 p.m. Report from Marshall Street that transformer may have blown in area. FD en route.
7:29 p.m. Caller from Taylor Heights reporting possible fire on top of transformer on pole outside her home. Shelburne Control notified to dispatch MCFD.
7:49 p.m. First of three calls regarding tree limbs down in roads.
Friday, 10/28
5:09 a.m. Report of burglary/breaking and entering on Third Street. Report taken.
8:29 a.m. Report of vehicle striking train trestle at North Leverett and Gunn roads. Single occupant not initially responsive when caller got to vehicle. Occupant conscious now. Questionable entrapment. MedCare, MCFD, and officers en route. Vehicle towed; patient transported by MedCare.
9:27 a.m. Caller from Bridge Street requesting assistance contacting DPW re: a tree that they were going to remove due to a previous tractor trailer accident; advises that after last night’s snowfall, tree is leaning more than before over house and driveway. Contacted tree warden, who will be en route to evaluate the tree.
12:20 p.m. Report of tree down and low hanging wires at Old Sunderland and Meadow roads. Responding officer requests MCFD; advises wires are now touching the road, primary and phone wire. Shelburne Control, Eversource, and Verizon advised. Old Sunderland Road barricaded between Fosters and Meadow roads.
3:18 p.m. Caller from G Street reports finding a rooster in her yard and

does not know where it came from. ACO notified.
5:32 p.m. Officer flagged down by Cumberland Farms employee saying there was a shoplifter in the store.
Saturday, 10/29
2:18 a.m. Officer conducting vehicle stop at Avenue A/Fifth Street with MSP. Female detained; license suspended; drugs on board. Vehicle searched. MSP will issue summons for female.
11:19 a.m. Officer reports vehicle blocking Pumpkin Fest setup on Avenue A. Vehicle owner en route for car.
12:15 p.m. Report of second vehicle interfering with setup of Pumpkin Fest. Unable to make contact with owner. Vehicle to be towed.
4:23 p.m. One male on Avenue A taken into protective custody and later released.
4:56 p.m. Caller states that people she has had past “problems” with climbed on her vehicle, spit on it, and gave her a flat tire and have since taken off. Incident number assigned.
6:55 p.m. Caller states that a male party wearing a black mask is attempting to get into her home. Officers responding. Once on scene, officer advised that it was a family prank.
7:50 p.m. Male taken into protective custody then released.
8:17 p.m. After report of possible assault and battery on Avenue A, male taken into protective custody and later released.
Sunday, 10/30
8:36 a.m. 911 caller reports seeing someone hit a deer near Field of Dreams. Vehicle has damage and deer appears hurt in field near vehicle. Officer requests street sweeper if available. Vehicle towed; DPW on scene cleaning up.
2:03 p.m. Laptop reported stolen on Fourth Street last night.
2:54 p.m. Caller reports that a group of kids are running out in front of cars playing “chicken” on Central Street. Officer spoke to kids and parents. All set.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was November 2, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

LaRoche Hired as Town Planner

Montague has hired a new town planner. His name is Dan LaRoche, and he comes to town with an extensive background in land use planning and conservation – most recently as the director of land protection at Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, and for six years before that, as land use planner for the town of Greenfield.

LaRoche will fill the post left empty when the selectboard turned down former planner Robin Sherman’s request for a ten-month leave of absence to pursue a graduate degree in public administration at the Harvard School of Government. Sherman left the post in July of this year, and the town has been without a planner since then.

Standing Room Only at School Closing Forum

More than 80 parents and town officials packed a public hearing on school closing at the Montague Center School on Monday, October 30. The crowd got there at the scheduled starting time of 6:30 p.m., and waited patiently for the superintendent, who had a 7 p.m. start in mind from previous forums at the high school and in Gill.

By the time Superintendent Gee got there, the airless auditorium had heated up and swelled to capacity, with more than 100 residents

filling almost every seat and lining two walls.

All of this might have put the crowd in a combative mood, even if the topic at hand – the possible closing of the Montague Center School – had not raised their ire in advance. But the hearing that followed was notable for the civility of its discourse, despite the passion in the voices of many speakers.

The superintendent has estimated the school’s operating budget will rise by at least \$800,000 for the next fiscal year, if cuts aren’t made, or if a school isn’t closed.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Decamps from Crocker Building

U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the anchor tenant in the restored Crocker Building at Avenue A and 2nd Street in downtown Turners Falls, will be leaving its offices by the end of November, Silvio O. Conte Refuge Manager Andrew French confirmed Wednesday.

Fish and Wildlife employees will continue to provide partial staffing of the Great Falls Discovery Center, French said, and the staff at the Silvio O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center on the other end of the power canal will not be affected by the move.

French, without bitterness, said military spending by the federal government appears to be the cause of funding cuts to his programs.

“Because of other budget priorities at the federal level,” he said, “our portion of the domestic account has been shrinking... It’s part of life in the public sector.”

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Join us! Handmade gift items, handmade German sausages, homemade baked goods, raffles, and homemade soups for lunch!

ROOTS from page B1

drank a lot of coffee.

I remember when I was really little going to pick the coffee with my grandmother, and afterwards I watched how they processed the coffee.

Those are some of the few memories I have of my grandmother on my father’s side. My grandparents on my mother’s side grew flowers, very beautiful ones, and vegetables. I would go to visit them, but I did not know them as well as my other grandparents.

Since the time when I was tak-

en from there, I have not seen my mom or my other family members back in my country.

One of the things I want for my children is for them to learn about their culture: for example, that they learn to eat homemade foods, like the ones in Mexico.

Through food they learn a lot about their culture, because here you don’t see kids eating tamales, mole, enchiladas, and tortillas. I teach them to eat and to cook food from my country, and they ask me if it is what I ate when I was little.

I want my children to learn a little about their Latino culture. They can have two cultures, but it is very important that they don’t forget their Latino roots.

It is very important that they know that they have roots from there, even though they are more used to the culture here. I hope to one day take my kids to visit my mom, my grandparents, and my great-grandparents, and I want them to learn a little more about our culture.

Looking at the photos and art at the exhibit, I could see how common people live in my country. It is nice for me to see how life is there. I am grateful for the opportunity to share my story, and that these beautiful memories were brought to my mind once again.

Working with Dignity

By **AUDI GONZALEZ**

My name is Audi Gonzalez. I am originally from Tacaná, San Marcos, Guatemala which is in the western part of the country. This is my story.

I migrated to this country for a variety of reasons. The primary reason was that I had to flee from there because of domestic violence. Also, there is a lot of violence in my country.

A brother of mine was a victim of street violence. He was killed while working selling tacos in the street. They demanded money from him and he only had six *quetzals*, and so they shot him in the head. Extreme poverty is another reason why we come here, to help our families.

It is likely that some people don’t know that to immigrate to a new country, leaving one’s family, is very sad.

I am a person who does not forget where I come from. I am proud of the land where I grew up. I am among those who believe that my country has a large cultural wealth, just like each country has its own.

I have been here now for quite a few years, but even so, I don’t forget anything about my country. My

dream is that one day I will be able to go back to see my family once again, because I miss them like it was only yesterday that I left them.

I personally feel very nostalgic when remembering my country. There are so many memories – my family, my little town. I have lost many loved ones, and I have had to grieve them from afar, feeling the impotence of being far away.

As immigrants in this country, we face difficult moments. This is a great country, but it is also like the saying: “It is a cage made of gold.” There are things that limit you when you are not legal. Some people treat us like criminals if we drive a car without a license, but for some of us, that is a necessity, in order to take the kids to the doctor, to get to work, and to go grocery shopping.

Even though there are many big-hearted people who offer us their help when we need it, it is very sad that some people don’t value the hard work that we come here to do. We work hard, earn very little, and we can’t get permission to drive. That, to begin with, makes things very hard.

Even though we face challenges, I thank God that I am in this great

country. I have two blessings in my life, which are my two children.

I now have a new family here. My children have many opportunities here that they would not have in my country. This is their country, and it is here that I hope to be able to give them a good education, because it is not the same in my country. This is a country of big opportunities in which I hope to watch them grow up.

My hope is that there can be better opportunities for all immigrants, and that we can come out from the shadows and walk freely in the streets with our children. Because the work that immigrants do is a big contribution to this country.

We are people who come here to work and struggle for our families: both our families here, and those back home. This is a great country of which we want to be a part, contributing by working with dignity. My children are part of the new generation of this country, and I want them to live in an environment where everyone is valued and accepted, where no one is left out.

These stories were shared and translated with the help of Abby Graseck, parent and family services coordinator at the



ANCESTORS from page B1

Hamilton.

Travel back in time with me: My 5-times-great-grandmother, Elizabeth Edwards, born in 1697, was one of ten sisters who were all six feet tall. Or, as one contemporary quipped, “Timothy Edwards has 60 feet of daughters.”

Elizabeth had only one brother, Jonathan Edwards. Yes, *that* one – the fiery preacher of the Northampton Congregational Church, and author of “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.” Poor little boy, with ten sisters who, incidentally, were his teachers and tutors, being well-educated themselves. (I suspect, however, that he was spoiled terribly.)

Elizabeth married Jabez Huntington, and one of *their* daughters is my 4-times-great-grandmother, Jerusha Huntington, who was only two years old when her mother died and her father placed her in the household of her maternal uncle, Jonathan Edwards.

As Jerusha played, studied her Bible, and matured in the Edwards’ household, she grew especially close to her cousin Esther Edwards, who was only one year older, and more like a sister than a cousin.

Esther was destined to marry Aaron Burr, Sr. and give birth to Aaron Burr, Jr. (“Aha,” you say, “now we are getting back to *Hamilton*.”)

Both Esther and Aaron Burr, Sr. died when Junior was barely two years old, and his first foster caregivers were his maternal grandparents, Jonathan Edwards and his wife Sarah, just as they had been



Duel between Burr and Hamilton, from David B. Scott, A School History of the United States (New York: American Book Company, 1884)

caregivers for Jerusha. It is reasonable to assume that Jerusha, his mother’s best friend, would take this small waif to her heart and cherish him.

Fast forward: As we all know, Junior killed Alexander Hamilton in that scandalous and illegal duel, following which he finished his term as Vice President. He had many enemies, and his popularity had been badly damaged by the duel, so in 1805 he decided to decamp and try his luck in areas west of the Allegheny Mountains.

Since he was very close to his “aunt” Jerusha, Aaron sought her out for her blessing and to say goodbye. It is a tragedy of sorts

that she refused to see him, calling him “murderer and traitor.”

Jerusha had her principles. It has been a subject of discussion in the family ever since: Was she too judgmental? Should she have been more forgiving? He was, after all, an orphan, something to which she should have been able to relate.

Or not. Some of us fall in on one side of the argument, some on the other.

Aaron Burr was a complex and controversial man, a scoundrel in many ways, yet beloved by many. He believed women to be intellectually equal to men, a heretical view at that time, and as a New York State legislator, he introduced a bill

to give women the vote. Of course, it didn’t pass. It would be 130-plus years before we ladies were finally granted suffrage! But I digress.

Jerusha married Dr. John Clark, a Revolutionary War surgeon in Lebanon, CT, and she lived to be 92.

What did Jerusha leave to me? Certainly not religiosity. Was she blue-eyed? Very possibly. I hope she willed to me her longevity.

In that same family tree, we find Jerusha’s great-grandparents (my 7-times-great-grandparents), Richard Edwards and Elizabeth Tuttle, who were engaged in one of the first divorces in Puritan New England, and embroiled in a familial quagmire involving three murders. But that’s a story for another day...

Now it’s your turn. Let’s hear some stories from your ancestors, whether they be your grandparents or your 10-times-great-grandparents. Try to limit yourself to those who came to this country, or one of their descendants.

We can all trace, if we know how, our lineage to kings and queens. It’s the ordinary folk who were anything but ordinary who grab our attention, who had the courage to start all over again in a foreign land where they may not have been welcome.

Every migration had obstacles to overcome, be it the land to subdue, laws to enact and enforce, prejudices to endure, languages to learn. The Native American ancestors of some of you had even greater obstacles, as the clash of cultures threw into disarray a world that had long been established.

Fun Fact:

It is estimated that at least 1 in every 16 people living in the United States today is descended from a Mayflower passenger, although most are probably unaware of it.

If the members of this not-so exclusive club were to gather for Thanksgiving at Plimouth Plantation this year, there would have to be enough chairs for at least 20,000,000 people (yes, that’s 20 million!), or considerably more if spouses were allowed. They would be sure to run out of gravy.

And then there were the floods of newcomers: the Irish and Germans in the 1800s, as well as the Chinese on the west coast; the migrations of the Italians and Jews in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Surely you have some stories that have been passed down of their struggles and triumphs.

Establishing successful lives against great odds has never been easy. These ancestors of ours, regardless of when they arrived here, worked their hearts out and we are the beneficiaries. Honor them here by telling their tales.

Email your stories to genealogy@montaguereporter.org.



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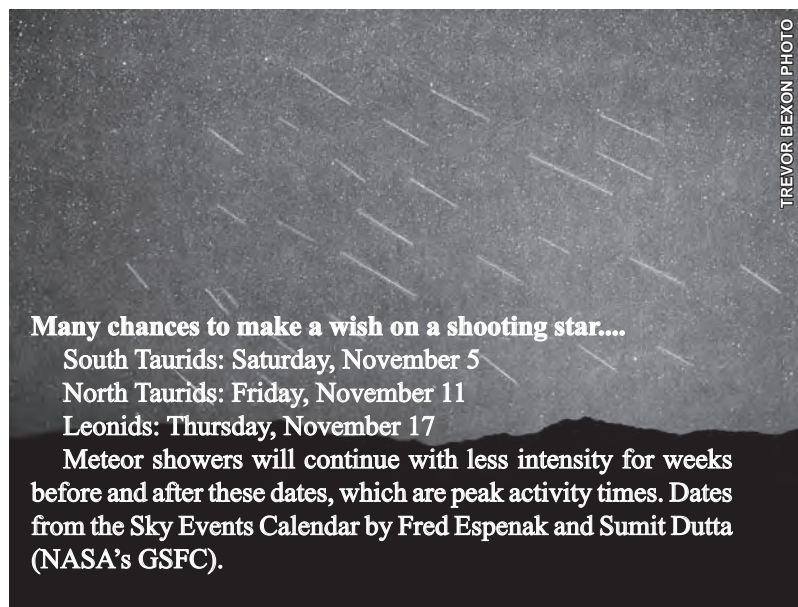
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Lisa McLoughlin, editor

Lots of Meteor Showers This Month!



TREVOR BEKON PHOTO

Many chances to make a wish on a shooting star...

South Taurids: Saturday, November 5
North Taurids: Friday, November 11
Leonids: Thursday, November 17

Meteor showers will continue with less intensity for weeks before and after these dates, which are peak activity times. Dates from the Sky Events Calendar by Fred Espenak and Sumit Dutta (NASA's GSFC).

Time lapse photo of the 2015 Perseid meteor showers over the Black Rock

By LISA McLOUGHLIN

What is a meteor?

"The particles hitting our atmosphere are not large – typically they're no bigger than big sand grains, and something the size of a pea can create a meteor that's dramatically bright. That's because they strike at 30 to 70 km (20 to 45 miles) per second, and all that kinetic energy is rapidly dissipated by frictional heat. In fact, we see a meteor's streak not because the particle is 'burning up,' but instead because air molecules along its path become flash-heated to thousands of degrees."

– Sky & Telescope Magazine, December 28, 2015

The dates given for the meteor showers are their expected most active times, but you can see one or two meteors almost any night. I regularly see shooting stars while sitting outside before dawn. On days we're having meteor showers, there are likely to be more and more spectacular ones. Also, they'll be in more predictable areas of the sky.

Meteor showers are named after the constellation they seem

to radiate from. So the Taurids will be near Taurus, and the Leonids near Leo.

According to *Earthsky.org*, each meteor shower has its multi-year cycle of highs and lows. Last year was an especially spectacular Taurid, but this year is worth watching too: "Though a modest shower, with a predicted peak rate of perhaps 5 meteors per hour, the Taurids are known for having a rather high percentage of fireballs. The Taurids just might surprise you with a flamboyant fireball or two, as these meteors light up the sky from late night to dawn."

Fireballs are very bright, spectacular meteors that can develop

trails of smoke behind them. The Taurid meteors come from the comet 2P/Encke.

Leonids are not easily seen this year because they occur only a few days after a full moon, but the best time to try "is just after midnight and right before dawn," according to both *timeanddate.com* and EarthSky's meteor shower guide for 2016. The Leonid meteors come from the comet 55P/Tempel-Tuttle.

There are a lot of great sources about meteors once you begin to look. Traditionalists can visit the Old Farmer's Almanac. For the tech-literate, *Spacedex.com* offers email alerts of meteor showers. These and other sources will tell you useful things like: which comet is causing the meteors, when they were first discovered, and the best times and places to view them.

The American Meteor Society has a very nice calendar and explanation of each meteor shower throughout the year, and a form to fill out if you see a fireball. They will collate your report with others, and if multiple people report the event they will keep you up to date on what was seen and any further analysis.

I filled out the report for a fireball I saw this September – not terribly spectacular, but definitely brighter than the average shooting star. I await confirmation from other early risers.



PAOLA-CASTILLO/CREATIVE COMMONS

Taken by Paola-Castillo using a cell phone while stuck in traffic.

NatureCulture Events for November:

Fall Chrysanthemum Show

The annual Fall Chrysanthemum Show features an extraordinary display of blooms in a variety of shapes and colors.

The Fall Mum Show has been a popular college and community tradition since the early 1900s and showcases the hybridizing experiments of the horticulture class. The public gets a chance to vote on their favorites. Suggested donation of \$5.

November 5 to 20, at the Lyman Conservatory, Smith College, Northampton.

Wizard Wednesdays

Wizard Wednesdays is a STEAM (Science, Technology,

Engineering, Arts and Math) program centered on learning and fun at the Greenfield Library.

A guest presenter will cover one of the fields with a book and activity sure to inspire creativity. This activity is for kids. Free. For more information, call (413) 772-1544.

November 16 at 4 p.m., at the Greenfield Public Library, 402 Main Street, Greenfield.

Quabbin Bears

Bears in the Quabbin! Over the past 16 years we have personally witnessed one of nature's remarkable success stories, as Black Bears have returned to the Quabbin area after an absence of many years.

Moderate activity level, with considerable off-trail bush-whacking required. \$65/person. For more information and to register, call (978)544-6083. Directions available upon registration.

Saturday, November 19 at 10 a.m., New Salem.

Thanksgiving Festival

Featuring fresh crops and products from a large variety of local producers including wine and mead, herbs, crafts, alpaca products and live music and games for all ages. Two dollar admission.

November 19 and 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Red Apple Farm, 455 Highland Ave, Phillipston.

Conveying Scientific Truths with Compelling Stories

By LISA McLOUGHLIN

NORTHAMPTON – The 12th annual Sustainability Summit, entitled *Energizing and Democratizing New England's Local Energy Economy*, was held at Smith College on September 17. Organized into four tracks – "Resist," "Reform," "Recreate," and "Reimagine" – the conference drew a motley assortment of mostly activists who were interested in various aspects of renewable energy, with an emphasis on social justice and empowering local communities.

The keynote speaker was internationally-known environmental scientist, author, and activist Dr. Sandra Steingraber. She spoke about the importance of the scientific community communicating the dangers of global warming to the larger populace as a compelling story. The more information people get, the more they are against global warming and unsustainable fuel sources such as fracked gas, but the scientific community, so used to understatement, has not made the point compellingly enough to be heard over the spin of corporate interests.

She called on each person in attendance to create a narrative that helps people understand how out-of-step our governmental policy and economy is with scientific realities that prove the harm we are doing to the Earth.

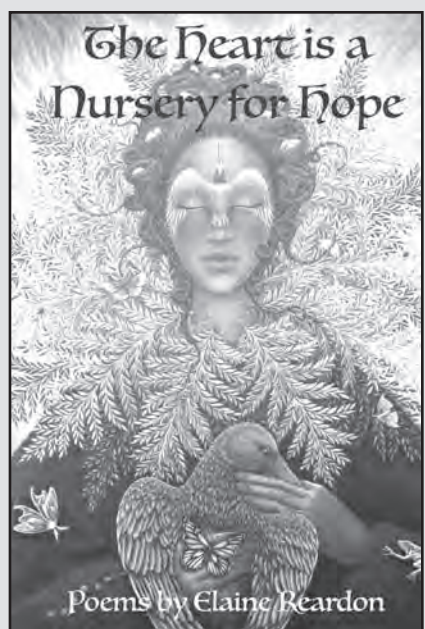
This theme was reiterated in a different way by Sherri Mitchell, J.D., executive director of the Land Peace Foundation. A Penobscot Indian and lawyer, Mitchell told the Native American story of a sleeping cannibal giant who wakes when he hears a specific cry from Mother Earth – a cry indicating that she cannot heal as quickly as she is being hurt.

When this occurs, the giant wakes and dances the humans on the planet faster and faster so that they become exhausted chasing more wealth and excess. She called on us to wake from this dance, to prioritize, and to return to sanity living in harmony with the Earth.

Further, she urged us to bring openness and generosity of heart to our work. She said to treat our opposition not as enemies, but as people who are mentally and emotionally ill, and who need care and help. If we can find where our interests converge and not drive these people into a corner, we

can work together, even with people we did not think we could work with.

By creating new systems rather than just railing against – and describing in great detail – those we do not want, we can create the kind of world we want to live in, one that is in harmony with the rest of Nature.



Vernal Pool

From ice melt to mayflies
to frogs splashing
and whirligig beetles
that dance circles
foxtglove stands sentry

you shine in dappled light
call life to you
call fireflies in the dusk
midwife spring into summer.

dried fern and maple conceals shallow
pool for remaining salamanders
crickets sing in cold nights
damp hidden spirit
rises to meet air and shadow.

Under shooting stars
in a sky that flings
diamonds this moonless night
you are bowl of soft white snow
empty and full
like my heart.

– Elaine Reardon

From Reardon's chapbook *The Heart is the Nursery for Hope*, published September 2016 (Flutter Press). See elainereardon.wordpress.com.

If you have some science-y poems, or poetic science to share, please send it to science@montaguereporter.org!

Moon Calendar for November 2016:

Monday, November 7:	First Quarter
Monday, October 14:	Full Moon
Monday, October 21:	Last Quarter
Tuesday, October 29:	New Moon

Sky Events Calendar by Fred Espenak and Sumit Dutta (NASA's GSFC) image by NASA / Bill Ingalls..



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SPORTS from page B1

in the MIAA brackets, Sabís is ranked 8, while the Blue Ladies slipped to 9. The two teams will face each other on Thursday, November 3, with the Bulldogs holding the home court advantage.

“We are pretty evenly matched,” coach Kelly Yankowski Liimatainen said of Sabís. “Should be a good fight!”

And it should be. If her girls play the way they did against Athol and Agawam, it will be a good fight indeed.

Football
TFHS 28 – Frontier 12

“We made the playoffs when we beat Lee in the first game,” one of my buddies on sideline told me recently.

It certainly seemed that way, because every other team on Turners’ schedule was in a higher division except Tech, and according to the old Walker System, if Powertown wins at least 50% in their own division, they’re in. But in 2016, the MIAA realigned the leagues, and only four teams from any division could make the playoffs.

I didn’t like the realignment at first, but now I do. Last season, Frontier didn’t play East-hampton or Turners in league games, and the Intercounty League ended in a three-way tie. With the realignment, every team in the Inter-county North played each other, leaving less of a chance for a shared title.

And in 2016, the top dog in the ICN was... the Turners Falls Football Indians!

There’s a curse and a blessing to being Powertown. The curse is that they play bigger schools in the regular season, and the blessing is that their strength of schedule gives them a good seed in the postseason.

As it turns out, even though the 2016 Indians had the toughest schedule, they beat ‘em all. Hence, once again, Blue is the top seed in their division, and will host Pioneer this Friday, November 4 at 7 p.m.

Coach Chris Lapointe is not taking Pioneer lightly, though: He doesn’t want to see a repeat of last year’s one-and-done.

“We need to continue to play physical and sure things up defensively,” he said. And judging from the Indians’ past performances, Pioneer will be in for one tough battle.

On Friday, October 28, the Indians traveled to Deerfield and beat the Frontier Red Hawks



Going down: Turners’ defense takes down Frontier’s Seth Gewanter. Unfortunately, Gewanter was injured in the play.

in an injury-laden contest. Powertown jumped out to a 14-0 first quarter lead, and then scored two more touchdowns in the second half for a 28-12 victory. The win gave the Tribe a perfect 8-0 record, the ICN League title, and the top seed in the MIAA D-IVA West brackets.

The first touchdown of the night came at 5:07 of the first quarter. Powertown had ground all the way from their own 33 to the Red 3, for a first-and-goal. And then the irresistible force met the immovable object. On the first three plays, the Indians advanced less than three yards, setting up a fourth-and-inches.

This is how championships are made. One team desperate to score, and the other desperate to keep them out. One play to determine who would win the battle of wills.

But Quinn Doyle and the O-line settled the matter. He powered through a gap in the D, and Turners drew first blood. Ricky Craver caught a Tionne Brown pass for the 2-PAT, and the Indians expanded their lead to 8-0.

Frontier was forced to punt on their first possession, and when the punt went straight up in the air, Turners got wonderful field position on the Red 34. The Indians advanced the ball to the 18, but again, the Frontier Defense forced a fourth-down situation.

Again the Tribe went for it, and again they

scored. Craver caught another Brown pass, and Powertown was up 14-0 with 13 seconds left in the first.

The Hawks got six points back at 6:50 of the second quarter when they converted on their own fourth-and-short from the 2. That’s when the first injury occurred.

On the 2-PAT attempt, Seth Gewanter was hit hard, but he kept moving toward the end zone. It took several Indians to bring him down, but he was injured on the play. In a show of good sportsmanship, every member of the Turners Falls football team greeted him before he was loaded into the ambulance.

In the second half, Frontier powered down to the Indian’s 36, but the Tribe’s defense rejected them on fourth-and-1. On the Turners’ next drive, Quinn Doyle, Blue’s most productive ball carrier, was knocked out of the game. But Turners was not deterred.

The Indians drove to Frontier’s 30. On the next play, Brown handed the ball to Jack Darling, who ran it to the outside, then cut sharply inside before being grabbed by the defense. But Darling kept his feet moving and the defenders couldn’t hold on. He broke loose and sprinted into the end zone to score Turners’ next TD.

Darling extended the Tribe’s lead to 22-6 by running in the 2-PAT at 4:16 of the third. Two

minutes later, Frontier scored their last touch of the night, making the score 22-12; the Blue D again stopped the PAT attempt.

In the fourth quarter, the Indians marched down to the 13, but turned it over on an interception in the end zone. Two plays later, Nick Croteau got a pick of his own and Turners got the ball back on Red’s 45. The Indians fought their way down to the Frontier 2 yard line, and Darling scored his second touchdown of the night, putting the score at 28-12.

The game ended on an ominous note. With 37 seconds left in the game, another Frontier player, Steven Worthley, was injured, and the game was called. In yet another show of good sportsmanship, the Tribe waited until they left the field before celebrating the victory.


With the Doyle injury, Darling was forced to be the go-to guy. He finished with 190 yards on the ground and scored two TDs and a 2-PAT. Before he left the game, Doyle had a touchdown and rushed for 78 yards.

Craver scored the other TD, rushed for 19 yards, caught two passes for 28 yards, and scored a 2-PAT. John Torres rounded out the run game with five yards. Brown completed two passes, threw a 2-PAT, and had an interception, and on defense, Croteau scooped an interception.

Next week: Round 1!



Clear sailing: Jack Darling makes a 30-yard dash to the endzone to score Turners’ third touchdown, during the third quarter at Frontier Regional.



Senate President Stan Rosenberg

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- ★ The Franklin County Opioid Task Force
- ★ The workforce development programs at Greenfield Community College

Election Day is November 8!

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Watercolor botanical paintings by Thayer Tomlinson are featured at the Salmon Falls Gallery in Shelburne Falls through December.

ONGOING EVENTS

EVERY SUNDAY

McCusker's Co-op Market, 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.

EVERY TUESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls-*Play Group*. Unstructured play-group. Grown-ups can chat and connect with other parents and caregivers while supervising their children's play. 10 to 11 a.m.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: Crafts and activities for children of all ages. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time*: Thematic stories, projects, and snacks for young children and their caretakers. 10:15 a.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Tales and Tunes Story Hour*. For ages 0 to 5 and their caregivers. 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Homeschool Science. Hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)* activities for homeschoolers of all ages, with Angela or special guest. 1 p.m.

New Salem Public Library: *Teen and Tweens*. Program for 11 to 18 year olds. 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAY

Arts Block (4th floor), Greenfield: *Creacion Latin Big Band & Late Night Open Mic JAM*. 20 piece ensemble play son, salsa, chacha and much more. 8 p.m. Open Mic starts at 9 p.m. Free.

EVERY THURSDAY

Millers Falls Library, Millers Falls: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers invited. 10 to 11 a.m.

The People's Pint, Greenfield: *Derek Bridges*. Live acoustic guitar. 7 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Watchdog Open Mic*. All musicians, comedians, and magicians are welcome! 8 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

Slate Memorial Library, Gill: *Story Hour*. Stories and hands-on arts & crafts. 10 a.m. to noon.

The Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8 p.m.

FIRST SATURDAY MONTHLY

Montague Common Hall: Montague Center. *Montague Square Dance*. Family fun, October through May. 7 p.m. \$

EVERY SATURDAY

Highland Park, Millers Falls: *Adult Co-Ed Pick-Up Soccer*, sponsored by Montague Parks and Rec. 10:30 a.m.

EXHIBITS:

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *inside art iii* - an exhibit of photography and writing by residents of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. Opening reception, Friday, November 4, from 5 to 7 p.m. Through December 2

Discovery Center, Great Hall, Turners Falls: *Art Display of Junior Duck Stamp Exhibit*. Through December 22.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *Annual LCA Resident Artists Exhibit*. Paintings, graphic art, pottery and more. Artist reception on Sunday, November 13 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Through December 9.

Little Big House Gallery, Shelburne Falls. Open by appt; see littlebighousegallery.com.

Madison Gallery, Millers Falls: Temporary space while Avenue A is being renovated. *Paintings by Deborah Bix and wood turner Jon Kopera*.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: Ongoing art for sale on Ave. A.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *The Liquid Edge: Polar Regions, paintings by Sarah Holbrook*. Artist reception Saturday, November 19, 4 to 6 p.m. Also *Painting Nature: Botanical Watercolors by Thayer Tomlinson*. Artist reception Sunday, December 4, 4 to 6 p.m. Both shows run through December.

Shelburne Arts Co-operative, Shelburne Falls: *Tree Forms*, group show through Nov. 21.

South Gallery, GCC, Greenfield: *Memory, Dream and Invention: Recent Work by Anna Bayles Arthur*. Gallery talk, November 30 at noon. Through December 9.

Sunderland Public Library, Sunderland: *Oil Paintings by Frankie Dack*. Landscapes with a human component. Through November.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Eric Love*. '60s and '70s Gold. 8 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Mega Bog, Little Angry, Pits*, and *Donkey No No*. All ages, substance free. 8 p.m. \$

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Behold True Believers and Unconscious Disturbance*. "Psyche, pop, progressive rock." 9:30 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Pothole Pictures presents *The Joy of Sox*, a documentary that "combines sports, spirituality, and science". Buckland resident Rick Leskowitz, psychiatrist and film production team member will lead discussion about this film. At 7 p.m., *Dave Dershon*, contemporary folk music. Film at 7:30 p.m. \$

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Trump Card by Mike Daisey* adapted and performed by *Seth Lapore*. One man show of "political quagmires". 8 p.m. \$

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Show of Cards*, and *Opel*. Rock. 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Juliet Simmons Dinallo*. Soulful country. 8 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

GCC, Greenfield: *Turkey Run/Walk*. 5K race to raise money for GCC students. 9 a.m. \$

Northfield Mountain, Northfield: *Animal ABCs with Dawn Marvin Ward*. 10:30 to noon. Children and adults, focusing on native wildlife. \$

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Seed Saving Workshop*. Moonlight Turtle Lodge with techniques for drying and storing seeds. 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Nancy Sawin* leads discussion and singing (!) from her new book, *The Fear of Singing*. 2 p.m.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Power of Water, Power of Words*, multimedia presentation to get input about dam relicensings. 4 p.m.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: Movie *Gravity*. Watch Sandra Bullock floating in space, part of the monthly series of Science Fiction/Fantasy and Horror/Monster movies. 7:30 p.m. Preceded by episode of "Fireball X15": "Fight To Danger" at 7 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Pothole Pictures presents *The Joy of Sox*, a documentary that "combines sports, spirituality, and science". Buckland resident, Rick Leskowitz, psychiatrist and film production team member will lead discussion about this film. At 7 p.m., *Ken Swiatek*, folk music. Film at 7:30 p.m. \$

Turners Falls House Concert: *Tony Bird*, "the father of African folk-rock," performs at private setting open to the public. Limited seating. Contact nalerossi@gmail.com re: tickets and details. 7 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Mark Nomad*. Blues. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Shadow Twisters*. Classic '60s and '70s rock. 9 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Trailer Park*. Rock. 9 p.m. \$

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Lazy Bones*. Oldtime, jazz, blues. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Nate Wooley Quintet* presented by Pioneer Valley Jazz Shares. 7:30 p.m. \$

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Poetry Night*. Evening of spoken word. Sign up at 6:30 p.m. 7 p.m. \$

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Doug Plavin All-Stars* w/special guest *Hillary Chase*. 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series* featuring *Perugia Press 20th Anniversary reading* w/*Carol Edelstein & Lisa Allen Ortiz*. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Great Falls Coffeehouse presents: *Mark Mandeville and Rianne Richards* playing Americana, old country, and harmony. To raise money for Discovery Center events for kids. 7 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Ray Mason*. Indie rock. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Failure Police*, rock; *Unbeatable Spaceship*, psychedelic dance pop. 9 p.m.

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WEST ALONG THE RIVER

American Indian History Primer: *Independent Study*

By DAVID BRULE

The following introductory study plan is proposed by the Nolumbeka Project, Inc.

Objective: to provide those interested in American history with the varied perspectives of American Indian interaction with European settlers and non-tribal America from 1620 to 2016.

To this end, the first steps should include an attempt to gain insights into North American history as seen through Red Eyes. The following is a list of events to be investigated. This list is not exhaustive. It does not include events involving the Dutch, French, or Spanish colonizing efforts.

The selected events can serve as indicators that have contributed to the multi-generational trauma which persists in the lives of many tribal people today.

From this trauma flow anger, pain, pride, resistance, resilience, persistence, and re-affirmation of the Indian right to be recognized and respected.

Homework: select any five of the following from the list, or create another list that provides insights into the subject.

- 1620: Massasoit and Squanto welcome English settlers to Plymouth
- 1637: Massacre of Pequots at Fort Mystic
- 1675: Massacre of Narragansetts, Wampanoags, and Niantics in the Great Swamp, RI
- 1675: Bloody Brook Ambush
- 1676: Massacre by Captain Turner at Peskeompskut
- 1680: Pueblo revolt against the Spanish
- 1711: Tuscarora War in Carolina
- 1722: Anglo-Abenaki War
- 1729: Natchez Revolt
- 1736: Chicksaw-French War
- 1763: Susquahannok Massacre
- 1763: Pontiac's War in the Ohio Valley
- 1774: Shawnee War in Virginia
- 1782: Delaware Massacre
- 1790: President George Washington wages war on the Ohio valley tribes
- 1790: Miami and Shawnee War
- 1794: Mad Anthony Wayne at Fallen Timbers
- 1811: Battle of Tippecanoe (WH Harrison)
- 1817: First Seminole War (Andrew Jackson)
- 1827: Red Bird/Winnebago War
- 1830: Indian Removal Act
- 1832: Black Hawk War
- 1835: Second Seminole War
- 1838: Cherokee Trail of Tears

- 1846-68: Apache Resistance
- 1849: Pomo Massacre
- 1853: Rogue River War
- 1855: Third Seminole War
- 1859: Navaho Revolt
- 1862: Santee Sioux Revolt (execution of Chief Little Crow and 37 others ordered by Lincoln)
- 1863: Long Walk of the Navajo
- 1864: Sand Creek Massacre
- 1865: Black Kettle War (Arapaho and Cheyenne)
- 1866: Lakota/Crazy Horse War
- 1868: Red Cloud Dakota defeats US
- 1868: Washita Massacre by Custer
- 1871: Slaughter of buffalo becomes US policy to eradicate Indians
- 1874: Red River War
- 1876: Little Big Horn
- 1876-86: Geronimo's War
- 1877: Chief Joseph surrenders
- 1890: Sitting Bull murdered
- 1890: Wounded Knee Massacre
- 1922: Oil discovered on Navajo land. Standard Oil Company gains access.
- 1942: US seizes 900,000 acres in Alaska
- 1953: Indian Termination; reversed by JFK in 1962
- 1968: American Indian Movement founded
- 1970: Occupation of the Mayflower II

- 1973: Wounded Knee Occupation
- 1983: Narragansett and Pequot recognition
- 1987: Wampanoag Recognition
- 1990: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
- 1994: Mohegan Recognition
- 2004: Town of Montague and Narragansetts sign Reconciliation Agreement
- 2014: Town of Montague receives funding to study 1676 massacre at the falls
- 2016: Montague holds forums to reconsider sports mascot
- 2016: Stand-off at Standing Rock

Activity No 1: Role play. You are an American Indian living at any point between 1620 and 2016. You are witness to any of the above events occurring in your 13,000-year-old homeland. You have the opportunity to tell non-tribal inhabitants about what you have seen, what you have felt, and what you propose for future relations with the non-tribal inhabitants of your ancestral land.

Activity No 2: Role play. You are a non-tribal person, descendant of immigrants who arrived here at any point between 1620 to the present. You have the opportunity to explain to the descendants of your country's indigenous people what your recent studies have revealed concerning relations between tribal and non-tribal inhabitants of this place.

Find a way to resolve the conflicted feelings that each side is experiencing.

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