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# The Montague Reporter

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 17, 2016

## Standing Rock Protest Draws a Crowd

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** — When Maure Briggs-Carrington posted an online call for people to gather in Turners Falls to show their support of the Standing Rock Sioux, who are trying to block an oil pipeline from being built upstream from their North Dakota reservation, she

didn't know what to expect.

"I was certainly hoping for many to come," said the local woman, who has not been afraid in the past to stand alone on Avenue A with a picket sign. "I invited all I could think of... You just never really know with these things."

But by the time she got to the bandshell at Peskeomskut Park

Tuesday afternoon, the crowd that had converged there, bearing hand-made signs and colorful umbrellas, numbered over 150 — and was growing by the minute.

They came from near and far. "I would ideally love to be able to be with the people at Standing Rock, but this is the least I could do," said Tara Kurland of Greenfield. "It's a pretty easy action, to come locally."

"Native people have the right to protect their resources, to protect their land. The pipeline was supposed to go through white communities, and their desires were more respected."

Many compared the Dakota Access Pipeline, which the Texas-based company Energy Transfer Partners hopes to build from the Bakken oilfields to Illinois, to the Northeast Energy Direct natural gas project formerly proposed in the country's northeast by Kinder Morgan.

"This community was able to — I'd

see **STANDING ROCK** page A6



JACKSON PHOTO

Numbering about 250, the protestors held an impromptu march down Avenue A.

GILL SELECTBOARD

## New Records Law Has Town Hall Worried

By KENT ALEXANDER

The Gill selectboard met on Monday night for what became an important, and lengthy, session.

The board met with town clerk Lynda Hodsdon Mayo to discuss the town's responsibilities under the state's new public records law, scheduled to take effect January 1.

The town is required to name a Records Access Officer (RAO) — the clerk or a designee — to maintain all public records, explain the process for requesting them, and

assist requesters. The RAO will be required to respond to all requests in 10 business days, either estimating the time and cost of compliance or outlining in writing why a request cannot be fulfilled.

Hodsdon Mayo expressed concern about the "new liability issue" she would face as the RAO. She worried that sorting through emails would take a great deal of time, and pointed out that the town's records are in several different places.

Selectboard member Greg Snedeker asked if the state had put in

any provision for abusive requests. Hodsdon Mayo answered that there were some provisions written in, but with any new law, there would be problems.

Administrative assistant Ray Purington added that the law does provide for an extension if the town asks for one.

Hodsdon Mayo said the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) has promised to check with various municipalities in January to see how each town was managing

see **GILL** page A5

## Montague Treasurer-Collector Patty Dion Retires to Her "Real Life": Motorcycles

By JEFF SINGLETON

You never know.

To most people involved in Montague's town government, retiring treasurer and tax collector Patty Dion is the consummate professional. She deals with highly technical issues such as long- and short-term borrowing, tax title court, and retiree health care.

It all sounds rather, well, nerdy. But there is another side to Ms. Dion, who was interviewed by the Reporter this week. Off the job, as it turns out, she loves to "put on the leather," and ride the countryside on the back of a motorcycle with her husband David.

"Riding around in motorcycles, that's my real life," she says.

Still, Dion tells us that she will miss her current work at town hall. "I truly, truly love my job. But it's time to go — while I still have my health."

Dion will apparently miss her involvement with local finance, which she describes with a good deal of enthusiasm. The town borrows in the short term to finance the annual budget, while it awaits property tax payments that come in twice a year. It also often borrows in anticipation of Chapter 90 state highway funding.

According to Dion, short-term borrowing initially funds capital projects until the treasurer can "bundle" them into long-term bond issues.

Dion says the part of her job she will not miss is dealing, in her role as tax collector, with those who cannot pay their property taxes and have to be taken to tax title court.

"We try to work with people," she says. "We don't want to take people's houses — we don't want to become a landowner."

Dion was born and raised in Montague, and attended Turners Falls High School, graduating in 1973. This was the last class to graduate at

see **DION** page A5



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

After a quarter century, Dion's last day at town hall will be November 30.

## WESTERN MASS CHAMPS!



DAVID HOLTT PHOTO

"Who rocks, who rocks this house?": Holding the Western Mass Division IV-A trophy aloft, the team breaks into a chant after last Friday's tooth-and-nail victory.

By MATT ROBINSON

**WILLIAMSTOWN** — Last Friday, November 11, the Turners Falls Football Indians came from behind to defeat the Mount Greylock White Mounties, 26-24, on Weston Field at Williams College. The victory gave the Indians the Western Massachusetts Division IV-A Crown, a perfect 10-0 record, and a ticket to play Maynard in the state semifinal game this Saturday afternoon.

I'm glad I don't publish my Gridiron predictions, although this year I'd be a perfect 10-0. I do, however, poll some of my buddies on the sidelines for their picks before each game. By the way, both Louie Collins and Mitsy Croteau would also be 10-0 this year.

Powertown's perfect 10-and-0 start is a rarity in Turners Falls

football history — partially because they didn't even play a ten-game season until 1976, which was the only other time that Powertown went 10 and 0.

The Tribe did have two other 10-win seasons (2012 and 2014), and they won the Western Mass Championship in 2013, when they finished 9-1. Incidentally, all three of those most recent squads were all skippered by Turners Falls' current head coach, Chris Lapointe.

Starting 10-0 is an extremely tough accomplishment and in 2016, on paper, it seemed almost impossible for the Little Blue Tribe. Powertown's very first game out of the gates was against last year's reigning Western Mass champs, Lee. Turners established their running game and shut out the former

see **FOOTBALL** page A7

## Town Honors Its Vets

By EDITE CUNHA

**TURNERS FALLS** — People began quietly gathering from all directions at the Veterans Memorial on Avenue A last Friday, in remembrance of the many men and women who have served the country in wars past and present.

Al Cummings, chairman of the Trustees of the Soldiers Memorial, which organizes the yearly ceremony, acted as master of ceremonies.

It was a brilliant, breezy morning, with golden leaves swirling spirals around those assembled at the small park next to the Carnegie Public Library.

Off to the side, a half-dozen members of the Turners Falls High School band practiced playing the national anthem.

After a rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner," Linda Ball, chaplain of the Montague Elks Lodge # 2521, opened the ceremony with a short prayer. She was followed by Exalted Ruler Steve Dacyczyn, who came forth to sound the Elk's Eleven Strokes, representing the Golden Hour of Recollection.

Montague selectboard chair Richard Kuklewicz presented a short speech, in "honor [of] those who are serving and have served" and those who made great sacrifice in defense of the country through all of the armed conflicts in its history, from the Civil War to the current



CUNHA PHOTO

Al Cummings, chairman of the Trustees of Soldiers Memorial, served as master of ceremonies.

conflicts in the Middle East.

Six flags waved above the crowd: the Stars and Stripes; the five flags representing army, navy, marines, air force and coast guard; and the black flag in honor of those missing in action. Smaller American flags were stuck into the lawn along the sidewalk where the public gathered.

Towards the end of the ceremony, Montague resident Don Girard walked slowly away down the sidewalk and played a moving rendition of "Taps," while the many flags flapped and cracked loudly in the breeze. The gathered crowd stood, silently, at attention.



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## Like Hell

The lid has been ripped off. All eyes are on Donald Trump's New York City skyscraper. The hotel baron, reportedly surprised that he was actually elected president of the United States, is holed up with his transition team, attempting to assemble the nation's next executive branch.

Various fringe and mainstream right-wing factions are vying for control of federal departments, many of which Trump has indicated a desire to eliminate or gut.

The unprepared team is already behind schedule on coordinating with the Departments of Defense and Energy for a transfer of control over the world's most advanced apparatus of death.

Opportunists everywhere are pushing the envelope; emboldened ideological racists are taking advantage of the national moment of shock to test the waters with a wave of death threats and petty local hate crimes.

Within the swirling communication fog, each reported incident is protected by automatic denial. Former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee, a willing soldier in the denial brigade, this week retroactively declared a March incident in which a Chicago church was defaced with swastikas and slurs a hoax committed by "liberal, Jewish" students – despite the fact that the perpetrators, caught on camera and facing charges, were neither.

Everywhere, the axis of contention and debate seems to be over distinguishing between who on the new right-wing coalition is actually dedicated to racism and who is merely a fellow-traveler.

The distinction may soon enough be moot. The new administration hopes to revive a Bush-era registry of Muslim immigrants, bolster the border, police and prison systems, and deport or incarcerate between 2 to 3 million people.

It will have a head start on the latter project, thanks to the piecemeal immigration reform attempted by the Obama administration. 1.4 million people have submitted applications, detailing their migration history and including their home addresses, under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, having been promised that coming into the sunlight would protect them from deportation.

But the state is the state. And all the objections to the expansion of executive power and surveillance that were dismissed by liberals over the last eight years as the paranoid fantasies of constitutional obses-

sives, nit-picking civil libertarians and anarchists suddenly appear more salient, now that the reins are being handed over to what appears to be a junta of chaos trolls.

And many Americans who were lulled by a would-be benevolent philosopher-king – one, granted, whose officially published summer jams playlists ranged from Charles Mingus to Chance the Rapper – woke up on November 9 regretting that nobody had even begun to dismantle the lethal machinery he was supervising.

Change was due sooner or later. America does not exist in a vacuum; it is part of an enmeshed global system, and will never be immune from its problems.

The system depends on endless growth, and it is coming to terms with its absolute ecological limits.

There is no global political movement to change its course.

Instead, there is a set of uneasy compromises established between multinational corporations and the non-governmental organizations that seek to correct their worst excesses. National governments have been willing, to varying degrees, to referee these compromises.

It is exactly the terrifying lack of any global coordinating force that makes anxious little tyrants the world over believe that there must be a *secret* global coordinating force at work.

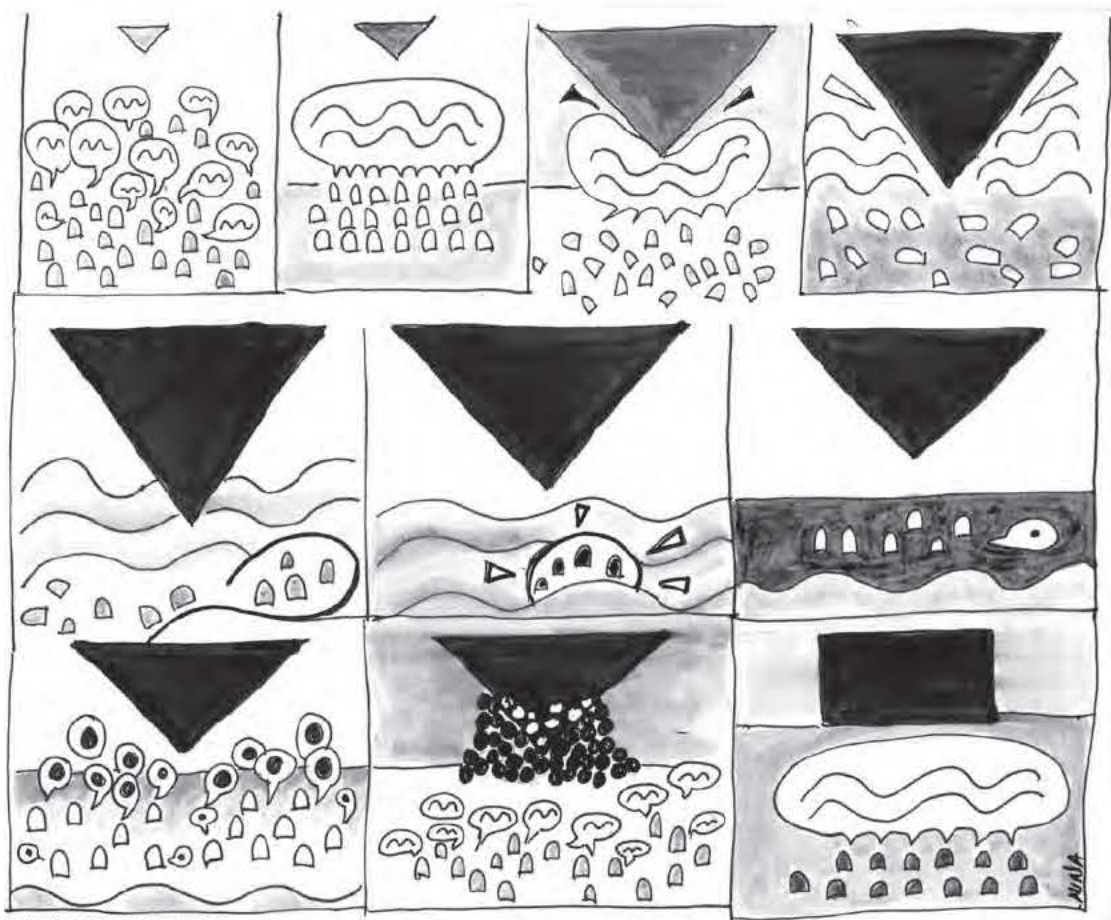
For some, this is "the West"; for others the Illuminati, or new world order; or "globalists," a properly vague new bogeyman; or a complicated conspiracy involving climate scientists and finance capitalists colluding to shepherd us all into urban concentration camps.

Donald Trump may be a particularly unfortunate choice for a head of state, but it's no accident that his entry to politics (setting aside his campaign to put the Central Park Five to death) was birtherism – the theory that Obama's sunny cosmopolitanism was a smokescreen, not simply for foreignness, but for *secret* foreignness.

And Trump is only one of a class of nationalist politicians rising to outsized power or influence. They are a diverse crew – Putin, Duterte, Erdogan, Marine Le Pen, Nigel Farage – united in the sense that they all place at the very center of their politics the continued existence of the planet's nation-states.

Many are expressing their hope that we survive Trump as a nation. But maybe that's the problem.

Maybe we should hope to survive him as something else entirely.



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

## Letters to the Editors

### Third-Gen Alum: Change The Mascot

There are many words I heard growing up in Turners Falls. Seen as somehow less offensive than the traditional 4-letter cuss words, words to describe the developmentally disabled, gay people, and poor people, were thrown around like confetti.

These words were often tolerated by the adults around us, in the school hallways, well into the '90s when I attended school here.

You remember.

I am sure that many of you would be horrified if you heard your child call a friend the "f" or "r" word now. Admitting this evolution in thinking doesn't mean I have bad feelings about growing up in Turners Falls. And it doesn't make us weak to admit that if we used them before, that we were wrong. It's part of an emotional and cultural evolution that we don't stand for people talking like that anymore.

I remind you to illustrate how things change, people evolve and learn, and we all become more tolerant and thoughtful.

I am a proud third generation TFHS graduate. I wore the blue and white for four varsity sports, with so much pride. I was a cheerleader, doing the tomahawk chop on that track on a Saturday morning in autumn. I

was a class president, a representative in DC for young leaders, a student rep on this very school committee in 1991.

I am not an "outsider," telling you what to do with your town. My roots run deep into Letourneau Way via Dell Street and Millers Falls Road. My Mom and my Dad both graduated from TFHS, as did dozens of cousins, uncles and aunts.

You know my family, he was your friend at the Rod & Gun, the Elks, she sold you your home, sat near you in church, gave you a job when you were on probation, chatted with you at IGA, at the Glen.

My family has been in Turners Falls longer than three generations, though they did not all graduate from high school – possibly because they were immigrants who spoke French, or as people now sometimes say, "didn't bother to learn the language."

We forget that part because of the privilege of the color of our skin, our generic European heritage, which helped us blend in with and marry in with the English, the Polish, the Irish, my freckles contradicting the pronunciation of my last name. We rarely talk anymore about the old feud between the Irish selectmen

and French Canadians, hinting to the reason the French church is built with its back end to the Avenue.

The now seemingly-slight cultural differences those groups fought over do not have a constant reminder in our modern world. That's not so for the Native American people in this area. I fully participated in the marginalization of a group of people, and I didn't know that was what I was doing at the time. I will never know what it is like to see a caricature of my heritage used as a school mascot. But I do know that if someone says it doesn't feel good to them, we should believe them.

Admitting that you change your mind about something doesn't mean you are weak. It means you are strong. If there is one thing I know about our Power Town, I know we are strong. Words and images matter. People learn and evolve. Whole civilizations change. Finding out new information is what humans are designed to do. We don't call our friends the "r" or "f" words anymore.

Admitting that we were wrong is strength. Change the mascot.

Danielle Letourneau-Therrien  
Greenfield  
TFHS '92

### Why Trump Is Not My President

Donald Trump capitalized on the legitimate plight of working people in our country, but he manipulated and subverted those grievances to instill the worst kinds of tendencies of the human soul on his followers, some of whom were willing and others who forgave him because he was giving them a voice.

Donald Trump and his use of fear, lies, hate, intimidation and numerous other onerous methods were designed to arouse disaffected voters. He poisoned many well-meaning citizens. He demonizes and threatens immigrants, and scapegoats good people simply because of their skin color; he transformed many of

his followers into bigots.

He still promises to exact vengeance on his opponents, real and imagined, including women who were brave enough to point out his base tendencies and aberrations. He promises to hurt and burden the lives of our children by ignoring climate change and destroying our environmental regulations.

In short, he ruined my great country, all to satisfy his narcissistic need for self-aggrandizement and power – the country be damned. And now, he asks for unity to help pick up the pieces. I will never follow someone who did this to my country.

I forgive most of those who were

fooled by this charlatan, and I will continue to support the solution to very real problems that this country faces, not those imagined by Trump.

However, when Trump seeks to institute his, what can only be called pogroms, against the poor and defenseless human beings in our country or tries to implement his many other lunatic desires, I will do all I can to see him exposed and removed from office, and I would ask all those who voted for him to redeem yourselves in that effort.

Conor M. Power  
Montague

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The **Gill/Montague Senior Center Bazaar** take place this Saturday, November 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Plenty of raffles, food, crafts and gifts will be available. The center is located at 62 Fifth Street in Turners Falls.

Also on Saturday morning, the **Friends of Gill will hold their apple pie sale**, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Gill Congregational Church. Frozen, unbaked pies sell for \$12 each. You can come in and get a pie, or call to reserve one at 863-2105.

Interested in learning more about the new **“Pedestrian Park”** at the corner of Avenue A and Third Street in Turners Falls?

There will be a program on the park at the Greenfield Savings Bank

in Turners Falls on Saturday, November 19, starting at 10:30 a.m.

Free, or pay-what-you-can, **Thanksgiving Meals** are being offered throughout the area. Here are just a few:

The **Montague Elks Lodge #2521** will sponsor a free Thanksgiving Dinner to “anyone who walks through the door” between 11:45 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, according to Exalted Ruler Stephen J. Dacyczyn. In addition, the lodge is cooking and delivering Thanksgiving meals to shut-ins.

For more information contact the lodge office at (413) 863-2522. The lodge is located at 1 Elk Avenue, off of L Street in Turners Falls.

The **People’s Pint Restaurant**, located at 24 Federal Street in Greenfield, is having a “pay what

you can” Thanksgiving meal from noon to 5 p.m. on the holiday. No one turned away, but donations are welcome; proceeds will benefit the Food Bank of Western MA.

And **Stone Soup Café**, at 399 Main Street in Greenfield, is also having a pay what you can meal from 1 to 4 p.m. There will also craft activities for kids.

The Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) is offering **free bus service** for fixed-route service on Friday, November 25.

During the Thanksgiving week only, **Gill’s trash and recycling** collection will be on Saturday, November 26. Please have your items to the curb by 7 a.m.

Heading out of town? Get yourself in **Montague Reporter on the Road**. While packing your bags for a holiday trip, whether to visit family and friends or just getting away, remember to pack a copy of the *Reporter*.

Snap a picture of you or a loved one reading the issue, and forward it to the newspaper at [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org) along with information for a caption.

The **Montague Community Band** is celebrating its 126th season with a Winter Gala Concert at the Shea Theater on Saturday, December 3. Admission to the 3 p.m. concert is free, but donations are appreciated.

There will be a **Christmas Concert** featuring Schola Nova, the talented Pioneer Valley *a cappella* choir, on Saturday, December 3, at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Peace Church.

The choir will present a Service of Lessons and Carols which is the Christmas Eve Service held each year at King’s College Chapel in Cambridge, England. Our Lady of Peace is located on Seventh Street in Turners Falls.

And save the date: on Friday, December 9, there will be a tree lighting in Spinner Park as part of the downtown Turners Falls holiday event **“It’s A Wonderful Night.”**

Turners Falls RiverCulture is seeking donations of outdoor holiday lights to decorate the new pine trees in the park. Colored, white, big and small – they will need a *lot* of them. Please contact Suzanne LoManto at (413) 835-1390 if you or your business would like to make a monetary donation, or drop a box of new outdoor lights off at Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A.

Also that night, the *Montague Reporter* will be hosting a fundraising dinner at Great Falls Harvest restaurant on Third Street. We hope you will join us. For more information, see the item on page B6.

The Great Falls Discovery Center is **expanding its off-season hours**. The center has historically been open through the winter on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This off-season, the GFDC will be open from Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be no **issue of the Montague Reporter** for Thanksgiving week. Our next issue is December 1.

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



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## Another Letter to the Editors A Prayer for Reconciliation



I want to thank the Gill-Montague School Committee for modeling one of our school district’s Core Values: “Empathy.”

The GMRSD defines Empathy as “Being able and willing to understand another’s perspective.”

This may be difficult for us to practice on an issue like whether to change the Indian logo the Gill-Montague schools have used for our sports teams for as long as anyone can remember.

But the recent open forums, where all sides have been welcome to come and speak to the issue, have provided an important lesson for us all, despite the time constraints placed on the participants.

Had I been able to finish my remarks at the November 15 forum, I would have closed by saying how

deeply moved I was, at the previous forum on October 25, to hear the hurt Native people were expressing about seeing their faces and cultural objects used as images on our sports jerseys.

As a citizen who is a member of the dominant white majority here in Montague, I do not believe I have the right to use representations of objects sacred to Native people – such as eagle feathers – for my town’s ballfield play, or even for my personal prayers.

But I still would like to offer a prayer today:

I pray our towns may come together and really hear the words Native people are speaking to us.

I pray we may be bigger than ourselves at this moment of widespread distress over our recent

national election, where hateful bigotry and fear of “others” has poisoned our national discourse.

I pray our towns seek a course where the entire community comes together in a spirit of reconciliation to heal the cultural wounds that have been so eloquently expressed.

As our world continues to tip more and more grievously out of balance, due to our despoilation of the land Native people hold sacred and the resources they long protected and preserved, I pray we make every effort to bring Native people into our classrooms to educate our children and all of us about ways we may live in harmony with our Mother Earth, before it is too late.

**David Detmold**  
Turners Falls

## GUEST EDITORIAL

## Open Letter to the United States of America

By KESHAWN BOSTIC

Dear America,

I am a 17-year old-boy from Brooklyn, New York, who has spent his entire life in America, and it has honestly been a bittersweet 17 years.

I was born in 1999, at the back end of the golden age of hip-hop, 2 years before 9/11, and 1 year before Y2K was supposed to kill us all. I was born into what some call a “post-racial society.”

Though I have only been on this Earth for 17 years, I have always known that “post-racial society” idea is nothing but bull. From the time I was able to navigate this world without my mother right beside me, I have been afraid and people have been afraid of me. I was afraid of the boys in blue and the power they had. I was afraid I’d end up like Emmett Till because the nation hated my skin. People were afraid because I was big and black. I am still both of those things.

I have seen people cross to the other side of the street when they see me coming, only to cross back over once they passed me. And by people, I mean white people. Those who did not cross to the other side clutched their purses, grabbed their wallets, avoided eye contact, and walked as fast as they could.

This was before I grew to six feet two inches and weighed 285 pounds. Now, everyone crosses the street.

This past election cycle had been interesting, to say the least. For me and many others, there was no “winning” this election. The only options were losing or beating Trump. The whole world watched as two people, who openly expressed their racist mindsets at some point in their careers, fight for power.

One candidate is partly responsible for the millions of people of color locked up in prison. She and her husband believed black men were super-predators and needed to be locked away. Yet, some people looked at her as the hero to

America. Maybe she could have been White America’s savior, but not the savior of my America.

Then there is our President-elect himself. In 1989, he called for the execution of five black and Hispanic teenagers who were wrongly accused of raping a white woman in Central Park. He even took out a full-page ad in the *Daily News* to press prosecutors to execute the five boys. After 13 years in prison, all the boys were freed due to DNA evidence.

Just keep in mind that our new president called for the deaths of five innocent boys of color. I feel it’s almost unnecessary to state the bigotry that came out of his mouth in recent years. Hate, fear, and miseducation drove his campaign, and you lapped it up, America. You lapped it all up.

Today, America, I am still in shock at what you decided, but I am not surprised. I truly want to thank you. Thank you for showing me the racist, sexist, and xenophobic silent majority. Thank you for proving to the world that you are

not as great as you think you are. Thank you for telling me I am still a nigger. Thank you for being honest with me and no longer lying to my face. You finally said it loud and clear: my life does not matter.

I am not worried about the nation as a whole under Trump and Pence. I am more worried about the inner-city youth. The youth of these cities are going to live in a world full of hate and tension that they are not prepared to face.

Parents of color will be sitting down their children and telling them how to stay safe in openly racist America, AKA the new Jim Crow. The way to stay safe is to never, ever leave home, be home-schooled, and only eat food that can be delivered. (Make sure the delivery person is a person of color.)

I am worried about the little boy who will be called a nigger because his skin is dark. I am worried about the little girl who will be called a monkey and a coon because of her braided hair and the curves on her

body. I am worried about the boy who will be called a terrorist because he is Muslim.

I am worried about the girl whose parents will be taken away from her because they aren’t US citizens. I am worried about the females who will not be able to choose what they do with their bodies because the government has “morals.” I am worried about people in same-sex relationships who may lose their right to marry because our president is misinformed.

In conclusion, I want to say congrats to Donald J. Trump, his supporters, and the NMH Trump Train. I believe in democracy and the people have spoken. To you, America, thank you for showing your true colors.

May God(s) protect us all.

With love,  
Keshawn Tyriq Bostic

*Mr. Bostic is a senior at Northfield Mount Hermon School in Gill.*

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# How Did Montague's Votes Break Down?

By MIKE JACKSON

Many of our readers wanted to know how this month's election results broke down, precinct by precinct, within the town of Montague. When we went to press early last Thursday morning, town clerk Deb Bourbeau had not yet released final numbers to the public.

Here's how the votes broke down. Every ten years, the town, under the watchful eye of the state of Massachusetts, redraws district lines to split its population into six equal parts.

These precincts are especially important because each sends exactly 21 representatives to town meeting, a system designed to ensure our very different villages and neighborhoods receive proportional representation in the town's highest governing body.

Precinct 1, generally known as "Montague Center," encompasses the southern section of town, bounded by Hatchery, Turners Falls, Swamp and Dry Hill roads.

This section saw the highest voter turnout, at 81.3%. Exactly 1,000 people cast votes at the Montague Center fire station on Tuesday. Within the town, they showed the highest support for the Clinton/Kaine ticket, at 72.9%, and the lowest for Question 1, which would have allowed a second slots parlor in the state.

Precinct 2 is also a fairly rural precinct, though it includes the villages of Millers Falls and Lake Pleasant. It includes everything east of the industrial park, and everything south of Millers Falls Road and east of Turnpike Road.

This section saw the lowest support for Clinton/Kaine, though not the

highest for Trump/Pence; strangely, both Libertarian Party candidate Gary Johnson and Green-Rainbow nominee Jill Stein made their strongest showings in Precinct 2.

(This may have been a spillover effect from Wendell, where Stein polled 8.3%, and Erving, where Johnson pulled in 7.2%.)

Precincts 3 and 4 divide Turners Falls' Hill neighborhood. Precinct 3 is, roughly speaking, the area between Montague Street and Barton's Cove, while Precinct 4 includes the section of the downtown "above" Seventh Street, numerically speaking. These precincts vote together at Hillcrest Elementary, and turnout in both was above 70% last week.

Precinct 3 has the distinction of the highest Trump showing, at 30.6%, and the lowest in favor of Question 4, which legalizes and regulates marijuana, at 50.6%. It was also the most opposed to Question 2, which would have lifted the state's charter school cap.

Precinct 4 voted slightly closer to the townwide average on every question, except Question 3, a farm animal cage ban. (Though 49.9% of votes there were Yes, this still outstripped the No votes, as there were 23 blanks.)

Two of the town's three selectmen hail from this district, as do the town planner, police chief, and newly hired town administrator.

Precinct 5 represents the core of downtown Turners Falls. With the lowest turnout rate (and fewest registered voters), this neighborhood was the lowest in support of Donald Trump, at 16.3%. Trump received a total of 90 votes in Precinct 5, less than half of any other precinct townwide, including Precinct 1.

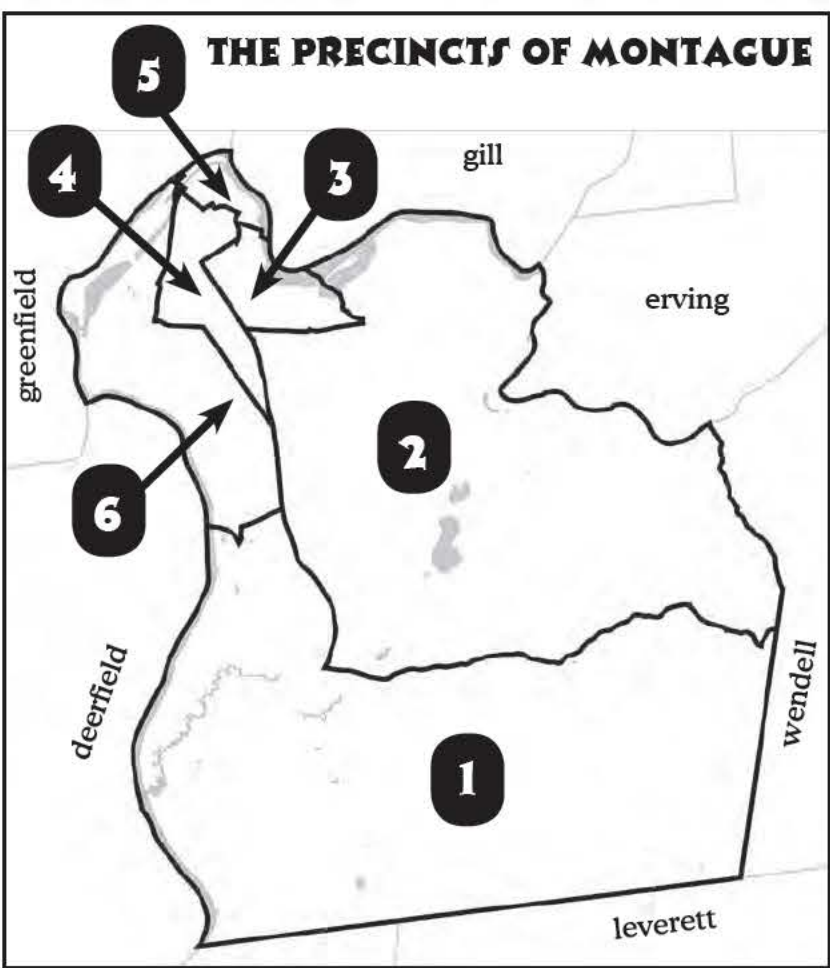
Precinct 5 also saw the highest rates of support for Questions 2, 3 and 4, and the second-highest for both Clinton and Stein.

Finally, Precinct 6 includes Turners Falls' Patch neighborhood, Mon-

tague City, and Greenfield Road until it ends at the train tracks.

This precinct voted in the middle of the pack in every respect save one: by a slight margin, it was the most in favor of expanded gambling.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Clinton	72.9%	55.9%	57.7%	62.3%	70.3%	61.1%	63.7%
Johnson	3.1%	6.7%	5.3%	4.7%	4.9%	4.3%	4.7%
Stein	3.1%	7.5%	1.7%	3.0%	4.9%	4.5%	4.0%
Trump	18.2%	27.5%	30.6%	26.4%	16.3%	27.5%	24.4%
Q1 (Slots)	21.8%	36.5%	38.9%	35.6%	37.0%	39.5%	34.0%
Q2 (Charters)	26.8%	32.6%	23.5%	23.8%	33.2%	30.2%	28.0%
Q3 (Animals)	56.4%	50.8%	51.8%	49.9%	63.0%	52.7%	53.9%
Q4 (Cannabis)	66.3%	63.9%	50.6%	53.9%	73.9%	63.7%	61.8%
Voter Turnout	81.3%	69.6%	72.9%	70.9%	59.6%	69.8%	71.2%



## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

### Board Boosts Taxes, Eyes Green Grant

By KATIE NOLAN

Erving's 2017 real property tax rates will increase slightly, after the selectboard approved a 65% "minimum residential factor" (MRF) at the town's tax classification hearing Monday night. The residential tax rate for Erving will increase by approximately 20 cents per thousand dollars value, and the commercial rate by approximately 32 cents per thousand dollars value.

Under this MRF, the Northfield Mountain Project pays 85.92% of real property taxes owed to the town. The split tax rate shifts the tax burden away from residential property owners to commercial or industrial property owners.

Assistant assessor Jacqueline Boyden said that tax bills will be sent out by December 9, and payments will be due January 9.

#### Efficiency

Administrative coordinator Bryan Smith reported on his progress on the town's energy reduction plan, a necessary part of the application for Green Communities status. In order to qualify for state Green Communities grants, a town must develop a plan to reduce energy use by 20% within 5 years.

Smith said that, using 2015 as the base year, the town was showing an 11% reduction in energy usage for

2016. He said that the 11% reduction doesn't reflect recent energy-saving work on town buildings, such as the new boiler at Erving Elementary School or new energy-efficient lights at town hall and POTW #1.

According to Smith, Erving Elementary School is the biggest energy user of all town buildings, and the police station is a high-energy consumer on a square footage basis. He said that both buildings would be considered more closely as the town works to meet the energy use reduction goal.

The board approved the plan, with several minor revisions.

#### Transparency

Town clerk Richard Newton asked the board to consider how the town would comply with the 2016 Act to Improve Public Records, which takes effect January 1, 2017.

Under this law, towns and public agencies must designate a records access officer (RAO). The RAO must permit inspection or provide a copy of a requested public record within ten business days after receipt of the request.

Bryan Smith said that the town should put as many records as possible online to make them more available.

Boyden said that online records would need to be managed; they would have to be loaded to the

website in a timely manner, with all links working.

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache commented that the upfront costs for putting records online and for ongoing maintenance are unknown.

Newton recommended that the town develop procedures for complying with requests before putting records online.

The board asked Newton to return for the November 21 meeting for further discussion of complying with the public records law.

#### Other Business

Smith told the board that FY'18 budget worksheets will be sent to department heads November 15, and would be due back by November

30. He said the draft budget would be available for selectboard review by December 12.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith said department heads had requested that the board decide on the employee cost of living adjustment (COLA) early, in order to help with budget decisions. The board decided to put the COLA on the agenda for the November 21 meeting.

Boyden said she and Bryan Smith had been preparing an application for a grant from the state Downtown Grant Initiative, in the "branding and wayfinding" category.

Boyden envisioned a parking area with a map of local outdoor destinations and an informational kiosk with brochures about Riverfront Park, Farley Ledges and Rose Ledge, Erving State Forest, the Metacomt-Monadnock Trail – now part of the New England National Scenic Trail – and the Connecticut River Greenway State Park.

### TOWN OF ERVING SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR TWO COMMITTEES:


#### ERVING ENERGY COMMITTEE

The purpose of this five (5) member committee is to advise the Town on energy efficiencies and use of alternative energy. The Town is in the process of applying for a Green Communities designation. The committee would assist the Town with reducing energy consumption.

#### OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

The Town is currently seeking two (2) Town residents to serve on the Open Space Committee. The purpose of the committee is to work with other members of the committee to update the Open Space and Recreation Plan and to assist the Town to implement the recommended action steps.

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**DION** from page A1

the high school, which was on the site now occupied by Sheffield Elementary School.

Dion is reticent about her life immediately after graduation. "I was young," she says. She did not attend college — "those were different times," she notes — but eventually took courses in banking and finance.

She remembers when the alternative group that became the Renaissance Community bought up a large portion of downtown Turners Falls: "The hippies were here. There was a Cucumber Grocery. I remember walking down [Avenue A] and seeing fifteen VW's lined up in front of the Shea Theater. It was such an interesting era."

Dion eventually went into banking, spending fifteen years in that business. She started as a teller, and

"worked my way up to accounting and investments."

In 1991 she went to work in the Montague Treasurer-Collector Office, working under Leon Momaney. "He was very set in his ways," she recalls, "but to me he was a great teacher. Patient and kind."

She then worked briefly "upstairs" as an assistant to then-town accountant Chris Martin. When an opening developed for a temporary interim treasurer-collector, otherwise an appointed position, Dion applied.

"I was not [the selectboard's] first choice," she says. The first choice, whom Dion did not name, did not accept the appointment because she did not want to run in an election six months away.

So Dion "took the chance," got the appointment, and was subsequently elected, primarily by win-

ning the support of the Democratic Caucus.

Eileen Seymour, the interim treasurer-collector who has been appointed as Dion's replacement, will also have to run for office, but not for nearly three years.

"I think she is going to do a wonderful job," says Dion. "Very smart, and catches on very quickly."

Should the treasurer-collector position continue to be an elected position?

"[The issue] has its pros and cons," Dion says. She notes that the current arrangement has "worked in the past, and people don't want to change it."

November 30 will be Ms. Dion's last day at work. Here's hoping the weather that afternoon will be right for a good motorcycle ride.

**GILL** from page A1

the transition.

Ward asked if the FRCOG had any resources that might aid Gill, and how the town was required to announce the new records request procedure.

Board member Randy Crochier, who had attended a meeting at the FRCOG, stated that the attorney present there said towns need only to post the new procedure on the first page of their websites, as well as on any official town correspondence.

Crochier asked how many records officers Hodsdon Mayo envisaged handling this new process. One person could field requests, she said, but she wanted to be able to go to other board and committee representatives for information and records, adding that she was "worried about the amount of time" it would take to review the volume of materials that had accumulated since the town started keeping records.

Hodsdon Mayo suggested the town could hire a part-time clerical worker for "hands-on file-finding" chores. Crochier suggested several clerks, who would report back to Hodsdon Mayo.

Snedeker sighed and interjected that "the timeline for small towns would be a nightmare."

Crochier cautioned that there would surely be revisions in the law, noting that he thought there would be "reasonably small requests at first, then deeper requests that would then trigger a longer timeline."

He added, playfully, that his fear was that an entity such as the *Montague Reporter* might request records that the town couldn't deliver on time, and then sue the town for non-compliance with the law.

Though it was said with tongue in cheek, there was a general sense from the selectboard that this new record request law was perplexing. All members agreed that they were not quite ready to establish policies for how it would work in Gill, and that "more conversation" was needed.

The board agreed to have a special meeting to discuss the problem on November 28 at 4:30 p.m.

**Alternate Historians?**

Ivan Ussach, chair of the town's historical commission, warned the selectboard that his seven-person committee faced possible "burnout" due to the many intensive projects currently being handled, and asked if alternates could be appointed to ensure a quorum can be met.

Crochier said he thought the idea of alternates was "a great idea," but wondered if the commission's statute permitted such a change. Purington stated that the statute did permit the appointment of alternates.

Selectboard chair John Ward said he would like someone 16 or 17 years of age to get involved to help preserve the town's history.

Ussach then introduced Pam Shoemaker, another member of the commission and the co-editor of the new *Riverside* history book. Shoemaker spoke softly while sharing with the selectboard the need to replace the commission's outdated and challenging display cases, whose glass fronts are 6' high and open only from the front.

Shoemaker then went on to report that they had received a gift from Northfield Mount Hermon to allow the society to digitize documents and photos, which will permit the society to create new graphic displays of many of the important town articles it houses and protects.

With great pride, she announced that they had sold the initial 200-copy run of the *Riverside* book in just ten days, had sold out a second printing, and would soon have a third printing for sale. Purington noted that copies of the book could be purchased through the town website or at the town hall.

**Borrowing Money**

Treasurer Ronnie LaChance presented her research for loan bids for the Mariamante Property loan renewal and the recently purchased town backhoe.

LaChance contacted three different institutions, and based on received responses, recommended going with the Easthampton Savings Bank for both a three-year backhoe loan at a rate of 1.80%,

and a one-year for Mariamante at 0.95%. The board unanimously supported the choice and thanked her for her work.

**Shoveling Snow**

Purington presented an agreement worked out between the town and Summit Distributing, the new owner of the gas station at the edge of town, over snow and ice removal on the abutting sidewalk.

In case the property should become delinquent, the agreement includes a \$10,000 "performance clause" which would allow the town to use that money to maintain the sidewalk until a new arrangement is made. The board unanimously approved the agreement. If Summit signs off, the document will be sent off to MassDOT.

**Pumping Money**

The next order of business was the recent 17% sewer rate increase by the town of Montague. The Riverside sewer district pumps its wastewater under the Connecticut River to that town.

"We can't afford to not work with Montague," Purington noted. He suggested a town meeting to vote on the rate hike to district users.

Montague's rate was set retroactively to July 1, but Gill sends users rate change notices out in December, along with a bill covering June, July and August.

Assuming sewer usage was in line with the last few years, he said, the hike would cost the town \$71,000.

Ward interjected that, according to the numbers provided, the actual total billed would be \$102,994. For the "short term, we can absorb the loss," he said, but he recommended Gill alter its billing schedule so that "we don't have to absorb such a loss in the future."

"We need to get a reserve in place," said Purington, "so that we can come into a town meeting and be able to pay the entire amount... In the past, every time we have had a rate increase, it stretches our current bar a little higher."

Crochier suggested a meeting on December 12.



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Purington wondered whether, given that Gill might shift its billing cycle to fall in line with Montague's, it should hold off issuing their bill until Montague issued theirs.

"That's a thought," said Crochier, nodding.

Snedeker inserted that, "Speaking as a sewer user, a rate increase of 17% was tough."

Ward smiled, ran his hands through his hair, and said, "Speaking not as a sewer user but as a sewer commissioner, I'd rather [do] this, than hold back and then bill people with a surprise rate increase."

Purington suggested going to the next town meeting with the news that because Montague is adding a 17% sewer rate increase, Gill needs "to create an 11% increase to prepare for this." He said he would post this information on the town website.

**Insuring Assets**

The board considered increasing the insurance coverage on the town's electronic equipment. Purington said the town's insurance agent informed him that when Gill purchased its new PEG, or cable access, equipment, it didn't boost coverage.

Snedeker noted that it was up to the board to evaluate whether the town's equipment had depreciated. Purington said he would meet again with the agent to review coverage in the event of the loss of an entire building, since it had been a few years since they'd looked into that coverage. Snedeker asked him if the safety complex presented such a concern, and Purington said it did.

Purington asked that the town increase its insurance coverage from \$25,000 to \$50,000, with an annual premium cost of \$194, and recommended using the PEG access fund to pay for the additional premium.

Snedeker said that his concern was that they keep track of what needs to be insured. Janet Masucci of the town's cable advisory committee, who was videotaping the meeting, spoke up in support of the additional coverage, noting that if lightning were to strike the building, all video equipment would be a total loss.

The board unanimously approved the increased coverage.

**Assessing Asphalt**

Purington reported the cost for investigating the condition of the Gill Elementary school roof was \$800, but wondered what the cost would be for a more detailed study by the Massachusetts School Building Association (MSBA). Ward asked how many other things could be included in an MSBA study.

The town might look into converting the asphalt roof to a metal one. Crochier asked about the condition of the school floors, and Snedeker replied that his sense from the current facilities manager that they were not an issue at this time.

"This is why it's difficult to vote on this," said Crochier. "It depends on who is assessing the need."

Purington said that the assessment would be done in the next week or two, and promised to keep the selectboard informed.

**Tell Us More**

The board discussed a letter from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announcing the launching of an initiative called the Small Town Environmental Partnership, or STEP. The voluntary partnership between small communities and the department's Western Regional Office is intended to improve environmental protection, public health, and quality of life for residents.

Ward admitted that he was mixing in his own personal politics before stating that he "didn't see how this would help with the probable gutting of the EPA."

Snedeker quipped that it would be like having "a new facilities manager," and Purington added that it was "tough to know how exhaustive the proposed compliance audit will be."

The board agreed that they would all like to hear more information before joining, including which buildings might be included, and specific information about what each partner would bring to the table.



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**STANDING ROCK** from A1 say relatively easily – defeat a pipeline going through here. We need to be supporting that in other places,” said a Greenfield man who gave his name as Rafe. “We’re at a worldwide crux of global warming, and this is one smaller issue in that larger one.”

Finding itself leaderless, or else with a preponderance of leaders, the rally decided to become a march. Two men headed up Avenue A at a fast pace, bearing a blue banner that read “Water is Life,” the slogan of the pipeline resistance camps at Standing Rock. A couple blocks up, another forty or fifty marchers joined them from a side street.

And by the time they got to the lawn of the Discovery Center, the crowd numbered between 240 and 250. Passing cars and trucks honked their support as protestors waved signs, drummed and chanted.

As it headed back, the march initially crossed the street, but after passing the Shady Glen, a number of people argued for walking in the Avenue itself. By the time the march crossed the Third Street intersection, it was fully occupying a lane of traffic, which it continued to do, without incident, all the way back to Peske Park.

A van and a line of cars impatiently, but carefully, crossed the double-yellow line to pass the marchers.

As the day’s light drizzle picked up and the late afternoon sky grew dark, marchers gathered in a circle in the park, taking turns giving impromptu speeches, delivering spoken word poetry, and leading songs.

“I think Standing Rock is basically showing us the way,” said Georganne Greene of Pelham. “They are protectors of water, and now we’ve all got to be protectors – not only of water, but of life. And

they’ve done it with a moral leadership that we so desperately need.”

Greene, who works in Greenfield, said she had heard about the rally online, through sites like Climate Action Now and *350.org*. “I know that Turners Falls is a place of significance for indigenous folks,” she said, “and it just felt like the right place to be today.”

Alejo Zacarias, of New Salem, said he had come to the event “to show solidarity with the struggle that’s happening with people all around the country, and the world.”

Desiree Law of Turners Falls, who works in an Avenue A office building, said she saw the march go by and decided to come down when work ended. “I work down the street,” she said, “and we have big old giant windows.... I’m no stranger to a good protest. When I see people with signs, I’m like, ‘oh, what’s going on?’”

And Deerfield’s Ava Gibbs carried a sign that read “People Over Pipelines.” “We have two months before Trump gets in,” she said, “and we have to ask President Obama to stop this thing. Already the Army Corps of Engineers said, ‘we’re going to reconsider.’”

Briggs Carrington said she had called for the event as part of a national day of action against the Dakota Action Pipeline, but wanted to tie it in with the local campaign to change the Turners Falls High School mascot, or logo, the Indian.

At the rally, she made the comparison. “I mentioned the fight to change the mascot, and saw or heard no opposition,” she said.

A little before 5 p.m., the rally dispersed; some went home, while others drove to the high school, where the Gill-Montague school committee was hosting an “information gathering” forum on the mascot, or logo, issue.

Additional reporting was provided by Vanessa Query.



## We Asked a Lexicographer: Are We Wrong to Call it a “Mascot”?

By EMILY BREWSTER

*Is the profile of the Indian chief that is the symbol of the Turners Falls Indians football team a mascot? Or is it a logo? Or can it be both?*

This is just why dictionaries exist. And lexicographers too. (I’ll save you the trip to the dictionary: a lexicographer is someone who writes or edits dictionaries. I’ve been one for 16 years.)

*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, Eleventh Edition*, defines *mascot* as “a person, animal, or object adopted by a group as a symbolic figure especially to bring them good luck.” The same dictionary defines *logo* as “an identifying symbol (as for use in advertising).”

The profile of the Indian chief that is the symbol of the Turners Falls Indians football team is undoubtedly an identifying symbol; it is certainly a logo.

Can it also be properly referred to as a mascot?

Informally, yes – dictionaries do not police usage – but the term *mascot* is not so used in strict usage.

The definition of the term *mascot* hinges on the word *figure*, which when we’re talking mascots typically is used as it’s defined at sense 4 of the entry for *figure*: “a person,

thing, or action representative of another.” In discussions about sports teams, *mascot* most often refers to a person dressed in a costume in order to represent a character.

For example, the Boston Red Sox have a logo that features a pair of red socks. Their mascot, though, is Wally the Green Monster.

More controversially, the Cleveland Indians until 2014 had a logo that featured a cartoon representation of a Native American called Chief Wahoo (it’s now officially a big “C”), but their mascot is a purple and yellow furry creature named Slider.

And the Florida State University Seminoles have as their mascot Chief Osceola – a man dressed in Native American costume – and Renegade – his Appaloosa horse. The team’s logos include a Seminole Indian in profile, and a design made with the letters “FSU.”

This is not to say that the term *mascot* does not sometimes refer simply to identifying symbols. It does, and *mascot* has been used in this way in the pages of this paper, and in newspapers around the country.

In most published, edited text, however, the terms *mascot* and *logo* are kept distinct.

## Tempers Flare at Second Mascot Forum

By ANNA FORBES GYORGY

**TURNERS FALLS** – The mood was not tense at the outset, Tuesday night, of the second of two meetings scheduled to address a potential change of the Turners Falls High School mascot, currently the Indian.

Members of the school committee cheerfully signed attendees up to speak, football players strode in, dripping from the evening’s practice in the rain. Other community members seemed to have come straight from work, and some came directly from the Dakota Access Pipeline protest downtown.

But once in the auditorium, nervous laughter at the good-natured jokes of Mike Langknecht, chair of the school committee and moderator for the evening, soon turned to booing, scoffing, and mumbled dissent as the mood of the room soured with each new speaker.

Sky Davis, who now lives in Plainfield, grew up on the Qualla Boundary Cherokee Reservation and claims her heritage as Russian Sami, Roma Ruska, and Abanaki. Her children’s father is Mi’kmaq of the Lennox Island First Nation.

The first to speak in opposition of the logo, Davis opened with an appeal. “I am not a thing,” she said. “I am a person, an indigenous person... I am the person who sits in the booth behind you and hears the remarks you make when you think no one is listening. I am the mom in line next you at Big Y with two kids who hears you laughing about the ‘uppity Indians’ who dare to want to take back what is rightfully ours. My kids are the ones that you are hurting.”

Davis shared that as a girl, she once witnessed an effigy of an Indian burned at a homecoming pep rally as a crowd whooped and hollered. “Don’t tell me that this can’t happen,” she said, “or will be out of your hands. Because so long as you maintain your current mascot this could very well happen here.”

But as she began to say that the townspeople “needn’t feel unfairly targeted,” the buzzer sounded, and blue-shirted members in the audience were quick to respond with booing and hissing. One disgruntled gentleman said, “Someone cut her off!” to no one in particular.

Much was made of differentiating between a “mascot” and a “logo,” with much less mention made of the team’s name itself. But this was not the only semantic difference speakers emphasized. Rachel Baker, a social studies teacher at TFHS, argued that this is less of a question of the logo being “offensive,” but of whether it is “oppressive.”

This distinction garnered many approving snaps and sighs of solidarity from an increasingly tense audience, who had already heard many speakers make pleas to the community, like the particularly impassioned one from Chris Pinardi of Montague, not to “cave to outsiders,” and to bring the question to a popular referendum.

But it was not all talk of votes and outsider influence. Lou Leelyn, who lives in Wendell but hails from Eastern Michigan, brought a box of sports-related mementos on stage to represent how deeply sports have affected her. She spoke directly to the athletes in attendance.

“The thing,” she said, “is that team spirit, and everything that it stands for is still gonna be here regardless of what your logo is... These community members here tonight are asking you not to take all that away. They are simply asking you to change an image on your jersey that they are saying is hurtful and painful to them. If you work together as a school to listen to that, I think that is the biggest gesture of good sportsmanship that I would ever hear of.”

After the mementos were put away, many TFHS athletes, past and present, came forward to reiterate that the pride they feel on the field is pride which they feel directly honors the history of native peoples in the area. Students expressed a wish that they had received more education about native issues, and emphasized their willingness to listen.

The words “Dignity, Honor, and Pride,” which are printed below the Indian head on much but not all TFHS swag, were repeated by many defending the mascot. Tammy Young, an alumna and mother of two district students, expressed that she felt confused as to how the logo could offend anyone. “I would be proud to have these words around my head,” she said.

Greenfield resident Thom Bull-ock, whose Wampanoag name is “Trail Maker,” said that he and others requesting a change were “trying to teach our neighbors that we are still here, and the way of pride and dignity and respect is real.”

But Mrs. Young and several other champions of the Indian logo voiced concerns over the district’s ability to afford a potential change.

About halfway through the proceedings, Sarah Underwood, the cheer coach for TFHS, and a relative of Godfrey Nims, an English settler whose family was killed by natives in the French and Indian war, took the podium, saying that she is against changing the mascot, but not on the grounds of the killings of her ancestors because... “like, no hard feelings.” She, too, asked how the district would afford new uniforms.

It was not until the forum had run over its allotted two hours that mention was made of the offer from Adidas to outfit and coordinate design efforts for any high school team committed to making a switch from a native mascot – an offer that had originally put the issue on the school committee’s agenda, at the request of a small group of community members, back in May.

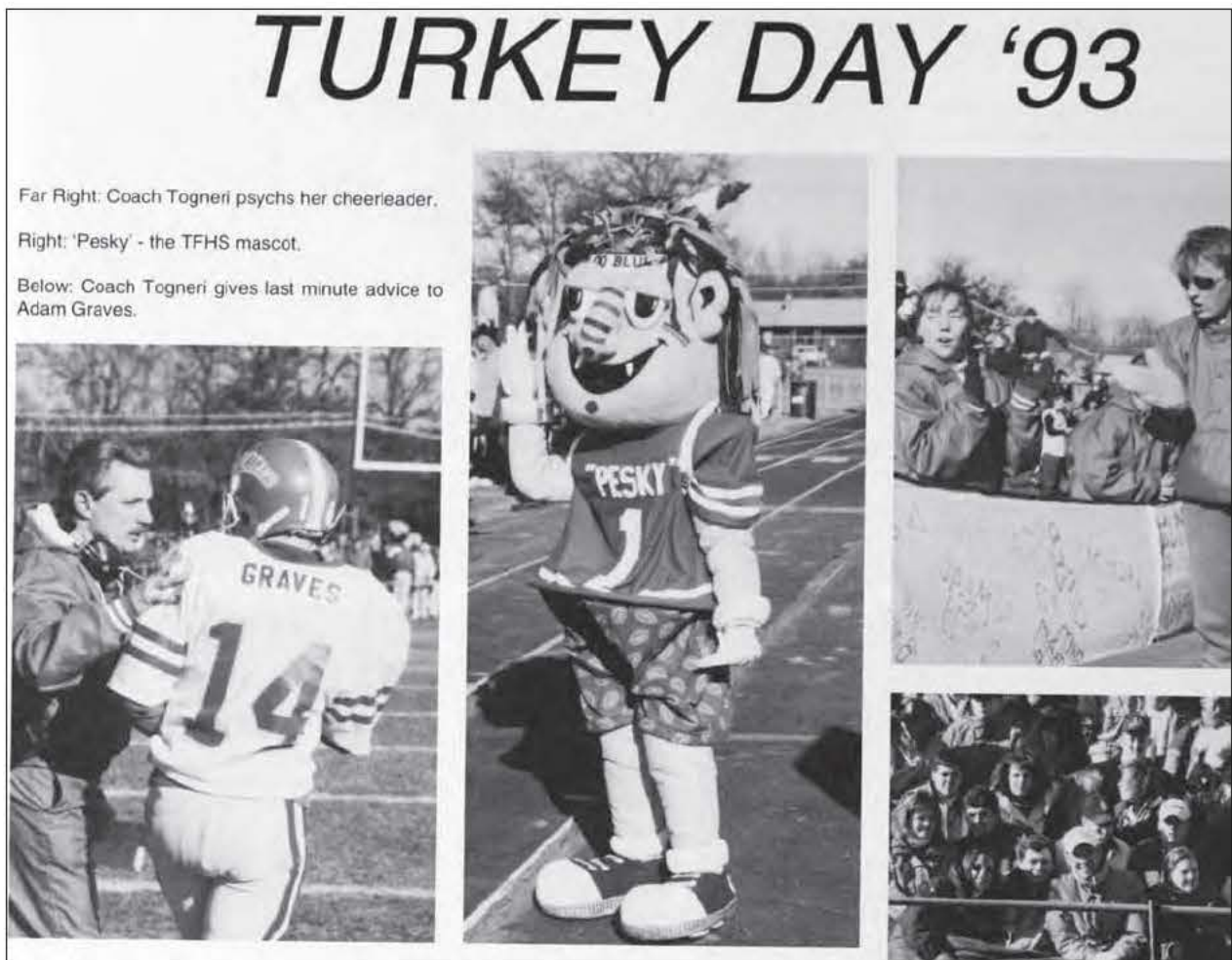
David Detmold of Turners Falls, who had been among that group, referenced the offer during his speech, but he would be the last speaker. Despite the mandate from the moderator to “keep it clean,” heckling in the room finally got out of hand.

Denis Bordeaux of Greenfield, standing in the back of the auditorium, could be heard shouting “Shame, shame. Oh, we’re all so hurt!”

Langknecht asked Bordeaux to remove himself from the premises, and when he did not oblige, the moderator left the podium and started walking towards the exit to remove him.

“Okay, now that’s enough, Chief,” Langknecht said with confidence, which brought objections from the front of the auditorium, where many native representatives were seated. “Did he just call him Chief?” one woman called out.

The audience soon disbanded in confusion. Police stood by while the heckler exhausted his rhetoric, outside the auditorium, at a patient Mr. Detmold.



Excerpt from the 1994 TFHS yearbook: an uncontroversial use of the term “mascot.”

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**FOOTBALL** from page A1  
champs, 20-0. What a way to start a season!

Blue's next game was a wild-card dance, as they traveled to Connecticut to take on the enormous Woodstock Academy. The boys in blue overcame the two-hour bus lag, a major injury, and a high-powered offense, and found a way to win, 44-40.

Then they beat Amherst, a very good Division II team, by 16 points. And when Turners beat Greenfield by scoring in the final quarter, and rolled over Mahar and Tech, people were beginning to take notice.

But the Indians didn't necessarily get the respect they deserved. In week 7, Turners was to play Athol, who had just toppled the mighty Red Hawks of Frontier, and go to Deerfield to face Frontier themselves in week 8. Some of the local media gave Frontier the edge in week 8 – unless, of course, Turners could beat Athol.

And Turners did beat Athol. In the pouring rain, on October 21, Powertown out-hit and outlasted Athol, scoring 16 fourth-quarter points to win 24-14.

Next, they faced 5-1 Frontier for the ICN Title. And although the Hawks were playing for their postseason lives, Powertown was the more physical team, taking the game 28-12. Turners finished the regular season with a record of 8-0, and drew Pioneer in the first round of the playoffs.

They defeated Pioneer 30-7, and last week, took on the undefeated Mount Greylock Mounties for the Western Mass D-IVA crown.

#### Over the Mountain

Although Blue was the top-ranked team, they were forced to travel over the mountain and play in Greylock's backyard. And the entire Blue Tribe met them there, trekking from various workplaces and residences to cheer on their beloved Indians.

Friday's championship game came down to fourth-down conversions, PATs, and the old adage, "Who wants it more?" To win, Powertown had to dig deep late in the game and overcome a 10-point deficit with less than four minutes left.

In the first quarter, it looked like it would be all Powertown. The Blue D forced the Mounties to punt after just three plays, and Turners took over on their own 41. Then the Tribe crashed and dashed 59 yards and took the lead, 6-0, at 4:23 of the first quarter. Nick Croteau caught the 2-PAT and Turners went up 8-0.

After an errant kickoff gave the Mounties the ball on the 48, the Turners defense again held Greylock and forced another fourth down. This time they decided to go for it, but the Blue D held them, and Turners took over on downs on their own 47.

Turners drove all the way down to the White 7 for first-and-goal, but the Mounties defense tightened up and forced a fourth-and-goal from the 1-yard line. The two lines crashed together, fighting inch for



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

*Quinn Doyle scored two touchdowns in the first quarter against the Mount Greylock Mounties.*

inch. Brown handed off to Quinn Doyle, who powered through a crack in the wall for the six-pointer, and Turners' lead expanded to 14-0, ten seconds into the second quarter.

But then the pendulum swung. Greylock took control in the second quarter and scored three touchdowns. The Blue defense redeemed themselves after each score by holding Greylock on every extra point attempt, keeping the halftime margin to 18-14.

Greylock scored again with 3:51 left in the game, and the sun seemed to be setting on the 2016 Football Indians. But in another battle of wills, Turners again stopped the extra point attempt, and got the ball back trailing 24-14 with 3:40 left on the clock.

#### Fighting Back

The Mount Greylock White Mounties are a good team. They have a good defense, an exceptional passing game, and they showed resilience by not caving when Turners took a quick 14-0 lead.

But Turners is a good team in their own right. They have a prolific running game, an efficient defense, and a speedy quarterback with years of experience under his belt. Only one team could go home with the championship, and it all came down to "who wants it more."

Turners started on their own 41 and marched down the field using clock control, as Brown completed three passes and Jack Darling finished the drive on a 10-yard run.

The PAT failed, but Turners had pulled within 4 points, 24-20, with 2:06 left.

The Mounties took over on the White 40. They gained 8 yards on two plays, setting up a third-and-1, do-or-die situation. Again, the two lines collided and Greylock inched ahead, but it wasn't enough.

The teams stayed on the field for the key fourth-and-inches "play of the game". This time the ball car-

rier was stuffed, and Turners got the ball back – with one more chance to win, or go home.

Brown ran a keeper to the 41 on the first play from scrimmage, setting up a first down with 1:31 left in the game. But after three straight incompletions, Turners found itself facing fourth-and-10.

Brown completed a clutch pass to Ricky Craver for the first down that kept Blue's hopes alive. Turners got

the ball down to the 1-yard line, but after a 2 yard loss, Brown was forced to spike the ball with 9 seconds left.

Then Brown rolled out and hit Owen Ortiz, who simply caught the ball, stood for a second, and raised his hands in triumph. The True Blue faithful, who hadn't had much to cheer about since the first quarter, finally erupted in cheers.

The game ended with a rugby-style kickoff return. With no time on the clock, Greylock kept lateral-ing the ball until they were finally tackled to end the game.

#### Statistics

When the celebration finally ended, the Blue Tribe got back in their vehicles and snaked their way on Route 2, forming a miles-long caravan over the mountain and back home.

Turners finished with 88 yards in the air and 187 on the ground. Under center, Brown was 7 for 16 for 88 yards, and threw a 2-point conversion and a touchdown.

Ricky Craver (two for 35 yards), Croteau (two for 27), Owen Ortiz (two for 16), and Jack Darling (one for 10) all caught passes from Brown. Ortiz caught the touchdown pass, and Croteau scored on the 2-PAT.

On the ground, Quinn Doyle rushed for 75 yards and scored two touchdowns. Jack Darling had 70 yards on the ground and scored a touchdown. Brown rushed for 32 yards, while Will Roberge rounded out the running attack with 10 yards.

So the Turners Falls Football Indians won the Western Mass Championship, but there's no rest for the victors.

This Saturday, November 19, they travel east on Route 2 to Doyle Field in Leominster to play a 6 p.m. game against the Central Massachusetts champions, the Maynard Orange Tigers.



*Turners quarterback Tionne Brown was a constant threat to the Mounties, earning 35 yards on the ground and 88 passing.*

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## NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

## Police Chief Succession Confirmed; One Bridge Down, Two to Go

By ROB SKELTON

The Leverett selectboard, at its meeting on Tuesday, interviewed in-house police chief candidate Sgt. Scott Minckler, then unanimously offered him the job.

Sgt. Minckler, who formerly ran the police department in Northfield, Maine, was backed by retiring Leverett chief Gary Billings, who hired him with succession in mind, and who watched from the audience.

Sgt. Minckler said all the right things: community policing, involvement, outreach; conflict resolution through communication; inter-departmental cooperation; respectful investigations; budget and grant-writing; and concordance with animal control officer Roberta Bryant.

While admitting he didn't know much about computers, Minckler said that within the department, "I seem to be the guy who knows the most about computers." Hence, he's been handling all that, including the set-up of a brand-new fax machine.

"So you're the department geek?" asked selectman Tom Hankinson.

"If that's what you want to call it," Minckler responded.

"You're being too polite," selectboard chair Peter d'Errico joked.

"My chief is right behind me," Minckler said.

D'Errico took a minute to defend the town's hiring process by quoting from a Mass. Municipal Association periodical, which delineated aspects of a successful transition, which Leverett seems to have emulated.

### Planning and Finance

Fire chief John Ingram complained that the capital planning

committee has not run with the ball he tossed them, and has not scheduled a fall town meeting to push forward financing for, eventually, a replacement fleet of fire trucks.

The selectboard apologized for the infrastructural weaknesses which have sidelined the capital planning committee, and vowed to get that group up to speed with the selectboard and finance committee.

Steve Schmidt, speaking for the Leverett Assessors, made his yearly *pro forma* visit to the selectboard to set the usual single tax rate – mostly based on residential valuations, since there is little commercial or industrial economy in town.

Schmidt urged a set-aside of \$190,000 in case the town is held liable, in an impending state Appellate Tax Board decision, for overtaxing for many years the estate of Yankee Candle founder Mike Kittredge.

### Other Business

A number of historic items from the town highway garage, including metal street signs, may be auctionable if the historical society agrees.

The Dudleyville Road bridge has been repaired and is ready for winter, according to road boss David Finn.

Design work for the Mill Yard Road and Coke Kiln Road bridges, similar in size and scope, begins soon, to be paid for with \$28,300 in Chapter 90 funds. The contractor, whom Finn likes, is McFarland Johnson of Westford, MA.

The Gordon King Blueberry Gift Fund has changed its name to the Gordon King Memorial Blueberry Gift Fund, as the longtime Leverett resident died last week.

## FACES & PLACES



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Above: Montague town administrator Frank Abbondanzio (left) and building inspector David Jensen (with cookie) share a moment at Frank's retirement celebration last Sunday.

Right: Members of the Turners Falls High School band play at the Veterans Memorial Ceremony last Friday. (See story, page A1.)

Below: People gather at Peskeomskut Park in Turners Falls to protest the Dakota Access Pipeline. (See story, page A1.)



EDITE CUNHA PHOTO



VANESSA QUERRY PHOTO

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YEAR 15 – NO. 7

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NOVEMBER 17, 2016

CREATIVE COMMONS ANDY NEWCOMBE PHOTO



## One Hot Week: Shows Up To Our Ears

Susan Alcorn headlines this Friday's show at the Brick House.

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

**TURNERS FALLS** – This week, due to a great concentration of whatever mysterious forces cause musicians to tour and people to book them, Turners Falls is experiencing a windfall of great shows.

Four different performances, each with musicians at the top of their art, are coming to town, featuring styles as disparate as folk, improvisational extended technique, and contemporary brass.

On Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup>, **Frank Hurricane** will perform in concert at Between the Uprights, the Second Street bar with field-goal urinals that must encourage accuracy. Hurricane, a onetime resident of Turners Falls, may be the best practitioner of the talking blues under

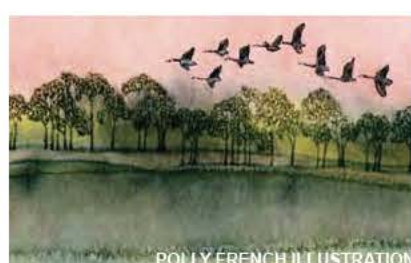
the age of 80. He refers to his own translation of the American folk music tradition as “holy storytelling and the psychedelic blues.”

Many of his songs are based in personal experiences he has traveling in the mountains. Hurricane spends a month every year hiking the Appalachian Trail and avoiding all music – this past summer he hiked 300 miles in Tennessee, North Carolina, and Georgia.

“It cleansed my mind and body,” he says. “It’s how I stay alive. If someone has a boombox or whatever, I move along. It’s how you refresh your senses.”

Hurricane’s new album for Feeding Tube Records, *Mountain Brew Light*, is named after the house beer of Stewart’s Shops, the employee-owned New York-based

see **SHOWS** page B2



## WEST ALONG THE RIVER:

### MY NOVEMBER GUESTS

By DAVID BRULE

**MILLERS RIVER** – Can it be mid-November already? The year is racing by, is it because we are getting older, or is it just the seasons turning as they always have, days getting shorter, darker earlier?

*My November Guest, when she’s here with me,*

*Thinks these dark days of autumn rain*

*Are beautiful as days can be;*

*She loves the bare, the*

*withered tree;*

*She walks the sodden pasture lane...*

Robert Frost seemed to capture the somber New England November mood back in 1948, evoking Pilgrim and Puritan grays that we associate with the dark month. But this November hasn’t been all that dark, with maple, birch, poplar and ash holding onto their bright colors much longer than in our memories of late autumns past.

To be sure, out of doors the nature that we are immersed in is transforming before our eyes. All is winding down, getting ready, getting simpler as things out here have always done, at least for the past 12,000 years.

Still, the November ephemera of

unexpected encounters keeps life interesting.

For example, the last day of October brought us a pleasant reminder of milder days: a monarch chrysalis that we had been keeping an eye on, hanging there on the south face of a boulder so late in the season, was suddenly empty. What had been an emerald green sphere, looking very much like a Christmas tree ornament with gold dots around the rim, was now just a pale, empty and forlorn shell.

We never expected that a butterfly could emerge so late in the season, in the morning frost. We had planned on removing it, to take it home, but surprise! On Halloween Eve morning, there it was, an adult monarch, all brilliant orange and black, slowly drying its wings and somewhat vulnerable. But for the fact that predators avoided this particular butterfly because of all the toxins it carried in its body, it would have been easy prey. We placed it carefully at the base of a south-facing trunk in the fragrant white pine needles, where it warmed its wings in the sun.

The butterfly at first kept instinctively clinging to my fingers as it

see **WEST ALONG** page B8

MIKE JACKSON PHOTO



## Hunkering Down

**Despite advances in meteorological science, it’s hard to know what the next four months will bring...**

By JEN HOLMES

**MONTAGUE** – Have you noticed squirrels gathering nuts earlier than usual this year? Or woodpeckers sharing a tree? Early arrival of crickets? Or perhaps your dog or cow seems to be growing thicker hair on the nape of its neck?

All of these signs, according to various tellers of wives’ tales, are warnings of an impending harsh winter. Fortunately, we now have the luxury of more scientific – albeit never perfectly accurate – predictions of what is in store for us this coming winter.

Precipitation outlook models from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) show New England as having an “equal chance” of experiencing above average, below average, or just average snowfall for the 2016-17 winter season... which doesn’t really tell us much. For reference, average snowfall in Montague is 43.3 inches, as based on data from the past 30 years.

The NOAA did, however, predict a much colder winter for the entire northern tier of the US, meaning Montague’s average winter temperature of 35.2°F will, on

average, be quite a bit chillier. So, aside from a colder winter, what can other sources tell us?

The *Old Farmer’s Almanac*, an admittedly less scientifically rigorous source, is still used by many to get a better picture of what to expect, from seasonal to monthly to weekly predictions. According to the most recent publication, which was released in early August, the *Almanac* predicts “slightly above-normal precipitation and near-normal snowfall” for the northeast region, and much like the NOAA, the *Almanac* says “winter will be colder than normal, on average.” The coldest periods are anticipated to be in mid- and late December, mid- and late January, mid-February, and early March, and the snowiest periods in mid-November, late January, mid- and late February, and early to mid-March.

We’re now in the midst of the first period in that claim, so if we experience no snow in November, are we to trust the *Almanac* for the remainder of the season?

To a veteran New Englander like myself, this may all seem like guesswork. Winters here always have *some* snow, but provide almost no clear patterns to determine the

anticipated amount. The *Old Farmer’s Almanac*, which has been in use since 1792, uses a “secret forecasting formula” and is said to be 80 percent accurate, though evidence of that claim has never been released. Nevertheless, it remains one of the most popular reference guides for weather prediction in the U.S.

### Ups and Downs

The *Almanac*’s current prediction formula – created by the founder, Robert B. Thomas, and updated periodically – is a combination of “the study of solar activity, prevailing weather patterns, and the atmosphere,” and compares “past weather conditions and current solar trends” to determine the weather and events 18 months in advance.

The NOAA, and other meteorological organizations, use advanced techniques that involve physics, mathematical formulas, and atmospheric readings to simulate and predict weather patterns. The organization has expressed concern that the *Almanac*’s secrecy means their methods can’t be compared to modern-day means.

Over the years, there have been

see **WINTER** page B6

## New Author Rolls Out a Gutsy Narrative with *So Nice to Finally Meet You*

By ALICE THOMAS

**GREENFIELD** – Amy LaPrade stepped into World Eye Bookshop Saturday, November 12 in Greenfield to give a reading from her novel, *So Nice to Finally Meet You*. She sold every book from her first shipment in one fell swoop!

An excellent reader, she grabbed her listeners into her space. This book is one of fiction; a contemporary work in three parts, drawn from the lives of two women who co-existed in the spirit of “wild flowers,” an all-too-often story of young adults in our modern world. Amy not only told this story with wit, honesty and compassion, but read it to her party guests in the unmistakable voice of our youth of today.

Amy describes her book as one about 15-year-old Gina, who longs to understand her family roots and

GEOFF BLUH PHOTO



Amy LaPrade reads from her new novel last Saturday at the World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield.

to have a connection with her mentally unstable Aunt Elaine. Elaine is the closest thing to a mother

Gina has and is, in fact, closer than Gina realizes.

see **LAPRADE** page B4

# Make it happen!

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## Senior Center Activities

### NOVEMBER 21 to DECEMBER 2

**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 11/21**  
Foot Clinic appointments  
Noon Pot Luck & Bingo  
**Tuesday 11/22**  
9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
1 p.m. Painting Class  
**Wednesday 11/23**  
9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday 11/24 CLOSED**  
**Friday 11/25**  
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 congregate meals.

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 2 days in advance. Call (413)-423-3649 for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Paula Betters, 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 11/21**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance  
12:30 p.m. RAD Class  
**Tuesday 11/22**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Friends Business Mtg.  
**Wednesday 11/23**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs  
**Thursday, Friday 11/24 & 25 CLOSED** No events  
**Monday 11/28**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance  
12:30 p.m. RAD Class  
**Tuesday 11/29**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Friends Business Mtg.  
**Wednesday 11/30**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs  
**Thursday 12/1**  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
Noon Brown Bag Pick up  
**Friday 12/2**  
9:30 a.m. Bowling  
11:30 a.m. Pizza, Salad & Dessert  
12:30 p.m. Movie & Popcorn

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



On Saturday the 19th, New York-based tenor sax quartet Battle Trance hits the Brick House.

**SHOWS** from page B1  
convenience store chain.

Even before being memorialized on the album, Mountain Brew Light was infamous. It is made at the City Brewing Co. of Lacrosse, WI, the brewery that makes Mike’s Hard Lemonade and the now-illegal Four Loko. It sells for \$2.99 for a six-pack. The album was recorded this past July in Kingston, NY, and is Hurricane’s first record with a full band. Hurricane is touring solo in The Grey Ghost, his ‘92 Ford Ranger.

Supporting Hurricane are country-rockers **AT and the Birds of Paradise**, singer-songwriter **Lauri McNamara**, experimental pop band **New Parents**, and guitarist **Joshua Burkett**.

**Susan Alcorn** will play her particular style of pedal steel guitar at the Brick House on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup>. She is part of a select class of musicians that, through their work, have truly changed their instrument.

Alcorn came up playing in Texan country bands, but the music she listened to, like jazz musicians Albert Ayler and Ornette Coleman and contemporary French composer Olivier Messiaen, came to alter her style unforgivably to the country musicians she played with at the time.

“I’ve had weird taste in music since I can remember,” she explains, of her excommunication from the country scene.

Alcorn’s life as a musician changed in 1997 when she decided to play solo at an event at a Houston art gallery called 12 Minutes Max. It was the first time she decided to not prepare for a gig, but to instead freely improvise. The experience of playing this show changed Alcorn’s direction in music.

“Musically and emotionally, there was no where to hide,” she remembers. “It was a catharsis.” Since going solo, Alcorn has stretched the boundaries of the pedal steel by playing extended minimalist improvisations.

“The people I used to play with think that I’m destroying a beautiful instrument and playing the devil’s music,” she says.

In 2004 Alcorn played High Zero, a festival of experimental improvisational music in Baltimore. (“They found me. All I knew before [about Baltimore] was the movie *Diner*.”) Three years later, she moved to the city, because she liked what she saw happening there musically. “I really like the DIY music scene in Baltimore,” she says. “I thought I could grow living here.”

Alcorn is loosely affiliated with the Deep Listening movement, which promotes music and performance based in improvisation, electronic music, ritual, and meditation. Performers practicing these

methods create music that responds to the sounds of their environment. The reverberating spaces in Alcorn’s sparse, warm improvisations suggest this consciousness.

“I take whatever I’m feeling and sensing and try to convey that to the audience,” she explains. “If I do that well, perhaps me and the audience are a little better for it.”

The goal of Alcorn’s music is to create a shared transcendent experience for both herself and the audience. “It’s like you go in levels,” she says: “earth, stratosphere, space. Emotion is one level.

“There’s something above that level, a stillness that transcends emotion. On my better days I can touch the bottom of that curtain.”

Opening for Alcorn are the **Bunwinkies** and **Bromp Treb**, representing opposite ends of Turners Falls’ outsider musical spectrum, and **Dawn Cook**, founder of the experimental and long-running Willimantic, Connecticut band The Shrinners.

On Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup>, the New York-based tenor saxophone quartet **Battle Trance** will perform their recent composition, *Blade of Love*, at the Brick House.

Composer and band leader Travis Laplante says that Battle Trance is a jazz band, in that “jazz is a tradition of spiritual freedom through music.” The band’s previous piece, *Palace of Wind*, has the epic movement and emotional peaks and valleys of the dinosaur portion of *Fantasia* but with much, much more talented players.

*Palace of Wind* sounds like an excited flock of baritone geese, or like slow-yet-powerful geological processes – the soundtrack of orogeny. Repetitive cascades of sound, like storm waves crashing against cliffs, merge into a hypnotic drone.

Laplante says he prefers not to talk about *Blade of Love* because he does not want to degrade it or diminish the audience’s experience by using language. “The music is transmitted from heart to heart,” he says. “It’s like trying to say what love is: it’s on a higher vibrational level than words.”

Laplante uses personal practices, like meditation and prayer, to write music: “A lot of it is getting out of my own way. It’s about getting rid of expectations and waiting for a sound to come through.”

Sometimes the sounds that Laplante would receive were not exactly sounds usually made by a saxophone, and the band uses extended techniques to produce them. On *Blade of Love*, “the line is blurred between the human voice and the saxophone,” he explains.

“Can you stretch the saxophone to the point where you’re not playing the saxophone? A lot of these techniques are reaching back toward

something more primitive.”

Battle trance is an altered state of consciousness that warriors enter in a combat situation – a state free of fear, pain, or individuality. The unit’s members lose their sense of self and acquire instead collective identity.

The quartet has intentionally cultivated this consciousness through team-building exercises. At their first practice, they joined in holding a low B-flat, the lowest note on the tenor saxophone, for a grueling 45 minutes, in an attempt to dissolve their sound and their individualities.

Performing *Blade of Love* requires immense stamina and discipline. To prepare, the band members practice circular breathing exercises and train to strengthen their throat and finger muscles. Laplante does Qi Gong before shows. He explains that if his body is not in exactly the right condition, things can go awry. While performing, he says, he has “almost passed out, and *definitely* thrown up.”

After performing, “sometimes I feel ecstatic, sometimes I need to go into the corner and cry,” Laplante explains. While this may sound intimidating to potential audience members, the band intends to create a positive, enlightening experience.

“I hope that it can open something in the listener’s heart,” Laplante says.

**Ruth Garbus**, the Brattleboro musician known for her minimalist pop gems, will open.

And finally, on Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Brick House will be graced by a never-before-seen trio performance of **Thurston Moore**, **John Mo-loney**, and **Matt Valentine**.

These musicians are experienced veterans of the alternative music scene for the past several decades, best known for playing in the bands Sonic Youth, Sunburned Hand of the Man, and MV&EE, respectively.

The show is a benefit for the Quabbin Harvest food coop in Orange. Rounding out the bill are New Salem-based guitarist **Willie Lane**, and Holyoke electroacoustic improviser **Jenifer Gelineau**.

This week promises to be a truly special time for music in Turners Falls. It’s the time of year when the sun disappears, and we need to gain warmth and good feelings through other means. For me, community and music are ample substitutes.

Veteran DIY booker Patrick Borezo, who produced the Tuesday event, shares many people’s thoughts when he says: “It’s really an exciting time to be in Franklin County.”

All these shows start at 7:30 or 8 p.m. and cost \$10, or less, at the door. The Brick House is located at 24 Third Street, and BTU is at 23 Avenue A.



# Pet of the Week

My previous human found me as a stray and had me my whole life.

Sadly, their home is no longer pet-friendly so they entrusted Dakin to find me a nice home like yours.

I am a strong and independent young woman looking for my next home. As my name suggests I am a little shy, but please don’t let that stop you from meeting me. I am a nice quiet girl who can live with cats and dogs and do just fine.

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

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MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

# This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

This week at Montague Community Television we have a new video on our website, featuring the Turners Falls High School vs. Pioneer football game from November 4. Here are a few highlights to look forward to in our TV schedule:

- Thursday 11/17 at 8:30 p.m.: *Caribbean Heritage Celebration* (June 26, 2016), hosted by Richie Richardson and Great Falls Harvest.
- Friday 11/18 at 11 a.m.: *A History of Cabot Station*, a presentation made on August 20 by historian Ed Gregory reviewing the construction of Cabot Station at Montague City.
- Saturday 11/19 at 11 a.m.: *Aladdin*, as performed by the After School Community Theater on June 4 at Gill Town Hall.
- Sunday 11/20 at 2 p.m.: *A Quabbin National Park*: Watch as Michael Kellett, executive director of RESTORE the Northern Woods, explains the proposal to create 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.
- Monday 11/21 at 3:40 p.m.: *Drone Station ID*: This video, taken using Drone Station, gives you the opportunity to explore Turners Falls from a bird's-eye perspective! Soar around the falls and watch Unity Skatepark action from above.

- Tuesday 11/22 at 9 a.m.: *Building Science / MassSave Audit 2016*: Tune in to learn how to save money on heating this winter. (Also showing Wednesday at 3 p.m.). An important watch to help you get through the cold nights ahead!
- Wednesday 11/23: *The David Pakman Show* (at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.); *Democracy Now* (at 8 a.m., 1 p.m., and 5 p.m.). Catch these shows every day at various times – they're scheduled to work with a variety of work schedules!

As usual, the Montague select-board meeting will air live on Monday at 7 p.m., and the Montague finance committee meeting will air live on Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Finally, a note on community events this week: Franklin County Technical School in Turners Falls will be holding this year's Little Drummer Craft Fair on Saturday, November 19 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in support of the Music Department. This juried event will feature craftspeople from the Valley and beyond.

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, [infomontaguetv@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguetv@gmail.com), or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We'd love to work with you!

## November 17 to 20: They Don't Pay? We Won't Pay!

**BRATTLEBORO** – Vermont Theatre Company announces its first play of the 2016-17 season, *They Don't Pay? We Won't Pay!* This side-splitting Italian comedy highlights the average person's backlash against rising prices and an unfair class system.

At the heart of the entire hijinx is a basic human need – hunger – and the very human desire to satisfy that need with one's dignity intact. This playful romp ultimately illuminates the buoyancy and resilience of the human spirit as it comes up against everyday life.

*They Don't Pay? We Won't Pay!* tells the hilarious story of Antonia, an unemployed housewife, who has been part of a grocery-stealing riot and needs her best friend, Margherita, to help keep the food hidden from her husband and the police.

Think Ethel and Lucy.

*Non Si Paga! Non Si Paga!* was written in 1974 by Dario Fo, and translated by Michael Aquilante and Jon Laskin. It has been performed in 35 countries since 1990.

Michelle Page is the director of VTC's production, and Bridget McBride, Michael Sola, Nell Curley, Ian Epstein, and Bill Wieliczka make up the stellar cast. The production's second week runs November 17 to 20 at the Hooker-Dunham Theater in downtown Brattleboro. The performance on Sunday, November 20 is at 3 p.m.; all other performances are at 7:30 p.m. General admission is \$16, seniors and students, \$13.

For more information about *They Don't Pay? We Won't Pay!* and the non-profit Vermont Theatre Company, visit [www.vermonttheatrecompany.org](http://www.vermonttheatrecompany.org).

## December 3: Taste of Brazil, The Story of Capoeira Dance

**GREENFIELD** – Racial Justice Rising, a local antiracism organization, presents at its monthly free Saturday program, *Taste of Brazil*: The Story of Capoeira Dance, on Saturday, December 3, from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Doors open at 9:45 a.m.

Capoeira has been described as a martial art, a dance, an art form, a form of self-defense, or any hybrid of these. Capoeira is a product of the extensive slave trade between Brazil and Africa.

Tuzinho Demelo, who began studying Capoeira as a child in Brazil and has taught it for many years,

will share the real meaning behind the Dance and demonstrate its complex techniques. His passion is to keep the true art of capoeira alive. He teaches capoeira workshops and performs around the world as an ambassador for Brazilian culture.

This family-friendly program will be held at the First Congregational Church of Greenfield, 43 Silver Street, Greenfield. There is free childcare. Please RSVP with number and ages of children.

For more info: [email@racialjustice.org](mailto:email@racialjustice.org). Coffee and tea and light snacks provided.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

# Spurned Raccoon; Bad Vibes and Beta Waves; Solicitous Solicitor; Snatched Blue Ribbons; Stolen Scratchies; Thermal Imaging

**Sunday, 11/6**  
9:48 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street states that she and her neighbor were feeding a raccoon and have stopped for a few weeks now, but it keeps returning. It is still very friendly, but now she is concerned because she has grandchildren that come over. Officer advised; message left for animal control officer.

**Monday, 11/7**  
6:55 a.m. Caller reporting that a vehicle has circled the block near Seventh and J streets 4 to 5 times in the last few minutes. No crime observed; just suspicious. Day shift advised.

8:56 a.m. 911 caller from Amish farm in Homer-ville, Ohio advises that he was trying to call Hillside Plastics and did not need police/fire/EMS.

**Tuesday, 11/8**  
9:30 a.m. Report of accident that almost occurred at the 4-way intersection near the police station. Officer spoke with all parties involved. Male driver of other vehicle admitted that he almost caused accident and apologized repeatedly to caller and his girlfriend, who were satisfied with the outcome.

10:05 a.m. Report of a woman cutting the blue ribbons that were put up in Peske Park by the MSP Wives (with permission from the board of selectmen). Referred to an officer.

10:14 a.m. Caller reporting, on behalf of her father, that two male youths have been defecating in the bushes at her father's residence. Toilet paper present as well. Advised of options.

11:59 p.m. Caller from Avenue A states that a neighbor is saying "murder" into a megaphone and it is disturbing him. Officers could not get anyone to answer door of apartment. Spoke to resident of nearby apartment, who has not heard anything. Just prior to officers' arrival, caller claims he heard some beta waves.

**Wednesday, 11/9**  
8:23 a.m. Caller from East Chestnut Hill Road reports that while walking her dog, she heard 4 gunshots, possibly from a shotgun. Caller concerned that it was not yet shotgun season. Officer advised; confirmed with environmental police that quail, pheasant, and other birds are in season; will not be responding.

12:35 p.m. Report of a man dressed in camo holding a rifle sitting approximately 30 yards off the bike path between Masonic Avenue and Greenfield Road. EPO advises that this issue is a gray area, reiterated the required distance of 150' from roadway and 500' from

a dwelling. Officer checked area; unable to locate.

2:25 p.m. Report of 50+ gunshots heard in area of Winthrop Street. Officer advises that gunfire is coming from law enforcement qualification in area which is echoing to caller's location. Caller advised.

**Thursday, 11/10**  
6:20 a.m. Caller reporting icy conditions on two dark corners of North Leverett Road. DPW foreman advised; same will be sending a man and truck.

7:57 a.m. Neighbor on M Street reports seeing a female climb through a second floor window. Landlord also on scene now; advising a known female has been breaking in and stealing money from the tenant. Officers out with suspect. Tenant will be coming in to drop off a statement.

11:30 a.m. Caller from Unity Park states that two teenaged males are being disruptive on the playground and using vulgar language. Involved males advised of complaints and asked to keep behavior in check.

11:48 a.m. Anonymous caller states that a taller white male at Fifth and K streets is yelling about "jumping" somebody. Party has been out there yelling with some other people for 15 to 20 minutes. Witness reports that male has left area.

4:02 p.m. Caller from Union Street states that a male who is selling roof and siding repairs in the area has asked odd questions of his wife such as "How long have you been married?" and "How long have you lived here?" etc. Responding officer unable to locate male.

5 p.m. Caller from Union Street states that she was at her elderly friend's house when a male showed up soliciting and was pushy and asking her to step outside. Male has since moved on. Second call for same incident; elderly female's daughter reporting same thing. Unable to locate.

5:29 p.m. Officer located solicitor from previous calls and advised him of complaints; told him that if any more calls were received, he would need to cease for the night.

5:30 p.m. Walk-in advising of solicitor on Turners Falls Road that was refusing to move on after she told him that she was not interested.

6:52 p.m. Caller from Millers Falls Road advises that a male is going around knocking on doors for solar panels. Officer responding; solicitor shut down. Courtesy transport to vehicle provided.

**Friday, 11/11**  
10:54 a.m. Cumberland Farms store manager reports that about \$600 worth of scratch tickets have gone missing.

2:34 p.m. Two-car accident at 4-way intersection of Turnpike and Turners Falls Road. Injuries reported. MedCare en route; TFFD on scene. Both vehicles towed.

3:42 p.m. Report of a yellow sedan in area of Cabot Station occupied by a female and male doing drugs. Gone on arrival.

8:26 p.m. Caller states that a group of kids is sitting Indian-style [sic] on the solid yellow line in the middle of the road near the high school. Responding officers also assisting with group of kids by the football field. Units clear; children spoken to and advised that sitting in the middle of the road was not a good idea.

11:33 p.m. Male caller reporting that he vandalized the blue ribbons in Peske Park. Male stated that he walked back home after the act and is now "not proud"; requesting to tell police department about same. Male advised to meet officers at Avenue A and Seventh Street. Officer advises that ribbons in park appear to have been repaired.

**Saturday, 11/12**  
7:47 p.m. Caller from Hu-

bie's states that she had to kick a male party out of the bar twice tonight, and she just witnessed him kick another person on the sidewalk. Officers responding; courtesy transport provided to the Y in Greenfield. Officer advises that no actual assault occurred and male was advised that he is no longer allowed back at that location.

**Sunday, 11/13**  
12:10 a.m. 911 caller reporting vehicle vs. telephone pole collision with injuries at Turnpike Road and Montague Street; male running away on foot toward Oakman Street on Turnpike. MPD units, TFFD, and MedCare en route. K9 unit, Erving PD, MSP, and Greenfield PD assisting with extensive search for male, including thermal imaging. Unable to locate suspect; area PDs and hospitals advised to be on lookout. Suspect later in to MPD to speak with officers; admitted to operating the vehicle when accident occurred. BOLO cancelled. Summons issued.

10:29 a.m. Caller reports that a female wearing plastic bags is partially in the road at the top of Turners Falls Road in Greenfield; expresses concern that she could be struck by an oncoming vehicle. Conferred with Greenfield PD.

2:25 p.m. Caller from Second Street advises that her vehicle was keyed this morning. Report taken.

4:28 p.m. Caller witnessed three grown men skateboarding on the brand new benches in front of a business on Avenue A. When approached and asked to stop, they asked when the store would be closing and stated that they would come back and continue after the store had closed. Men no longer in area; caller requests extra patrols after 5 p.m. because of heavy damage the skateboarders will cause.

# MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Deer Bones; Hunting Accident;  
Cocaine; Bear on Porch

Tuesday, 11/1

6:20 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for operating after suspension, no license in possession. 9 p.m. Report of animal bones on Dorsey Rd. Found to be deer bones.

Wednesday, 11/2

4:45 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for court warrants.

Saturday, 11/5

Medical emergency. Assisted Gill police with hunting accident/injury.

Sunday, 11/6

6 p.m. Motor vehicle crash with deer. Assisted on scene.

Monday, 11/7

6 p.m. Suspicious person at French King Bridge. Found to be taking pictures.

Tuesday, 11/8

6:20 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle on Mountain Road. Gone on arrival.

Wednesday, 11/9

12:30 p.m. Report of possible illegal dumping on Gunn Street. Found to be trash company. Moved same.

1 p.m. Well-being

check on Old State Road. Found to be fine.

3:31 p.m. Report of bear on porch on State Road. Same scared away.

Friday, 11/11

3:53 p.m. Disabled vehicle on Route 2 West at Farley Flats. Assisted with tire change.

8:15 p.m. Arrested [redacted] on court warrant.

Sunday, 11/13

Arrested [redacted] [redacted] for possession of class B (cocaine) and distribution of class E.

Waterways and Crossroads

TURNERS FALLS – Evan Pritchard, Director of the Center for Algonquin Culture, will be the guest speaker at the fourth annual Beaver Moon Gathering at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls on Saturday, November 19, from 1 to 3 p.m.

His topic will be “Waterways and Crossroads: Connecting Sacred Sites in Nolumbeka,” a continuation of his September presentation “The Great Configuration and Islands of Fire.”

Evan Pritchard, “Abachbahametch” (“Chipmunk”) of Mi’kmaq and Celtic descent, has a unique understanding of the big picture and has the ability to connect significant ceremonial and village sites across great distances. He was recently awarded the Helen Wilkinson Reynolds prize for his work unearthing forgotten Native American history in New York State.

For Native Americans, the Beaver Moon was the time to set beaver traps before the swamps froze, to ensure a supply of warm winter furs. The event is free and co-sponsored by the Nolumbeka Project and DCR.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was November 16, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Free Speech Dispute Hearing

On Monday, the Montague selectboard briefly revisited an issue that has recurred on their agenda since June, dealing with free speech in public spaces. After repeated conversations with town counsel, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio presented four alternative solutions to the question of use of town premises, such as Peskeomskut Park and the Montague Common, for displays, signs and other free speech and assembly activities.

The alternatives range from a minimal change to current practice, through detailed rules on size, duration, and number of signs, to posting a disclaimer for use of public space as Greenfield does, to requesting that all religious displays occur on private property, as is current practice in downtown Turners.

Case history on municipal policies reflects a multitude of attempted solutions – and constitutional challenges – to addressing free speech and church-state separation issues.

The topic was not on the posted agenda, and residents have asked for a chance to express their views before the board decides a course of action, so the matter was tabled for a fourth time, until December 11, when the full board is available.

Bike Path a Work in Progress

Twenty years after a group of local officials, planners, business owners and biking enthusiasts – the Franklin County Bikeway Committee – dreamed up a network of trails to link scenic vistas and commuting destinations, our local section of the county bikeway is at last emerging from the railroad bed and the utility right of way in Montague.

Sections open to public use by cyclists, roller blades, and pedestrians run from Unity Park to the fish ladder and along the canal from the entrance to the arch to the end of Depot Road. Arguably the most scenic sections of the bikeways, these paths offer quiet space and time as well as views of visiting Canada geese, mute swans, mallards and our resident eagles.

Phase One of the planned bikeway is the Canalside Trail, a three mile off-road path which will eventually connect downtown Turners Falls to McClelland Farm Road in East Deerfield. Parking for automobiles will be available both at Unity Park and at the McClelland Farm end. The ten-foot wide path will leave Montague as users cross the old railroad trestle over the confluence of the Deerfield and Connecticut rivers.

Ultimately, the county-wide bikeway will cover approximately 44 miles through eight communities: Deerfield, Erving, Gill,

Greenfield, Leverett, Montague, Northfield, and Sunderland.

Public Art Makes a Splash

When she gets nervous, River-Culture coordinator Lisa Davol likes to read home decorating magazines. Standing in the Food City checkout line on the eve of public art celebration in Turners Falls on November 11, Davol cast a covetous eye at the *Ladies Home Journal* as she clutched six boxes of brownie mix.

The day before she had seen Gary Orlinski, one of the artists whose work was due to be celebrated on Saturday, down on hands and knees by the fish ladder, bailing water with a bucket from the trench where his sculpture was supposed to stand. A short way up the bike path, the abstract brick-and-steel sculpture *Powertown* had almost been relocated because the highway department hit solid ledge while excavating the postholes.

The bushes that were supposed to form the backdrop for Cynthia Fisher’s *Atlantic Salmon Mosaic* had been uprooted during the course of renovating Peskeomskut Park. And there was no sign of Stephen Cahill’s *Doosel*, slated to rise on the corner of Third and Avenue A in little more than twelve hours.

By the next day, these pieces and more had been successfully installed. Admirers spent the day touring the new town landmarks.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Mystery Bones; Rooting Pigs; Firewood Error

Saturday, 10/15

12:50 p.m. Welfare check requested at Stoughton Place, resident was all set.

Sunday, 10/16

7:40 a.m. Alarm at residence on Route 2; system error.

9:45 a.m. Alarm at business on Main Road. Employee error.

Monday, 10/17

9:25 a.m. Disabled vehicle on Main Road. Assisted operator with tow.

10:40 a.m. Resident reports aggressive dogs running loose on Center Road. Spoke with owner.

2:30 p.m. Complaint of business practices of operation on French King Hwy. Referred to Better Business Bureau.

Tuesday, 10/18

8:30 a.m. Suspicious bones reported at residence on Main Road. Appear to be animal.

3:10 p.m. Minor motor vehicle accident at Main Road and French King Hwy. Paper exchange.

Wednesday, 10/19

7 a.m. Rabid skunk reported at residence on Center Road.

8:15 a.m. Lost dog reported from Dole Road, same has “chip” if located.

3:30 p.m. Resident from French King Hwy. reports a “Drone” in the area of home.

7:30 p.m. Reported fire in woods off Mountain Road, located subjects.

Thursday, 10/20

2:35 p.m. Assisted resident with DMV on Main Road.

Friday, 10/21

9:30 a.m. Assisted Dept of Children Services with check of Mountain Road residence.

Saturday, 10/22

12:55 p.m. Animal complaint on South Cross Road. Pigs running loose, doing damage to lawns.

Sunday, 10/23

10:30 a.m. Illegal dumping located on River Road.

12:10 p.m. Verbal altercation reported on Camp Road. Property dispute.

Monday, 10/24

6:10 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle reported on Main Road. Subject located, lost.

Tuesday, 10/25

1:25 p.m. Suspicious person reported on Peterson Way. Located same: cable worker.

3:35 p.m. Disabled vehicle in intersection at Main Road and Route 2. Assisted same with a tow.

Thursday, 10/27

5:43 p.m. Motor vehicle accident, Main Road near police station. No injuries.

Friday, 10/28

11:40 a.m. Resident reports suspicious activity on Ben Hale Road, all hours of day and night.

Saturday, 10/29

10:40 a.m. Complaint of ATVs on Camp Road. Spoke with same.

4 p.m. Riverview Drive residence for alarm.

6:50 p.m. Reported injured deer near Munns Ferry Road. Not located.

Sunday, 10/30

11:50 a.m. Suspicious activity at French King Hwy. residence. Owners.

Monday, 10/31

10:45 a.m. Found keys at residence on West Gill Road. Assisted owners.

2:05 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on River Road. No injuries.

Tuesday, 11/1

1:30 p.m. Business on Route 2 reports phone scam using his number.

4:45 p.m. Lost/stolen license plate located on Mountain Road.

5 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with domestic incident.

6 p.m. Minor motor vehicle accident at Main Road and Route 2. No injuries.

Wednesday, 11/2

7:45 a.m. Restraining order issued to resident on West Gill Road.

Thursday, Nov 3

4:45 p.m. Resident on Main Road reported load of logs dumped on his property.

LAPRADE from page B1

Filled with verbal abuses, bizarre events and the anatomies of their confrontations, this book moves on to the information Gina was seeking all along, when they finally meet at a Times Square diner where Elaine gives her the complete truth about her origins.

Amy tackles the hard conversations that arise in family discourse as one begins to mature and have a great desire to become more independent. We could hear the characters dialogue as a true-to-life event between two contemporaries, who worked thru the heart of every matter that just might visit real-life people as they confront life’s challenges.

Amy’s characters are portraits of individuals and a family, presented and developed in a way that both astound and shave the frost from the glass of contemporary life. Actually, this story touches on many events that come about, not just in New England, but within the broader world in which we live but don’t always notice. Amy points out that something is missing, and tells us how it sounds: she makes us listen!

Her narrative has the potential to propel our youth and their families beyond their current circumstances. Truly, Amy bites off the “tough

dialogue” that looms before us. Gutsy! This ephemeral but enduring storyline just might haunt you!

Amy was also given a private book-launch party to celebrate with her family and close friends, including her parents, David and Marcia LaPrade. Amy grew up in Bernardston and then attended Sarah Lawrence College in Yonkers, New York.

Having graduated from there in 2015, she immediately set her task to complete *So Nice to Finally Meet You*, her first work of fiction, published by Paul Richmond’s Human Error Publishing. Amy counts on his editorial-to-publishing, publishing-to-distribution acumen. She cited many others who were integral to her venture such as Kathy Dunn of Main Street Writers, of Amherst, Don Fisher, Hazel Dawkins, Eve Brown-Waite, and Dorothy Goldstone for their editorial assistance and others without whom the book would not have been published.

Having had the pleasure to attend her launch party, it seemed a success with lots of food, her family and close friends and colleagues. She “leaked” that another book is on the way, which we all anticipate to be out in the near future.



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

edited by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno  
Readers are invited to send poems to the  
Montague Reporter at: 177 Avenue A  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
or to: [poetry@montaguereporter.org](mailto:poetry@montaguereporter.org)

# November's Featured Poet: Paul Richmond

CHRISTOPHER CARMODY PHOTO

## My Father Asked Me

In front of a full court room  
The lawyer was asking  
Did you push your father  
Down the stairs

It was a Wednesday night  
You can hear traffic  
In the background  
A 90 year old man  
Was saying  
I don't want to live anymore  
I am tired of praying  
To die  
I can't hear  
I stumble when I walk  
The back pain is unbearable  
I am confused and don't remember much  
My wife is in a senior home  
I don't drive anymore  
I can't see her anymore  
I keep re-running the scene  
Of her falling  
If only I could change it

My son takes care of me  
His life is on hold  
His time filled with my needs  
I feel bad  
Guilty  
Depressed  
Angry

His son couldn't lift him any more  
He was shitting on himself and his bed  
His son was there with  
love frustration disappointment  
sadness anger gratitude

The money was running out  
The medications, the home aides, the copays  
On their way back from the bathroom  
The son held his father as he shuffled along  
They pass the basement stairs

In his son's ear  
His voice  
Was only a whisper  
He said with all the strength he had  
Throw me down the stairs  
The lawyer  
Turned to the jury  
The accused would have us believe  
That even though  
There is no personal gain  
There is no money  
The house is owned by the son  
There is no insurance  
The question before you  
Is why would the accused do this

The accused wants us to believe  
That he loved his dad very much  
As a son  
He was doing  
What he was asked to do  
Fulfilling his dad's needs

The lawyer turned  
Looking at the accused  
Did you push your father  
Down the stairs

The accused  
Answered  
I did not  
Push  
My father down the stairs

He asked me  
To  
Throw him

## The Card Game

There's a new card game being played  
People have been playing this game  
for generations  
May be they just didn't know  
they were playing  
Until it is defined  
Called out  
Given a name  
You didn't even know  
You were playing

You know you are playing  
When someone says  
So you are playing the race card  
So you are playing the sex card  
So you are playing I should feel guilty card

The funny thing about this game is  
There are times it is true  
Yes this is a race card  
Yes this is a women being made powerless  
card  
Yes I was dealt the cancer card

Some take it as it's a get out of jail card  
That explains everything  
I win the argument

What else is there to know  
You're playing you have the power card

When you play the race card  
They play I have the guns card  
Some of us cry out that's not fair card  
But no one is saying now children play nice

Some play I believe in Jesus card  
Some are creating their own deck

The person on the phone said  
Sir I am not allowed to talk to you  
I can't give you any information  
Or tell you anything since we don't find  
The papers you say you've filled out 5 times

All I wanted to do was  
cancel some appointments  
Stop medications coming to the house  
So as they started to hang up and  
said once more  
We will have to talk to your father  
I played the dead father card  
My father died  
Silence  
I am sorry

I just want you to cancel the appointments  
and all medications

I can do that

Sometimes you just need to know how  
to play your cards

## The Quickest Way

My mother is 93  
She is laying in a hospital bed  
In her home  
On the first floor  
Accepting she can't go to the  
second floor bedroom  
She rang the wireless door bell  
That we are using in the house  
To let us know she needs something  
The door bell is set to tango

She has to go to the bathroom  
She slowly moves  
I move her legs so they hang over the bed  
She reaches out her hands  
That I grab, brace my feet and pull her up  
She stands  
Then shuffles along very slowly  
the three feet  
To the commode next to the bed  
Takes her a while to turn  
So that I can hold her hands  
Let her down on the commode  
She does her business  
I raise her up, help pull up  
Her underwear and pants  
The slow shuffle back to sitting down  
The lifting of the legs  
The pulling herself up higher in the bed  
I hand her a warm wash cloth to  
wash her hands  
As she lays in bed she rubbed her hands  
on the cloth  
Then wiped her face  
Under her arms  
She hands it back  
I ask does she want  
Me to set up a sponge bath  
Or try and get her in the shower  
Or just throw a bucket of water  
On her  
She Smiles  
Says that would be the quickest way

## We Need A Man On Base

He got up to bat  
Everyone on his team  
Knew he was a right handed hitter  
So they were in shock  
They all yelled at him from the bench  
This was no time for fooling around  
What was he doing?  
He got up to bat as a lefty  
What was he doing?  
The team needed a guy on base

He knew most pitchers didn't like left  
hand hitters  
They weren't use to pitching to them  
The pitcher walked him

As he walked to first base  
He smiled back at the team  
He got the job done

A man on base  
He did it his way

## Boo

The little boy  
In his ghost costume  
Showing me a scary face  
Says BOO

I howl  
And say I am scared  
He giggles and  
Runs around the house  
Saying Boo to everyone he meets

I don't want to tell him what really scares me

Boo  
Fukushima leaking tons of radioactive materials  
Into the Oceans  
Into the Air  
For 5 years  
No sign of stopping  
That scares me

Boo  
The police have become a military occupation  
With all the military equipment  
Given for home land security  
The acceptance of the killings of unarmed civilians  
That scares me

Boo  
The continuous destruction  
Polluting  
Of the environment  
Leaving no water that is drinkable  
Land that can't grown any food  
Air to breathe  
That scares me  
Then suddenly from behind me  
I hear  
Boo  
I jump and say I am scared  
And he runs off giggling  
I have no where to run to  
I am scared

We are delighted this month to feature the work of Wendell's Paul Richmond, poet and poetry entrepreneur. An artist and performer for over 40 years, Paul created Human Error Publishing, which organizes monthly readings and annual Word events / festivals, including the Greenfield Annual Word Festival, and publishes independent writers. He is the author of four books; "No Guarantees – Adjust and Continue; Ready or Not - Living in the Break Down Lane;" "Too Much of a Good Thing - In the land of Scarcity - Breeds Contempt" and "You Might Need A Bigger Hammer." His fifth book is due out in 2017. He has been published in numerous journals, anthologies and has been a featured poet throughout the country.

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WINTER from page B1

a number of contradicting reports between the NOAA and *Almanac's* predictions, of recent note being the *Almanac's* prediction of heavy rainfall for California this past year, which proved to be devastatingly untrue. The NOAA, however, does not entirely discount the *Almanac's* methods, and are mostly concerned with the lack of provision of evidence to support their 80 percent accuracy claim – a diplomatic stance to hold, considering meteorologists are rarely considered by the public to be trusted purveyors of long-term weather predictions either.

Locally, many inhabitants of the Connecticut River Valley have chosen to follow Dave Hayes, the self-proclaimed “Weather Nut,” via his website or Facebook page, for area-specific weather predictions. Hayes “curates and reports on the weather of Western Massachusetts” and “cull[s] weather information from several non-local sources,” including the NOAA and National Weather Service (NWS), according to his page.

Hayes has accumulated over 21,000 loyal followers and offers accurate and palatable short-range forecasts. He could not be reached for comment as of press time, but based on his online presence, he appears a reliable source for winter weather predictions at least a few days in advance.

The past two winters have provided a wide spectrum of what Montague residents can expect for snowfall. The 2015-16 winter season was one of the least snowy on record, with a little over 16 inches of total snowfall, mostly attributable to a warmer than average December: 34.95°F, versus an average of 28°F.

This was a welcome respite from the previous winter of 2014-15, when Montague experienced over 60 inches of snow – well above the average of 43.3 inches, but nowhere near the current record of 95.8 inches from the winter of 1995-96, according to data from the NWS.

Events and Trends

While large amounts of snow can have obvious detrimental effects, such as power outages, structural damage, and car accidents, too little snow and warmer temperatures can



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also impact the region in sometimes less apparent ways. Insects such as mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas are often killed off in colder weather, but with a warmer, less snowy winter, they tend to be out in full force much earlier and in greater numbers.

Additionally, insects and pathogens that are harmful to plant life may not die off in such a winter, leading to greater pressure on plants and possible blights. Plants can also be in danger with a warmer winter as they may begin to bud too early, only to be killed off by frost later in the season. This past season, for example, the region saw a marked decline in local peaches, as nearly none survived the confusing weather patterns in late winter and early spring.

Some local wildlife is also negatively impacted by warmer winters. According to the National Wildlife Federation, many birds using the Atlantic Flyway, have shown altered migration patterns as a result of unusually warm or erratic win-

ters, leading to a reduction in numbers because of changes in breeding habits and finding reliable food sources.

Heavier snowfall can also negatively impact wildlife, as the steady increase in temperatures has led to some species migrating further north, where they find themselves ill-equipped to handle harsh, cold winters.

Even with native populations, such as the white-tailed deer, we tend to see increases in mortality rates in years with heavy snowfall, as the deer have difficulty finding acorns and other food sources underneath feet of snow. Generally, significant weather changes in either direction are not ideal for plants and wildlife, but luckily some can find ways to adapt quickly, if the conditions become consistent.

It is no secret that climates throughout the world have been noticeably shifting over the years, and meteorologists are still not

certain as to whether such climate change will lead to milder or harsher winters, though many seem to lean towards the latter.

Overall, it is nearly impossible to predict the snowfall and weather outcomes for the winter season, and that fact holds especially true today. Most meteorological predictions are based on hypotheticals and past events, but with more unexpected weather events occurring – like snow in October – it is not clear if those are newly developing patterns, or just stray anomalies, according to a spokesperson from the NWS.

Our best option at this point is to hope for the best – though if you're a skier or snowboarder, your version of “best” may differ slightly from your neighbor's – and prepare for the worst, but also not to dwell on it. We've made it through many variations of winter weather and, fortunately, spring always comes through in the end.

In the meantime, it wouldn't hurt for us to keep an eye on the

squirrels and their gathering habits to tell us their predictions. Who knows: they might know something we don't.



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## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### 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 3RD WEDNESDAY

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Roots at the Root Cellar*. Reggae DJs mixing up roots, dub, dancehall, steppas and more. 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.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Franklin County Pool League*. 6 to 11 p.m.

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

#### 2nd AND 4TH THURSDAY

Hubie's Tavern: *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.

#### FIRST THURSDAYS

Gill Tavern, Gill: *Trivia Night*. 8:30 p.m. \$

#### EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

Element Brewing Company, Millers Falls: *Brule's Irish Band*. Food carts supplement the local beer. 6 p.m.

#### EVERY FOURTH FRIDAY

Community Yoga and Wellness Center, Greenfield: *Greenfield Circle Dance*. 6 to 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. Through December 2.

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

GCC Downtown Center Gallery, Greenfield: *Venture/Adventure: Applied Photography Projects*. Photography by students Anthony Borton, Elaine Findley, Cynthia Mead, Elie Shuman, and Shoshana Zonderman. Artists' reception on Friday, December 2, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *Annual LCA Resident Artists Exhibit*. Paintings, graphic art, pottery and more. Through December 9.

Little Big House Gallery, Shelburne Falls. Open by appt.; see [littlebighousegallery.com](http://littlebighousegallery.com).

Madison Gallery, Millers Falls: Temporary space while Avenue A is being renovated. *DeBix Art*

- *Released*, paintings by Deborah Bix, and wood turner Jon Kopera.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: On-going art for sale on Ave. A.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *The Liquid Edge: Polar Regions*, photographs by Sarah Holbrook. 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: *Oil Paintings by Frankie Dack*. Landscapes with a human component. Through November.

#### EVENTS:

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault Trio*. Original guitar music with Doug Plavin and Klondike Koehler. 8 p.m.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Frank Hurricane, AT & the Birds of Paradise, Joshua Burkett, Lauri McNamara, and New Parents*. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Doug Hewitt Group w/special guest horn player Victor Haskins*. Rock/jazz classics. 9 p.m. \$

#### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Erving Elementary School, Erving: Friends of the Erving Library present *Beatles for Sale: The Tribute*. New England based tribute band presents free concert. Donations accepted towards new proposed library. 7 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Susan Alcorn, Dawn Cook, Bromptreb, and Bunwinkies*. All ages / substance free. 7:30 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Seth Adam*, with special guest *Rivers*. Pop rock. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & the Pistoleros*. Outlaw Country. 9 p.m.

Roots Cellar, Greenfield: *Cousin Earth w/Fat Bradley*. Folk/rock/fusion. 9 p.m. \$

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Beaver Moon Gathering*. Nolumbeka presents *Waterways and Crossroads: Connecting Sacred Sites in Nolumbeka*, with guest speaker Evan Pritchard, director of the Center for Algonquin Culture. 1 to 3 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls:

*Battle Trance, Ruth Garbus*. All ages / substance free. 7:30 p.m. \$

Mt. Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Sara Thomsen*. Singer/songwriter, founder of the *Echoes of Peace* non-profit to expand and develop the work of examining critical social issues using music. Concert. 7:30 p.m. \$

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Lisa Leizman Dance Company: 25 More*. Perform *Spiegel im Spiegel*, commissioned by the Iraqi Children's Art Exchange, with music by company composer-in-residence Andrea Kwapien, and *New Hampshire* with dancers singing their own music. 7:30 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Scott Bravo & Ken Bonfield*. Fingerstyle guitar. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Lunar Carnival*. Folk/Jazz/Americana. 9 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Groove Prophet*. 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rear Defrosters*, honky-tonk, with *Kate Lorenz of Rusty Belle* and members of *Wooden Dinosaur*. 9:30 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Leverett Crafts and Arts, Leverett: *FESTIBAL - Danse Café* presents a music & dance party. French, Breton, Scandi, New England music; instruction, dance, potluck hors d'oeuvres. 2:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Lexi Weege*. Sassy Jazzy Blues. 8 p.m.

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

#### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Thurston Moore / Matt Valentine / John Moloney trio, Jenifer Gelineau, Willie Lane*. Benefit for Quabbin Harvest food coop. All ages / substance free. 8 p.m. \$

#### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Cassidy and the Music*. Singer/songwriter. 6 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *John Cabán's Galvanizer*. Psychedelic rock/funk/dub/surf/jam. 9 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *AfterGlo*. 9 p.m. \$ (note day change).

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Tawdry*. 9:30 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Holly May*, country pop, and special guest *Izzy Heitai*, folk. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Reprobate Blues Band*. 9 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke*.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Heavy on the Harsh, Sister Jawbone, John Blunt*. 9:30 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Franklin County Sweethearts*. Jazz/Blues/Country. 8 p.m.

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

#### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open Mic*. 8 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, NOV. 30

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open Old Time Music Session*. 8 p.m.



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**Friday, 11/18 – 9 p.m.**  
Josh Levangie and the Pistoleros

**Saturday 11/19– 9 p.m.**  
Lunar Carnival

**Sunday 11/20– 8 p.m.**  
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WEST ALONG from page B1

opened and closed its new wings. Bit by bit it ventured onto the pine needle bed, and I backed away. How could such delicate wings possibly carry it to the high plains and ancestral forest in central Mexico? But sure enough the next morning it was gone, kiting its way on paper-thin wings to a place 3000 miles away, a place it had never been.

*She's glad the birds have gone away  
She's glad her simple worsted gray  
Is silver now with clinging mist...*

But hold on Mr. Frost! What about this?

There's the burning bush my Irish grandmother planted 70 years ago, flaming its brilliant reds along the backyard line. She had it planted there back in the 1950s, before the term "invasive species" became an everyday expression. I'm sure she didn't even have a notion of its invasive nature of course, probably didn't even know the word, but for her, the bush and its scarlet leaves just brightened up the drab November of her Irish melancholy.

But now the underbrush of our woods is filled with burning bush offspring, seeds carried on the wind or by birds. Everywhere the burning bush has spread, its flames bright. It illuminates the burnished copper leaves of the oak, and the yellow leaves of birch, stretching to the river's edge.

Still, by November 10, the cold frosty mornings are unavoidable reminders that winter is on the way. Some of us hasten to complete outdoor chores, long delayed due to the intense summer heat. Now, no

more excuses. Now the woodshed roof has to be repaired. That chore is made agreeable by the pale sunshine of 10 a.m. and the simple pleasure of driving a ten-penny nail into pine wood.

Another chore long delayed, the thirty-year-old hemlock has to come down, outgrown and leggy, its branches are reaching too close to the house and chimney. I feel a twinge in my heart when the noble hemlock dropped to the ground; it had sheltered many a dove, cardinal, and barred owl during snowy nights. Infected by the relentless adelgid, besieged by invasive bitter-sweet, it has left an empty space at the corner of the house, where just yesterday it still stood.

In a year or two, the heat stored in its wood will be released and go up the chimney as fragrant smoke. Hemlock ashes will return to the earth. Recycled in nature's way, nothing is truly lost.

We split wood, carry water to the wild birds, plant the last of the spring bulbs, keep an eye out for evening bears. Woodcock whistle over the yard at twilight, a gaggle of wild geese calls from overhead.

The fox sparrow has returned to the yard as always, usually on a November date around the 14<sup>th</sup>, perhaps to linger two or three weeks before moving on ahead of the snow.

A mountain bluebird, of all things, has somehow drifted onto the Montague Plains from the Rockies, brilliant blue patch of sky sitting on a fencepost at the airport.

Yet far out the now barren woods, away from the burning bush glade,

a modest wild shrub is beginning to flower, the secretive and overlooked witch hazel. Pale yellow and delicate blossoms tint the November woods. The witch hazel holds out against the grays and dun colors of bare branches of the other trees.

*Not yesterday I learned to know  
The love of bare November days  
Before the coming of the snow...*

Robert Frost insists that this month be considered barren, yet keeping a close eye on the outdoors, we can see that all is simply taking on another kind of beauty.



FAR FROM HOME



JEFF BLANCHARD PHOTOS

This mountain bluebird, native to the western part of the continent, was spotted at the Turners Falls Airport this Sunday and Monday. When she heard the news, our arts page editor ran out the door. Thanks to Jeff Blanchard for these beautiful pictures!

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