

TIME FOR WINTER
FARMERS MARKETS

Page B1



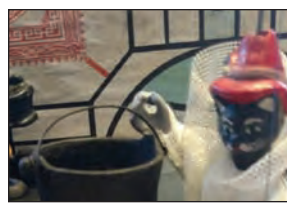
TO ENTERTAIN
AND DELIGHT

Page B1



AN APPEAL
TO VANITY

Page B6



LAKE PLEASANT

MILLERS FALLS

MONTAGUE CENTER

MONTAGUE CITY

TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 15 – NO. 10

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

DECEMBER 15, 2016

GILL SELECTBOARD

Riverside Sewer Rate To Jump 17%, In Line With Montague Hike

By KENT ALEXANDER

The Gill selectboard met last Monday evening and held a detailed discussion about how to set sewer rates in the

Riverside neighborhood, after the town of Montague announced a 17% increase in the rate it charges Gill for waste pumped from Riverside.

The board studied four

rate increase scenarios prepared by administrative assistant Ray Purington. At the center of the discussion was concern over how this rather explosive increase could negatively impact residents.

Greg Snedeker said he would like to know more about the 50% spike in disposal costs over the past two years. Randy Crochier replied that it was his belief the increase was, in part, due to the steps Montague was taking to be more effectively “green conscious.”

Ward added that the selectboard has always “advocated for an increase that would give the town a little cushion” in the event that the infrastructure, which is old, fails

see GILL page A7

GMRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

School Bans Tomahawk Chop More

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – The regional school committee refined the terms of its 2009 ban on the “Indian” tomahawk chop and chant Tuesday night, specifying that “athletic teams or other student groups,” and not only the band and cheerleading squad, are prohibited from performing the acts at district events.

The policy rewrite came as the result of confusion within the district since the high school football team’s November 24 game against Greenfield, during which the team and fans performed the chop and chant. The school committee is currently engaged in a high-profile process to review the “Indian” team name. The district had received complaints about the team’s actions, and the administration has since come under fire for asking players what

had happened during the game.

Two local residents who spoke during the meeting’s public comment period argued that the team’s actions did not violate the 2009 policy. “Why would we single out, specifically, the band and the cheer squad,” asked Chris Pinardi TFHS ‘85, “if everyone in the school is affected by it?”

Pinardi said that after the game, the team and coaching staff were “bullied, inside the building, on social media, and by the community, for what was perceived by all to have breached a policy that simply doesn’t apply to them, if you read this as any intelligent person would.”

And Erving’s Marisa Dalmaso-Rode, parent of a district student, argued that the Indian controversy “has raised a community outcry

see GMRSD page A8

In Support of Cancer Patients, Sheffield Students Plan “Buzz Off”

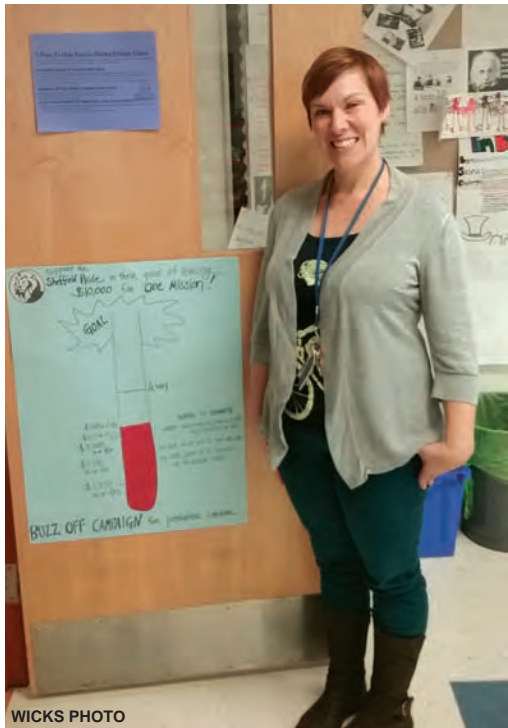
By LEE WICKS

TURNERS FALLS – A nice warm January thaw would be a good thing for some students in Montague schools, since a number of them will be shaving their heads on January 19. The upcoming fundraiser, called the Sheffield One Mission Buzz Off, has united students at Sheffield Elementary School with Great Falls Middle School and Turners Falls High against a powerful enemy: cancer.

The Buzz Off aims to raise awareness of childhood cancer and express solidarity with cancer patients, who so often lose their hair during chemotherapy. The students hope to raise \$10,000, and in the first week of December, they had already raised a little more than \$4,000.

Annie Leonard, principal of the middle school and high school, has promised to shave her head if the students reach their goal. As of December 6, the highest fundraiser was junior Peyton Emery, who had raised over \$700.

The funds collected will go to One Mission, a pediatric cancer foundation that does whatever it takes to get kids through cancer. The organization’s website says, “Rather than fund long-term solutions like research, One Mission’s programs and services provide immediate relief from the relentless wrath cancer unleashes every single day. Programs and ser-



Jessica Vachula-Curtis, teacher and parent, with a thermometer gauging the Buzz Off’s progress.

vices that lift the spirits of patients and their families, help the healing and recovery process, and make life more livable during treatment and hospitalization.”

Dmitri, a second grader at Sheffield who

see BUZZ OFF page A6

MEMORIAL

Dr. Dan Bennett (1930 – 2016)

Two of the Montague Reporter’s Leverett correspondents share their memories of a giant.

By ANN TWEEDY

LEVERETT – I just found out that Dr. Dan Bennett died, and I immediately started writing this. It is harder to do than I thought.

Dan and I spoke often of the saga of American exceptionalism. What did he think of this situation? I never had the chance to ask.

I do know that he considered things from many angles, with an agile mind. I can only consider a few things about this complicated person who is no longer walking the earth – partly because I can hear him laughing at me trying to do this, and partly because I don’t think I’m qualified to do so. I do know that he would encourage me to try, as he so often did.

He called me after the *Montague Reporter* published my story on local eugenicists. He was happy that someone was writing about those bastards lurking in the shadows, getting off easy.

My deepest respect for the man is that he was an unstoppable energy, always in the mix, stirring up and poking at things, and being present and willing and able in spirit. His close friend, Elliot Sherman, shared that the bottom third of Dan’s heart was gone as of 20 years ago, but he outlived three of his doctors who then couldn’t understand how he still existed, pumping blood and circulating oxygen and being unstoppable Dan.

Perhaps it’s because he was so interesting, and found things so interesting. He wrote acclaimed philosophy – see Essential Philosophies, *Journal of Philosophy* 66 (15):487-499 (1969) – but appreciated the tangible and practical, like how to keep a balky car running in a deep-freeze western Massachusetts winter. (You carefully light a fire under the engine.)

I loved Dan because he cared about all the

see TWEEDY page A5



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIA SHIVELY

By ROB SKELTON

LEVERETT – When I first removed to North Leverett from Northampton in the early ‘90s, I encountered the disheveled Dr. Bennett, working at the Village Coop, whose building he had funded and built “with a small inheritance.”

He was married to the coop manager Julie Shively, who spearheaded the coop’s move from Shutesbury Hill to Norwood’s store in the Moore’s Corner section of North Leverett. Norwood’s store was a shack leaning over the river, and somehow the coop and the little country store shared space in the same hovel.

Dr. Dan was able to purchase Watson’s barn lot across Rattlesnake Gutter Road (from Leesa Crocker), and got the town to okay its continued commercial use. He got Sam Lovejoy to do the lawyering, and Don Babineau to do the building. It was up and running by 1991/2 when I arrived, renting a room in the old Gardner Place on Dickinson Road.

The new building was nice, but it was missing something – a “shmooze space!” Since I had subbed for him on the dogfood run a few times when he was out of town, he asked for my help pickaxing through the packed gravel parking lot and digging down some feet for the piers of the new addition. He enlisted others to push community projects forward, and we were happy to help.

see SKELTON page A5

How Cautious Should We Be? A Look Ahead at Online Privacy

By EMILY ALLING

HADLEY – The keys to the U.S. government’s massive surveillance apparatus are about to be handed over to a new administration – one that privacy advocates fear will target the communications of marginalized populations, activists, and those deemed political opponents. A post-election surge of interest in online privacy has seen people ditching their Facebook accounts, moving to encrypted voice and chat services, and taking steps to mask their digital identities.

But is there such a thing as total immunity from surveillance or discovery online?

“To be perfectly honest, there is no privacy anymore,” cybersecurity expert Noah Kelley told a crowd of students, librarians, and community members who gathered on December 8 in the Williston Library Reading Room at Mount Holyoke College.

Kelley, a software engineer and founder of the activist organization HACK*BLOSSOM, kicked off a speaker series addressing current issues in information technology and society, sponsored by the college’s Library and Information Technology Services. His presentation, “DIY Cybersecurity: Solidarity Through Technology,” described a number of threats to online privacy and security, and offered strategies for protecting our digital information.

Kelley identified three broad categories of threats to individuals online: the data brokerage industry; the government; and malicious hackers and trolls.

The massive, unregulated data brokerage

industry systematically sweeps up a shocking amount of personally identifying information (PII) based on the sites you’ve visited, links you’ve clicked, pages you’ve liked, your physical location, and your search history, among other sources. Data brokers get some of this information from “free” websites, most of which make their money by selling their users’ data.

Kelley identified three broad categories of threats to individuals online: the data brokerage industry; the government; and malicious hackers and trolls.

“Unless you are hosting it, or something is open source, it is safe to say that there is someone who has a financial interest in your information being available,” cautioned Kelley. Other information is captured by means of code injected into web pages that is able to track your web activity.

As a vivid example of what brokers do with this data, Kelley described a company, MED-base200, that identified individuals affected by rape, HIV, alcoholism, or erectile dysfunction – all based solely on their online activities. The company created lists of the names and email addresses of these people and sold the lists to pharmaceutical companies, allowing them to target them with their advertising.

see PRIVACY page A4

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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About Face Computing

Founded by
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August, 2002

Reading the News

“As global temperatures continue to rise and break records, polar sea ice covering an area about the size of India has vanished, according to climate scientists. The trend of polar ice melt has been alarming researchers, with sea ice in the Arctic and Antarctica being measured at record lows for this time of year, Reuters reports.” (CBS, 12/5)

“President-elect Donald Trump on Thursday nominated Scott Pruitt, the attorney general of the oil and gas-intensive state of Oklahoma, to head the Environmental Protection Agency.... On his LinkedIn page, Pruitt boasts of being ‘a leading advocate against the EPA’s activist agenda.’” (Washington Post, 12/8)

“Malnutrition in Yemen has reached a critically unprecedented level after a two-year conflict has ripped the country apart. At least 462,000 children are currently suffering from acute malnutrition and another 2.2 million people require urgent care, according to a report published Monday by UNICEF...” (International Business Times, 12/14)

“President-elect Donald Trump intends to nominate as labor secretary Andrew Puzder, chief executive of the company that owns the Hard-ee’s and Carl’s Jr. burger chains.... ‘[H]e will save small businesses from the crushing burdens of unnecessary regulations that are stunting job growth and suppressing wages,’ Trump said in a statement.” (Bloomberg, 12/8)

“Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has ordered his officials to develop nuclear-powered ships, accusing the United States of violating last year’s international nuclear deal.” (BBC, 12/13)

“President-elect Donald Trump has selected former Texas Gov. Rick Perry – who famously once forgot that he wanted to abolish the Energy Department – to be secretary of energy...” (NBC, 12/13)

“China has installed anti-aircraft guns and other weapons on all seven of the artificial islands it has built in a disputed part of the South China Sea, according to a U.S. think tank’s analysis of recent satellite imagery. Late Wednesday, the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative said China had installed the weapons despite President Xi Jinping’s pledge not to militarize the islands in the Spratly archipelago, where Beijing’s territorial claims are contested by several other governments.” (Wall Street Journal, 12/15)

“A secret U.S. military investigation in 2010 determined that Michael T. Flynn, the retired Army general tapped to serve as national security adviser in the Trump White House, ‘inappropriately shared’ classified information with foreign military officers in Afghanistan, newly released documents show.” (Washington Post, 12/14)

“Yahoo said Wednesday that more than 1 billion user accounts – meaning most of the Internet giant’s customers worldwide – were hacked in 2013, leading to the release of user names, telephone numbers, dates of birth and other personal information.” (Washington Post, 12/14)

“Twitter was told it was ‘bounced’ from Wednesday’s meeting between tech executives and President-elect Donald Trump in retribution for refusing during the campaign to allow an emoji version of the hashtag #CrookedHillary, according to a source close to the situation.” (Politico, 12/14)

“The Islamic State group was manufacturing weapons in and around Mosul on an industrial scale with products largely purchased in bulk from Turkey, according to a report published by an arms research group Wednesday.” (New York Times, 12/14)

“Trump announced that he has selected former World Wrestling Entertainment CEO Linda McMahon to head his Small Business Administration. McMahon is the wife of billionaire WWE promoter, Vincent McMahon.” (Forbes, 12/7)

“Electronic monitoring equipment failed to detect a pipeline rupture that spewed more than 176,000 gallons of crude oil into a North Dakota creek, the pipeline’s operator said Monday.” (Los Angeles Times, 12/13)

“Alarmed that decades of crucial climate measurements could vanish under a hostile Trump administration, scientists have begun a feverish attempt to copy reams of government data onto independent servers in hopes of safeguarding it from any political interference.” (Washington Post, 12/13)

None of us are ready.



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

The Montague Reporter

Holiday* Gift Shop!

Stumped searching for that perfect stuffer for your loved one’s stocking? The essential interchangeability of all commodities getting you down? Well, here are **THREE WAYS** we can help each other this December! All proceeds fund our operations.

Letter to the Editors

An Oracle?

Hmmmm... I wonder. Was Bob Dylan an oracle?

As Dylan composed many of his songs, might he have had foresight into the Presidency of Donald Trump? You be the judge as you peruse this listing of some of his compositions. May any of the references in title – or, for you Dylan aficionados, in verse – have foresight into Trump’s rhetoric or yet-to-be experienced policies? Hang on folks.

A Hard Rain’s a-Gonna Fall
Beyond Here Lies Nothin’
Blowin’ In The Wind
Changing Of The Guards
Cry a While
Dear Landlord
Desolation Row
Disease Of Conceit
Everything Is Broken
Gonna Change My Way Of Thinking
Gotta Serve Somebody
I Pity The Poor Immigrant
Idiot Wind
It’s All Over Now, Baby Blue
Jokerman
Masters Of War
Neighborhood Bully
Never Gonna Be The Same Again
Pay In Blood
Political World
Seeing The Real You At Last
The Times They Are a-Changin’
The Wicked Messenger
Too Much Of Nothing
When Teardrops Fall
When The Deal Goes Down
Ye Shall Be Changed

What’s your verdict?

Ed Gregory Greenfield

1. Montague Reporter 2017 Cartoon Calendars! \$15

These adorable wall calendars feature 12 cartoons from past issues of the *Montague Reporter*, all drawn by our editor and in-house cartoonist, Nina Rossi. Spiral bound on top, 6-1/2” x 8-1/2”, glossy matte black and white. While supplies last.

2. Special Historical Editions: Complete Sets! \$10

Our hugely popular 1/1/15 (winter), 7/2/15 (summer), 3/31/16 (spring) and 10/6/16 (fall) special history editions drew deeply from the annals of the *Turners Falls Reporter*, *Turners Falls Herald*, and *Turners Falls Observer* as well as our own archives. This handsome, 64-page complete set will make an absorbing, entertaining and thought-provoking gift for the time traveler in your life.

3. Gift Subscriptions

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Give the gift of news! Mailed subscriptions (\$60/year) are a great way for far-flung friends and family to stay in touch with their local roots. Most homes in Gill, Erving, Wendell, Leverett and Montague are eligible for home delivery (\$40/year), and discount delivery (\$25/year) is available in the heart of Montague Center and in much of Turners Falls. See the subscription form on this page.

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

Like putting together puzzles? Have a collection of used puzzle boxes? Looking for a new challenging puzzle?

Then come and swap with other fellow puzzle-masters! There will be a puzzle swap at the Greenfield Savings Bank branch in Turners Falls this Saturday, December 17, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Make sure there are no missing pieces. That’s not funny!

Don’t miss **“Wendell Yule Concert:** A Night of Song and Celebration,” featuring Francis Doughty and the Wendell Community Chorus with special guest Moonlight Davis, this Saturday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wendell Town Hall.

The concert is a fundraiser for Friends of the Wendell Meeting-house and the Wendell Community Chorus. Suggested donation adults \$10, kids \$6. Doors open at 7 p.m.

The Erving Fire Department is sponsoring a **fundraiser at St. Kazimierz Hall** in Turners Falls for the Clark family, who lost a child and their home in a tragic fire last month. The catered lunch, DJ entertainment, auction and raffles will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. this Sunday, December 18.

Meal tickets are \$12 for adults and \$7 for children. They are available at Scotty’s on the Hill, by calling Marisa Dalmaso-Rode (413) 522-5328, or by contacting Bobby Campbell, Rebecca Easton or Donna LaClaire on Facebook.

On Wednesday, December 21, from 6 until 9 p.m. join Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center staff for a **Solstice Headlamp Hike**.

A holiday celebration for hike lovers, this romp will be on the carriage-width ski trails at Northfield. Headlamps will light the way on this longest night of the year as we share solstice facts and quotes from literary lovers of the night. A visit to a mid-mountain campfire and shared cider and snacks will sweeten this night as we turn toward the sun.

Participants should bring a headlamp, dress in layers for hiking in winter weather, and expect to hike 1½ miles with an elevation gain of 300’. If trails are open for skiing, snowshoes are required.

This is a free event and is appropriate for ages 11 and older. Please call to pre-register at 1(800) 859-2960.

“Giving Back in Greenfield” is the **third annual Toy Drive** based at the RECOVER Project, at 68 Federal Street.

If you have new or gently used toys appropriate for any ages up to 17 to contribute, drop them off at

the center. Used items should be in working order and clean. New items are greatly appreciated.

Families who are unable to get their children gifts will be able to come to the project on December 22, between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and collect a few gifts. For more information, call Heather at (413) 774-5489, or visit “Giving Back in Greenfield” on Facebook.

You may be eligible for **free smoke alarms**. The Turners Falls Fire Department and American Red Cross are teaming up to install smoke alarms on January 10 and 11.

You are eligible if your home was built before 1975, and if your current smoke alarms are more than 10 years old. Call the Turners Falls Fire Department for details at (413)863-9023. You must sign up by January 2.

The Montague Reporter is compiling a listing of Christmas Eve and Day services for the issue published on December 22. Send us your information!

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

GUEST EDITORIAL

By GEORGE SHAPIRO

GILL – If you are a reader of the *Greenfield Recorder*, you may have recently noticed a fine, newly-built house in Gill featured in an article on the front page of the weekend edition. This home is owned by Brian Donahue, professor of environmental studies at Brandeis University and, according to the article, was built with lumber cut from the building lot which is, apparently, more local lumber than is typical for a \$500,000 custom home.

Aside from his 2,500-square-foot house in Gill, Prof. Donahue’s accomplishments include his position as president of Massachusetts Woodlands Institute and being lead author of *A New England Food Vision 2060*. This is an academic report that “imagines a new future that is possible if society were to commit to supporting sustainable food production in New England,” and advocates for “building the capacity to produce at least 50% of clean, fair, just and accessible food for all New Englanders by 2060.”

This report envisions a future where people work on farms and fishing boats, and log wood in forests, to reclaim the “cultural heritage” of New England. While the executive summary of the report does not specifically mention \$500,000 custom homes, the man who paid to have such a home built surely considers that \$500,000 custom homes will also be a part of the fabric of the sustainable New England of 2060.

In fact, per the *Recorder*, Donahue believes that building 6 to 12 such houses a year would be compatible with reclaiming New England’s cultural heritage.

Now, as someone who grew up south of the Mason-Dixon line, I struggle with certain preconceptions whenever they start talking about “cultural heritage.” All of that aside, Prof. Donahue’s report still recalls a bygone era, when New England landowners grew food and cut down trees and built the homes with impressive carpentry that we admire today.

However, New England land-

The Cost of “Heritage”

owners didn’t really do these things. Loggers cut down the trees on the owners’ land for less than they were worth; field hands tended the crops, which were sold for more than their wages. While someone who works at Brandeis may imagine that he has built a modest house, it’s difficult to imagine that people who work farming, fishing and logging in Franklin County would own \$500,000 custom homes in that sustainable future.

Prof. Donahue’s house may seem like a personal project, but it’s important. There is a mystery which becomes apparent if you carefully read his words in the *Recorder*.

Donahue is quoted as saying “most lumber is mass-produced, and it’s a heck of a lot cheaper to do it on a large scale than piece by piece.” But then, he says, “if someone’s custom building a house anyway, it’s going to cost about the same. But they’ll be buying local stuff, so it will be employing more than the carpenters and contractors; it will be creating work for a whole new set of foresters, loggers, and mill workers.”

The mystery is that if locally harvested and milled lumber is more expensive, but the cost of the house is the same, then someone must be paid less to cover the extra expense.

Let me amplify this point. Not only is local lumber more expensive, but working with non-standardized lumber for a custom house is actually more time-consuming for the builders involved. Prof. Donahue suggests this was paid by his “sweat equity” during his sabbatical year, but, as the article didn’t see fit to mention the names of any of the “team of carpenters” involved, one could hardly verify the truth of it.

There is a fact of life, not necessarily publicized, for people who build “artisanal” products for money, which might as well be engraved on every “locally produced” handmade object you buy. As the child of one of those artisans, it was told thus to me: “Sometimes, you work for minimum wage.”

What this really means is sometimes you work even though you will never be paid for the time you put into it. Sometimes you do this be-

cause you like the person buying the object, because you made a mistake, because it’s something you wanted to learn how to do, because it was interesting, or because, no matter what, you have to get paid but, it’s a fact of artisanal production.

It’s also a fact that someone ate the time it took to build custom features out of curved, irregular black cherry and punky hemlock on Professor Donahue’s new home. The accounting is clear: the price of his model home requires reducing the income of those who built the house, in order to increase the income of those who milled the local wood and owned the forest it came from.

Far from being an accident, this fact, known to artisans, is an essential part of the process of working for money. It’s nice to think that one’s work has value, and that this value is greater than “minimum wage,” but the whole idea that an hour of one’s life has a definite monetary value emerges out of the crucible of “price,” the price paid for the thing produced.

The artisan may imagine that the time lost on one project may be charged to the next one so that, say, over a year, one is paid a stable amount of money. But the market for a useful thing is in conflict with the producer in this process. If the artisan believes the price is fixed, then the market may demand features that require greater time. Else, if the time given to build is fixed, then the market may demand a lower price. Price emerges from this conflict, and wages from this price. A “living wage” is ultimately only what is needed to stay alive.

If the dead mill towns in New England teach us anything, it is that this conflict was never a fair fight. Our cultural heritage is the immense income inequality of the late 19th century, when wages were cheap compared to the income from owning farms and forests and mills.

Prof. Donahue suggests that workers will benefit from increased (but sustainable!) logging of local forests. Who’s to say?

But, every fine old New England house, with its intricate and admi-

nable carpentry, is a testament to the fact that the value of the carpenters’ time, measured in the money paid by the owners of those farms, forests and mills, can be quite small.

The W.D. Cows Land Company is one of the largest owners of contiguous forested land parcels in Massachusetts. It is, I am sure, entirely a coincidence that Cinda Jones, whose family owns W.D. Cows Land Company, also owns a home in Gill.

It is, of course, another coincidence that the Massachusetts Woodlands Institute is a subsidiary of the Franklin Land Trust, which has worked in well-publicized cooperation with W. D. Cows.

The article in the *Recorder* does not speculate on how much the Jones family would benefit from the sustainable approach to logging and luxury-home building that Prof. Donahue recommends.

Finally, returning to *A New England Food Vision 2060*, artisanal food is not immune to the facts of artisanal wood. “Small-scale” and “locally produced” requires more labor; this is what Donahue proposes we pay people to do in the future.

But, if the value is the same, someone must eat that extra time, so to speak. And, it is not the people who are living in \$500,000 custom homes, eating fresh local food on artisanally-produced kitchen tables hewn of locally-harvested black birch, whose income is at stake. Prof. Donahue will not say this outright, but his house tells you what you need to know.

So to the woodlot owners, also to the farmland owners. The people working in the fields and forests of the Professor Donahue’s future will work more for less, but their food will be nutrient-dense! They will be lean and strong from their diet of vegetables and grains, and their lives of manual labor, farming and logging.

But one wonders what they will think of Professor Donahue’s heirs, living in their fine old home built of locally-harvested lumber.

Mr. Shapiro is a math doctor, gadfly, and sometime carpenter. He lives in Lake Pleasant.

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of the Week

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Grade 7
Jasmine Meattay
Jacob Lyons
Jacob Norwood

Grade 8
Olivia Whittier

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PRIVACY from page A1

Turning to the issue of the state monitoring the communications of private citizens, Kelley pointed out that “a lot of us are afraid of the NSA or the CIA, but surveillance is not just an issue of the federal government.”

Arguing that conducting mass surveillance of the public better equips it to protect the city, the Boston Police Department is seeking \$1.4 million to monitor social media in real time. The BPD has already used surveillance software to monitor activist groups, according to Kelley, including Veterans for Peace, Black Lives Matter, and Code Pink.

Finally, malicious hackers, trolls, and other online miscreants, alone or collectively, bully, harass, steal identities, and pose an all-around threat to people’s online – and sometimes physical – safety. Kelley shared examples of the ease with which cell phone accounts could be hacked, home addresses could be identified, and personally identifying information broadcast online, a phenomenon known as “doxxing.”

Despite these threats, Kelley asserted that “you have a right to exist online. This is non-negotiable.”

While attaining total privacy may be unrealistic – “you can’t be perfect,” he said, “and if you try, it’s going to make you insane” – there are things we can do, both to fight the systems in place and to protect ourselves online.

“Community resistance is your offense,” Kelley told the audience. “Given the political climate, we have no time to waste on this front.

“And cybersecurity is your defense. It will give you the means

to start protecting yourself so that you can organize as communities.”

Kelley recommends a three-pronged approach to what he calls “DIY cybersecurity”: secure, obscure, and obstruct.

You can **secure** your information by adopting new tools and changing your habits. Encrypting your voice and text communications using an app like Signal, adopting a password manager like LastPass, and turning on two-factor authentication for your most important accounts (Kelley recommended Authy as a tool that can help with this) can “stall any kind of malicious force that wants access to your data.”

Kelley advocated screwing with data brokers’ algorithms by **obscuring** your personally identifying information: “One of the most rebellious things you can do right now is start lying your ass off online.”

Tor Browser anonymizes your location and browsing habits. Deleting one’s personal Facebook page cuts off a major pipeline through which PII makes its way to data brokers, but it can also prevent you from staying in the loop or manag-

ing a page. Creating a fake Facebook or LinkedIn profile (which may be against those sites’ terms of services; check and decide what you’re comfortable with) lets you maintain access to these services.

Injecting some of the ethos of his activist organization, HACK*BLOSSOM, Kelley noted that “it can be enjoyable to bring obscurity into use of these platforms... Make an art project out of it.”

Finally, browser add-ons that block the tracking software used on many websites can **obstruct** companies’ attempts to obtain information about your Web activity. Three such tools that Kelley recommended are Privacy Badger, uBlock Origin, and Disconnect. After installing these extensions, this writer visited CNN’s website (purely for science) and found that 31 requests for information were blocked just while visiting the homepage.

Wrapping up, Kelley shared some instances in which online technology has been employed for good. Callisto (tech to combat sexual assault), the Crash Override Network (resources for victims of cyberharassment), and

Cybertwee (a online art collective that Kelley described as exploring “intersections of feminism, feelings, technology on a femme basis”) are all initiatives that support and empower people who have been targeted, both online and offline.

In the question-and-answer session following the talk, audience members asked Kelley a wide range of questions ranging from local activists’ need for a secure communications platform (Kelley recommended *Sandstorm.io*) to the usefulness of the campaign encouraging Facebook users around the world to check in at Standing Rock. Responding to the latter, Kelley suggested that we “worry less about perfect efficacy, and relish the fact that all of these people came together to create a mass obfuscation for political purposes.”

“A DIY Guide to Feminist Cybersecurity,” available at hackblossom.org/cybersecurity/, expands on the recommendations Kelley presented at Mount Holyoke, and is a great resource for individuals and groups who are looking for solutions to their own security needs.



Greenfield Discusses “Sanctuary”

By JOHN GRIESE

GREENFIELD – On Monday evening, the Greenfield Human Rights Commission held a public forum during their monthly meeting, inviting members of the community to share their knowledge and voice their opinions on the subject of “sanctuary cities.”

“I’m looking at this as a very informational meeting, and it’s going to be open to the public,” explained commission chair Philippe Simon at the opening of the meeting. The forum was well attended, with approximately 60 people filling the Greenfield town planning office.

Jeff Napolitano of the American Friends Service Committee offered some background to frame the conversation. Napolitano was involved with an effort that passed ordinances in Amherst, Northampton, and Springfield that have since become known as “sanctuary city” ordinances. However, Napolitano said he is not very fond of the term.

“The problem is that sanctuary, or sanctuary city, is actually not a legal

definition at all,” Napolitano said. “It’s not a very useful descriptive term. It’s been getting a lot of use in the past several years – especially in the past election cycle.”

Some of the confusion may stem from the historical context of the word “sanctuary.” A woman from Greenfield, who did not give her full name, told the commission the term emerged in the 1980s, in response to refugees fleeing political violence in Central America.

In solidarity with these refugees, some churches took action by declaring themselves Sanctuary Churches, offering a place of safety from deportation. The defining characteristic of this movement was that these churches took direct action and confronted immigration officials, sometimes physically blocking them from detaining the people they offered refuge.

Today, “sanctuary cities” have a very different connotation. “What a Sanctuary City designation implies is that municipalities won’t use resources to [enforce] federal immigration law,” Napolitano explained. This, he argued, is not a radical shift in policy, but a return to the norm: “There is no law that compels local states and municipalities into cooperating and collaborating with immigration agencies.”

Napolitano went on to stress that a person being undocumented does not imply that person is a criminal. “The act of being present in the US in violation of immigration laws is not by itself a crime,” he told the commission, citing an ACLU briefing. “While federal immigration law does criminalize some actions that may be related to undocumented presence in the United States, undocumented presence alone is not a violation of federal criminal law.”

Of the approximately 18 people who spoke, the vast majority offered their support for a sanctuary ordinance in Greenfield.

One attendant, Tim Mosher of Greenfield, expressed his disapproval of the idea. Mosher said he saw sanctuary city ordinances as affording undocumented people special privileges.

“There’s a legal process that occurs when somebody wants to become an American citizen,” he said. “There’s an illegal process when

somebody comes into this country and decides to glean off the system.” Mosher went on to express fear that such an ordinance would allow criminals to evade law enforcement officials.

Some, who said they worked with undocumented people in Franklin County, saw things differently.

“One thing I can tell you is we cannot be afraid that, in becoming a sanctuary city, we are going to attract ‘criminals’. Unfortunately we [already] have them here,” said Zoraida Aguelo.

Aguelo works with victims of domestic violence in Greenfield, some of whom are undocumented. She explained that fear of deportation often keeps undocumented people from going to the police.

Laurie Millman, director of the Center for New Americans, offered similarly personal testimony, recounting a recent conversation she had with a local woman who is undocumented. As they discussed the holiday season, the woman told Millman, “at least you can see your family on the holidays. I can’t see my family, I can’t go home.”

While nobody who spoke at the forum identified themselves as immigrants, undocumented or not, several gave personal testimony of how deportations have affected them and their families.

Katherine Golub of Greenfield shared the story of how her husband was racially profiled by police in Connecticut, detained, and subsequently deported to Mexico. She described the experience as “a nightmare for both of us.” It took six years before her husband was granted a visa to re-enter the United States to rejoin her – and the couple’s son.

“While that experience was traumatic in retrospect, we were incredibly lucky,” Golub told the commission. “I can only imagine what I would have done if I was also undocumented, and had been a wife and mother, and discovered that my husband was being sent away.”

At the conclusion of the forum, Simon announced the commission would review the information they received and present their findings at their next meeting.

The Greenfield Human Rights Commission meets the second Monday of each month.

Leverett Residents Embark on Building Community, Building Power

By SHARON DUNN

LEVERETT – Over sixty concerned residents of Leverett met December 6 to discuss community-building as a means of empowerment in light of new post-election realities. The longstanding Leverett Peace Commission organized the meeting at the Leverett Library, and it was facilitated by Paula Green, Tom Wolff, Jim Perkins, Barbara Tiner, and Pat Fiero.

Energetic brainstorming of many concerns was followed by listing actions to accomplish goals. By the end of the evening, five working groups formed to focus on action in major areas.

Creating an email listserv for the entire population of Leverett was a main item of the group focusing on “building community.” A listserv would allow communication of personal needs, and also dissemination of information and alerts on important local issues.

This group also plans to explore many ideas to combat the isolation many feel now: gatherings in homes with neighbors and folks we don’t know; support groups to help move from despair to empowerment; potlucks and community-wide activities at Town Hall; a speaker series; and activist nights.

“Sanctuary” is the focus of another working group, concerned with the safety of refugees and the undocu-

mented, and with possible religious persecution in Leverett. The group will explore installing signs for “Hate-Free” and “Refugee” zones; connecting with the undocumented in other towns; planning response to hate crimes; and putting sanctuary as an item on a town warrant.

“Environment” is the focus of the third working group. It intends to reach out to collaborate with other town groups interested in climate change and global warming: the Leverett energy committee, Rattlesnake Gutter Trust, the trails committee, and the conservation commission.

The “youth and schools” group will work on creating a space in which youth can process what is going on in the new socio-political landscape, and learn how to become organized and active in ways that will move them forward. In its efforts the group wants to include youth and younger children who do not attend the Leverett school.

The “bridge-building” group is working with ideas such as establishing a town of Leverett connection with a sister city in the Midwest, or even more locally.

A second meeting of the whole group will take place on Tuesday, January 17 at 7 p.m. at the Leverett Town Hall, with a potluck dinner before, starting at 6 p.m. All Leverett residents are welcome to attend. (For more information, contact tom@tomwolff.com.)

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SKELTON from page A1

Bennett had been an academic, a professor of philosophy, at the University of Nebraska and at UMass. When the shit hit the fan in the late 1960s on college campuses nationwide, around warmongery, Dr. Dan sided with the students, and a brilliant career was derailed.

He lost his job, left his wife and kids, married Julie Shively of Ipswich, Mass., and finished with her a home overlooking a beaver pond at the top of Richardson Road, North Leverett.

He did teach for some time in China, when he was in his late 60s, which I think helped fulfill his academic ambitions. He also wrote historical tracts on the founding of Leverett, which are sound yet quirky.

A black sheep academic from one of Leverett's founding families moved far away and worked as a professor for a lifetime, publishing a novel which only Dan Bennett read. His favorite passage was a tawdry retelling of a homoerotic encounter with Leverett as its setting!

Dan was a denizen of the Sawmill River

hamlet of Moore's Corner, and through attrition took over the Leverett Historical Society based in the old schoolhouse there.

It was in bad shape, so Dan got Neal Bannon and his friends, then in high school, to re-side the building. He also got Lloyd Kirely, then alive, to design and build a cupola, which was craned into place; my son Casey and I helped with the rigging. Dan would ring the old schoolbell on Sundays when he went to do office hours at the Historical Society.

My last job with him was this summer when I repaired his greenhouse. He was slow-moving, but still smoking weed. The twinkle in his eyes still shined bright, but I'd heard the rumors of a creeping incurable cancer.

The dude was old, so don't feel bad. He was a disruptor who lived with the consequences of his actions.

When I was younger and stupider, I'd start to say things like: "I like the idea of..." and he'd essentially tell me to shut up.

That's what I got from Dr. Dan Bennett, and I am better for it.

**TWEEDY** from page A1

stories in history, especially the history of North Leverett. We puzzled over the original location of the first home of Joseph Sparrow, who built his house on "the easterly side of Stoddard Hill" in 1748, and was subsequently burned by native people during the Seven Years War.

We visualized the location of the original switchback road that connected North Leverett to Sunderland, and civilization, many years ago. We discussed the gear mechanisms of the 17th century colonial-against-native wars, and how they related to modern times.

Dan's intellect was so deft and sharp and when you engaged with him, it was like hearing from the fun research notes of the very best history/sociology/psychology/economy/philosophy-themed book with enormous accolades. It would be an engaging, lively, encompassing discussion, but you had to know your chops, because Dan would notice... and he would call you out on it if you didn't.

Long-time friend and Leverett resident Elliot Sherman remembers: "His brilliance was just extraordinary, and went in so many different directions. Some people would get to know one or two facets of his knowledge, but there were so many others. He could talk about events in the world in 1210 just as easily as he could reference all the lyrics to Fats Waller songs. He also knew where all the strip joints were in Boston."

Dan championed the stories of the "Miller Merchants of Moore's Corner," and how the lives of ordinary people shifted and changed with inventions, investments and popular sentiment. He was fascinated by Leverett when it was part of the "web of water power" that dominated local industry until the 1870s and the upgrade to steam-powered industry.

Collections of his writings can be found at the Leverett library and, for a time, at the Leverett Coop, which he founded and funded out of his own pocket. Elliot reflects that this was "an enormous, singular act."

You can read the nitty gritty on the lives of Leverett's early families — often sobering, but written in conversational voice with remarks and asides from Dan that, for those that knew him, come coded with that distinctive, Puckish laugh.

Dan Bennett experienced the John Irving New England: prep school, and then off to Harvard, Stanford and Oxford. He taught at Brown, Brandeis, UMass, and Swarthmore, where he was made head of the Philosophy Department.

His stance against US involvement in the Vietnam War was vocal and active, and earned him reproach and banishment from institutions of higher education where he was teaching. Elliot Sherman remembered that he "went off the cliff with the kids in the '60s."

When he landed in Leverett, the town was given a champion, beguiled and inspired by all its stories.

Julie Shively, his wife and best friend of 40 years, now a member of the selectboard, shares that "Dan always got pissed off at me because he was an anarchist, and I was in government."

Dan was so proud of Julie, and happy that she represented a humanist faction that recognized dignity in the warts-and-all struggle to do the best by each other.

Later on, he taught at prisons, and in China. Julie shared that a student of Dan's from China was moved to tears at news of his passing as he made such a profound impact in his formative education.

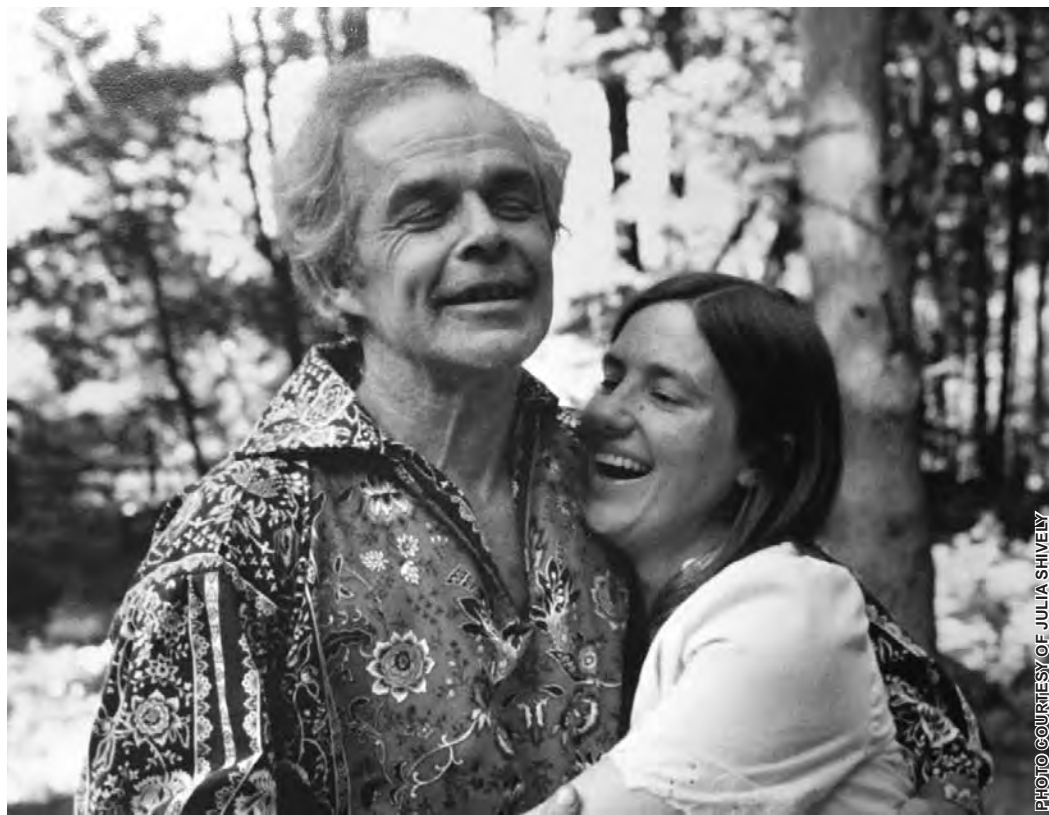
Edie Field, member of the Leverett Historical Society and a founder of the Leverett Family Museum, reflects that Dan "was his own person. He didn't compromise. He had a good sense of humor and was very helpful to me and supported me when I started the museum. He certainly did a lot for the town."

Peter d'Errico remembers Saturday night group dinners back in the day with Dr. Dan: "They were amazing, free-ranging conversations, and everything was up for discussion. It was a privilege to pick his brain."

Elliot Sherman finished his conversation about his dear friend with "My world was better off for having him in it."

Tangible reminders of Dan Bennett's work in Leverett include the working sawmill across the road from the North Leverett Baptist Church, the Leverett Village Coop, and the Moore's Corner Schoolhouse/Meeting-house with its returned and working bell.

May "Tolerant Skepticism" ring true in his honor!



Dr. Dan Bennett, with Julie Shively.

Longtime Friend (and Coworker!) Suzy Polucci Remembers...

One of the last things Dan said was, "I'm a free thinker."

Dan had that motto that he put on the Historical Society, which was from a Russian philosopher: the three things that he felt, when I said, "Dan, what have you gleaned it down to, at this point?"

And he said "Sympathy, Mutual Aid, and Tolerant Skepticism. These are the guideposts for me."

And he really was that way. He helped a lot of people.

One time when I wanted to build a greenhouse — I was doing youth work... I went to the organic farmer types, and I got "no" after "no" after "no." And Dan and Julie sat down with me. She helped me write a business plan. I got it funded that way, and then Dan — and he must have been, at that point, in his mid-70s — he was out there all winter, with me and Donald Mays, building that greenhouse!

And there was nothing in it for

him — in fact, their taxes went up because they had this big building up.

He would expound on these things with such detail and acuity. At one point, towards the end of his life, he said "I don't know, I think I'm losing it." I said, "Dan, you could lose half the brain cells and still have twice as many as most people. You're fine, you're still sharp as a tack."

He would say things that would really change my worldview about many things — Tibetan Buddhism, the American Revolution, you name it — his unique perspective on things. Years later, I'd be going around heralding Dan Bennett's point of view, and I'd say, "Dan, I've been telling people what you said," and he would go, "Oh, don't use me as a hero — don't quote my words, because I've probably already changed my mind.... I'm a free thinker." And he was.

I just love the guy. And I don't know if I'll ever find anybody that

is as learned as him. Somebody that would sit down and read the Bible every day, even though he wasn't a Christian; somebody who would examine the Koran, even though he wasn't Islamic. I mean, we're talking years....

Because he was really, in the best sense of the word, *really* a scholar.

One thing about Dan Bennett is that he did have a lot of sympathy, and he was a watchdog for the underdog, but he didn't suffer fools. "What do you want? Get to the point!"

His friend Elliot Sherman used to say, "He's the best worst guy I know." And he was!

I remember one time we were working in the coop, and he said something that pissed me off, and I threw a piece of rotten fruit at him. And he turned around and he beamed me with another one! We just started throwing food at each other — Julie came in and said, "Hey, wait a minute, stop it! You're going

to break the chips!" And it just kind of cleared it, you know?

I know him in his heart of hearts. Because as he said, "I was a man that was raised by women, and had the kinship with the womenfolk in my family, not the men. And so I have, built into me, that heart."

And I think it was very interesting it was his heart that took him out — because it absorbed a lot of pain, a lot of disappointment.

And that's the other thing he used to say to me: "Suzy, why are you so afraid to be a skeptic?"

I said, "Because if I go down that rabbit hole, Dan, I'll never come out — I'll be so afraid of people, I'll see the world as a hostile place."

And he said, "Just the opposite. When you're a skeptic, when you really are skeptical, you don't have all those expectations."

What Dan really hated was he hated *ideologues*. People that, in their purity, in their conviction

that they knew what the truth was, they would just mow down people, countries.

He said, once you have this view that people are, you know, going to get what they can get, usually for their families or things like that, then you don't get crushed when they disappoint you. You can't be crushed because you didn't start up here with this purity, this lofty ideology that you will defend contrary to all evidence.

And he said as a free thinker, you expect people to do what they're going to do — it doesn't land you in some cynical, dark place. *Au contraire*. It opens up the fact that, of course they'd act like that!

What do you expect? People are people!

This piece was excerpted from a conversation Mike Jackson had with Suzy. It was reordered and edited a little for clarity.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Chief’s Proposal for Full-Time Fire Department Moves Forward

By KATIE NOLAN

The Erving selectboard began the development of the town’s FY’18 budget at its Monday night meeting by approving a 2% cost of living adjustment for town employees, which will increase the town’s payroll costs by approximately \$25,000.

The selectboard and finance committee met jointly with senior center director Paula Betters, police chief Christopher Blair, library director Barbara Friedman, water supervisor and chief wastewater operator Peter Sanders, and emergency management director and fire chief Philip Wonkka to discuss their departmental budget requests.

Highway foreman Glenn McCrory was busy working on snowy roads, so the highway budget discussion was deferred. The fire department and library requests generated the longest discussions.

Fire Department Growth

Wonkka’s FY’18 request includes \$120,000 for wages for a full-time chief and two-full time firefighters, a significant change from the current system of a part-time chief and call firefighters, who are paid only when they are actively responding to calls or when training.

Selectboard chair and firefighter Jacob Smith recused himself from the discussion, as did finance committee chair Eugene Klepadlo, whose son is a firefighter. All of the other selectboard and finance committee members supported Wonkka’s request.

In July, when Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) asked the board to join a grant-funded study of emergency services regionalization, the board, chaired by Scott Bastarache, asked Wonkka to review the town’s emergency service needs and develop its own potential solutions instead of regionalization.

At that time, the board and Wonkka agreed that the town’s greatest need was for emergency coverage during weekday daytime hours, when many of the town’s call firefighters are working out of town.

At this week’s meeting, finance committee member Daniel Hammock said that regionalization would not be good for Erving, because FRCOG’s memorandum of understanding for the regionalization study included mention of regionalizing all town-owned equipment. Hammock observed that Erving has a new engine, which a regional department might decide to relocate to another town.

“You can’t put a price on one life, or one house,” he said, regarding the cost of full-time fire department staff.

When Hammock asked about the cost of benefits for the full-time chief and firefighters, beyond the

salaries, Bastarache estimated the cost at \$50,000.

On January 18, the board and finance committee will hold a meeting to provide information and seek community opinions regarding the full-time fire department proposal. The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. at Erving Elementary School.

Library Proposal Weighed

Library director Friedman’s request included an additional 4.5 hours for the library assistant, which would change the position from “part time” (19.5 hours per week) to “full time” (24 hours).

Friedman and library trustees Mackensy Bailey and Holly Fitzpatrick told the board that, because of library patron demand, Erving Public Library is open five days per week from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friedman said the library is staffed by herself, the library assistant, and volunteers.

Jacob Smith said that other nearby small towns have fewer hours of operation and fewer staff hours. He asked why additional staff hours were required when volunteers might fill the needed hours.

“We pay the people who run the library,” answered Bailey. “The volunteers do everything else.”

Friedman said that volunteers shelve books, do clerical work and run programs, while paid staff order books and other library materials, prepare reports, write grants, and oversee the library.

“For the cost of benefits,” said Klepadlo, “you could get two part-time staff.”

“I agree you need more staff hours,” said Bastarache, but he added that the library should look to an additional part-time staffer rather than create additional hours for the assistant. He said that, because a 24-hour per week assistant would be eligible for benefits, “those few hours come at a high price.”

Bailey said that the trustees would take the selectboard and finance remarks under advisement and prepare a revised budget for the January 19 budget meeting.

The library budget also included a request for \$500 stipends for the elected library trustees. Selectboard chair Smith said that stipends for elected officials are considered under the general government line item, and would not be a part of the library budget.

Other Departments

Betters reduced the request for electricity for the senior center, based on lower costs over the last two years. However, selectboard and finance committee members asked her to increase the amount budgeted for electricity, because recent increases in the price of oil could result in higher electricity rates.

Chief Blair called his request “level funded”, with the exception of additional costs for step-raises for two officers.

Sanders requested a 2% merit raise for the chief water operator.

Administrative coordinator Bryan Smith presented a selectboard budget with increases, based on increased use of town counsel time and a 1% merit raise for the municipal clerk.

Other Business

Blair sent the board a letter commending police sergeant Robert Holst for quick action and bravery in preventing a potential suicide at French King Bridge. Blair wrote that Holst was compassionate and communicated effectively with the person at the bridge.

The board reviewed Tighe & Bond’s “Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives,” and the cleanup grant proposal, for the former International Paper Mill on Papermill Road.

According to Bryan Smith, the investigation identified lead and asbestos on onsite buildings, but no polychlorinated biphenyls. The cost for cleanup is estimated at \$248,000. If the grant were approved, Erving’s share would be \$45,000, with the rest funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

The board agreed to ask for documentation from department heads who ask for merit raises for employees.

BUZZ OFF from A1

was diagnosed with cancer last year, inspired the Buzz Off. After months of treatment, he is back in school, but making frequent visits to Boston. The One Mission Foundation makes those hospital trips more pleasant for children and their parents by creating movie nights, art projects, a reading room, stress relief activities and financial support.

Christine Limoges, the assistant principal at Sheffield and the advisor to Sheffield’s student council, knew of the Foundation and presented the idea to Jessica Vachula-Curtis because of her broad involvement with the schools. Vachula-Curtis is a teacher at the high school, senior class advisor, a parent of two Sheffield students, and a member of the Sheffield parents’ organization.

She said, “Christine Limoges had approached a few of us FOS (Friends of Sheffield) parents earlier in the fall to share this idea, which sounded cool... But what really got me excited was when three fourth grade girls from Sheffield came to present this campaign to the high school students at our weekly All School Meeting in November, asking for support.

“I really love any activity that allows the students of all ages throughout our district to work together, and I think it’s particularly powerful when the high school students connect with students from our elementary schools.”

People who want to help, but not shave their heads, can donate to the One Mission organization, or put some money in the jars that have been set up at the high school.

“Folks have set up their accounts online and are using social media to spread awareness and obtain sponsors,” said Vachula-Curtis. “My advisory made collection containers, which we set up in the high school

office this week, so that people can bring in cash or loose change, if they’d prefer donating that way.

“School committee member Lesley Cogswell reached out to the TFFD, and now four firefighters are sponsoring each one of the high school grades. There’s also a group knitting caps to cover those soon-to-be chilly heads.”

With a huge grin, she added, “This is all about solidarity.”

This is Ms. Limoges’ first year as assistant principal at Sheffield School. She previously served in Springfield public schools for thirteen years, and she and her family have been volunteers for the One Mission Foundation for ten years. “We thought it would be a wonderful way to get our school and town community to come together for this amazing organization,” she said. She presented the idea to Mrs. Pitrat, the school principal, who agreed.

Ms. Limoges said that teachers and administrators at Sheffield envision the school as a learning community built on collaboration, compassion and consistency; a school environment that is safe, supportive and challenging; a school where family involvement and social responsibility are essential to academic success.

Though she is excited that principal Annie Leonard has made an inspirational pledge to shave her head, she has decided to fundraise on behalf of the Sheffield Pride team, and keep her hair.

The Buzz Off will take place at Sheffield School, aided by local hairdressers who have volunteered their time.

To keep up with day-to-day fundraising activities, go to the Sheffield Facebook page at facebook.com/gmrds.sheffield/. To learn more about the One Mission Foundation, see onemission.org.



NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Broken Heaters, Slow Ambulance

By ROB SKELTON

The Leverett selectboard, at its December 13 meeting, reluctantly agreed to a reserve fund transfer request of \$5,000 to pay for cost overruns with the library heating system, which seems to break down every year.

“We might as well have an oil furnace in there,” said selectwoman Julie Shively, who noted that the school, town hall and library – all relatively modern buildings – have been troubled by heating system problems.

Selectboard chair Peter d’Errico asked town administrator Margie McGinnis about facilities manager John Kusick’s potential to get at the cause of the problems.

“I think if you get John started on the system, he’s going to be there for a while,” she said.

“Ask John to give us a report. He doesn’t have to come to a meet-

ing,” d’Errico said.

Reports of a thirty-minute delay in Amherst Ambulance Service response time to a Leverett emergency call prompted fire chief John Ingram to complain, resulting in a written response from Amherst, explaining that eight near-simultaneous calls had put a burden on response time.

Ingram is re-examining the backup order for ambulance services.

D’Errico asked if the board was ready to take on mitigation of the dangerous East Leverett intersection at Shutesbury Road, where a landscaping truck clipped a corner recently and lost its trailer.

D’Errico convened with road boss David Finn and neighbor/firefighter Stewart Olsen regarding solutions for the spot, and is ready to bring it to the board, to which it agreed.

Bradford Field, who was named Leverett postmaster by Abraham

Lincoln, died in 1913 and his daughter proposed a library building in his memory, which sits underused in the town center, replaced by the modern library on Montague Road.

The selectboard is exploring ways to re-use and modernize the facility, possibly with grants and an educational component.

D’Errico noted that Erasmus Field, a relative whose behemoth work is displayed at the Springfield Museum, could be a hook to further financing.

The Regional Assessment Working Group, formed to reconcile disparities within the four-town Amherst regional school system, will meet this Saturday 9 a.m. at the Amherst Middle School.

Leverett’s reps will be armed with a spreadsheet, showing Shutesbury’s cries of poverty to be unfounded, selectboard members said.

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GILL from page A1
and “comes down like a hammer on people’s heads.”

Riverside resident and select-board videographer Janet Masucci stated that, despite the staggering increase, it was still in her “best interest to pay it forward for now, and not have to come up with a huge chunk of money later.”

Crochier added that, in his opinion, more than a few folks with sump pumps were pumping floodwater directly into the Montague system and that the selectboard might find ways to firmly but politely ask those who do to cease.

The board voted unanimously, albeit with concern, to pass the entire 17% increase on to ratepayers. The projected additional revenue, and cost, is \$110,849.

Solar Project

The board met with Zak Farkas from Borrego Solar, who asked that they sign a “letter of consent,” signing Borrego’s rights, title and interest under its payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreement with the town over to an entity called Kearsarge Gill LLC.

Borrego is building a solar PV electric generating facility on land leased from the Northfield Mount Hermon school at 586 Main Road.

After a brief discussion about the project, which will generate some 2.8 MW of power, the selectboard voted to approve the agreement.

Tax Classification

The board held a tax classification hearing with two members of the board of assessors. Bill Tomb and Lynda Hodsdon Mayo presented the specifics of the current total taxable valuation of real estate and personal

property in the town.

Purington observed that the report cites the value of an average single-family home rose from \$194,461 to \$199,246 within the past year, and that this confirmed what the select-board had been seeing as far as increasing home values. He stated that this figure means that property taxes would increase a scant .02%, only \$8.55 higher than last year.

Hodsdon Mayo said the assessors’ recommendations were the same as last year: a residential factor of 1, maintaining a single tax rate; not approving an “open space discount,” since Gill does not have “open space”; and not approving residential exemption, since this is used in communities with a large second-home population.

The board unanimously approved their recommendations.

School Roof

Purington shared with the board a recent letter from architect Brian De Vriese, outlining the November 22 site review of the Gill elementary school roof. The report cited missing shingles, the growth of moss and lichen, which continue to loosen the mineral surface from the shingle tabs, and past roof leaks from winter ice dams in the eaves.

The town needs to submit a cost estimate to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) in order to be eligible for a renovation grant.

The selectboard discussed the pros and cons of a new asphalt roof, at roughly \$200,000, and the estimated \$400,000 cost of a new metal roof. Purington noted that it was his belief that both numbers were low.

Snedeker suggested the town look into doing the job itself, rather than bringing in an outside contractor. He

then suggested that they get accurate estimates before going to the town for a final decision. Purington said he would get estimates from De Vriese.

Crochier quietly stated that “If we end up with a new asphalt roof” he’d be “disappointed.”

Cruiser Cam

The board reviewed a letter from Sgt. Christopher J. Redmond of the police department, recommending that the \$5,000 grant received from the MIIA be used towards the purchase of a cruiser stand-alone video camera system.

After agreeing that having the discussion in Sgt. Redmond’s absence was difficult, the board examined his recommendation, noting that they leaned towards cruiser cameras that downloaded videos on their own rather than to an outside source, in order to ensure the town maintains ownership of the data.

They also discussed what a “stand alone unit” might be, and if it made sense to purchase such a system before the town decided how to further proceed.

Crochier and Snedeker entertained the possibility of ordering the unit and then, if dissatisfied, returning it. The board authorized the purchase, provided the order can be cancelled, or the unit returned, without much of a fee.

Purington said Redmond suggested he could attend the December 27 selectboard meeting in order to talk about the rest of the equipment details.

Capital Priorities

In preparation for the mid-January meeting of the capital improvements planning committee (CIPC), the selectboard read the 2016 capi-

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

A Big Night for Sewer Drainage and Storm Runoff at the Montague Selectboard

By JEFF SINGLETON

“We were very concerned about this section of the drain. We noticed a lot of infiltration, a lot of water coming in that shouldn’t be coming in – like a rainforest. There were bricks missing. And we were worried that if this wasn’t taken care of soon, it could collapse. Which would lead to the canal draining out, which would rob the paper mill and the power company of the water they need to run.”

This was perhaps the most dramatic moment of the presentation by Ryan Graham, an engineer for the consulting firm CDM Smith. Graham’s presentation, which lasted nearly half an hour and took up most the Montague selectboard’s December 12 meeting, described the “Main Storm/CSO Drain” project.

For over a century, the drain has carried stormwater runoff, sometimes combined with runover from the sewer system, under the Turners Falls Power Canal, and into the Connecticut River.

The sewage component of the system was reduced by a multimillion dollar project nearly a decade ago, but stormwater continues to flow into the river.

Or perhaps, one should say, attempts to flow into the river. Graham showed another slide of large mounds of sand and other debris that had clogged the “siphons” directly under the canal. There were also pic-



CDM Smith shared this photograph of some of the “83 cubic yards of sand and debris” cleared from the drainage system in their PowerPoint presentation Monday.

tures of missing brick, brick worn down by nearly a century of use, and water gushing from cracks.

The system was constructed in the late nineteenth century and upgraded in 1916 soon after the current power canal was constructed. Graham stated that the siphons had not been cleaned in 60 years.

Most of the presentation focused on the work done to repair the system. The project was divided into three parts: rehabilitation of the upper section, from Avenue A to the canal; cleaning and lining the siphons under the canal; and rehabilitating the lower section, from the canal to the Connecticut River.

The work was performed by the National Water Main Cleaning Company, with a special liner installed by Insituform, LLC. The latter company has also been lining other sections of

the Montague system since the collapse of sewer mains flowing out of the industrial park.

According to project manager Paul Gilbert, the total cost of the total cost of the work was \$995,718. This was covered by a Montague town meeting appropriation of \$1 million dollars, but \$345,000 is being reimbursed by the power company FirstLight, which owns and maintains the power canal. This leaves a balance of just under \$350,000, Gilbert stated.

Selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz asked about the plan for maintaining the system.

Gilbert said that if the town regularly cleaned the “sumps” in the upper part of the drainage system, it should not have a problem for decades.

Highway department superinten-

tal improvements recommendations brought by Snedeker, the committee’s chair. The committee requested all town departments to submit capital requests.

Based on those returned, it recommended the following improvements over the next five years:

Correcting wetness in the basements at town hall and the Slate Memorial Library, and protecting town documents; re-paving the driveway and rear of the public safety building; replacing the roof, and replacing or repairing the wooden ramp and concrete steps at the Riverside municipal building; water filtration, lightning protection, an emergency generator, floor tile, and roof at the elementary school; replacing the fire department’s air packs and bottles, emergency van, brush truck, tanker truck and pumper truck; replacing a chipper and purchasing a used backhoe for the highway department; replacing a police cruiser; and acquiring additional cemetery land.

Of these, the selectboard identified three priorities for FY’17: the elementary school water filtration system and roof, and the ramp at the Riverside building.

The board wondered whether replacing the ramp with a metal one might make winter usage more problematic due to a lack of surface traction. Snedeker offered to speak with a neighbor who might be able to

dent Tom Bergeron said his department could put the cleaning “on a regular maintenance list.”

The Selectboard did not take a vote on the issue.

After the presentation, Gilbert and CDM Smith inspector John Chudzik reported on the First Street and Poplar Street sewer pump station replacement projects. Water pollution control facility superintendent Bob McDonald also sat down at the front table.

Some changes in the Poplar Street project were discussed, including moving the “overlay” off of private project. However, the change order for doing this came at a cost of \$0, an amount the board approved.

The board also approved a final payment for the project to Baltazar Contractors of \$88,004.55.

Other Business

The board approved a number of requests from one of its own members, Michael Nelson, for the October 21, 2017 Pumpkinfest event. These included permits to use Avenue A and Peskeomskut Park, a one-day beer and wine license, and permission to hang a banner an-

give the board a better understanding about what surface would best work for the ramp.

Other Business

The board reviewed the Green Community Final Report. Purington thanked each member, as well as the energy commission, who worked on the report. The numbers show that the town saved 36% of the energy costs from the 2015 baseline.

While noting that last winter was quite mild, Purington said, “All of this will help, no matter what kind of winters we’ll have in the future.”

Crochier made an “exuberant” motion to approve the Final Report, which unanimously passed.

Purington announced he was in the process of compiling a list of highway department on-call plow driver names, and would present them at the next meeting. The board agreed to let Purington use his discretion to “temporarily” hire drivers should an emergency occur before the December 27 meeting.

The board ratified the hiring of Nathaniel Hussey as a new clerical assistant. Members concurred that Hussey was an excellent choice for the position.

Liquor licenses were renewed for the Oak Ridge Golf Club, Gill Tavern, Schuetzen Verein, Spirit Shoppe, and Wagon Wheel.



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OYSTERGIRL's guide to REAL LIVING

by Vanessa Query

#21: Find Local Food and Community at Winter Farmers Markets



A mushroom vendor at the Greenfield Winter Farmers Market, which takes place on the first Saturday of every month through March, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Discovery School.

FRANKLIN COUNTY – You all know how I love local food! And with farmers markets being all the rage these days, it's easier than ever to find good local food all year long.

In addition to amazing fresh produce and meat, and also prepared foods and crafts, I love farmers markets as a way to connect with my community. In Rhode Island, where I've lived off and on most of my life, I would always run into a lot of friends at farmers markets. Shopping trips regularly turned into social events and playdates for my kid.

Being new to western Mass., I use the farmers markets to get acquainted with the area – with its people, its readily available commodities, and its values.

I haven't been to all of these markets yet, but I want to give you a rundown of the nearest winter farmers markets.

Three of these markets are in Massachusetts and participate in the "SNAP & Save" program run by Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA). The first \$10 charged each week to your EBT card is matched one-to-one, giving you \$20 to spend. The Brattleboro market participates in a similar program called "Market Match," which

offers the same benefit.

Greenfield Winter Farmers Market

The Greenfield Winter Farmers Market is held on the first Saturday of every month through March. The market takes place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Discovery School at Four Corners in Greenfield – very convenient to Turners, and with ample parking!

Fun fact: The Greenfield Winter Farmers Market was the first winter market in Massachusetts!

There is an impressive selection of produce (vegetables and fruit).



Red Fire Farm's selection of fresh produce at the Greenfield Winter Farmers Market.

Red Fire Farm's booth is especially diverse, and includes frozen produce like fruit and peeled ginger.

There's also plenty of eggs and meat, including Barberic Farms' frozen prepared meat pies. In the spirit of nose-to-tail consumption, many of the meat vendors also sell wool products: yarn, sheepskins, leather belts, that sort of thing.

For you fish fans, Bay State Fish Share has returned! Get regular home deliveries of fresh seafood from the Boston area. You can also get local honey and maple syrup, baked goods and granola, hot coffee and kettle corn, jams and butters, dried flowers and wreaths, and a range of herbal remedies, salves, teas, and elixirs.

See greenfieldfarmersmarket.com.

Amherst Winter Farmers Market

The Amherst Farmers Market runs every Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., through April 1, except on December 24 and January 14. The market takes place at the Amherst Regional Middle School.

The Amherst Winter Farmers Market is "a collection of local see **OYSTERGIRL** page B8

SHOW REVIEW



Ian Svenonius performs as Escape-ism at the Brick House.

By **PETE WACKERNAGEL**

TURNERS FALLS – Last Tuesday night, because of a serendipitous one-day gap in their tour schedule, the bands Escape-ism and Shells found their way to Turners Falls to play a last-minute show at the Brick House. Escape-ism is the solo project of Ian Svenonius, known for leading influential Washington, DC bands Nation of Ulysses and The Make-Up, among others. He's also an essayist and writer. The show included new local resident Mikey Turner, playing as Mazozma.

Svenonius says that his project, named after the James Brown song,

is a "spoken rock 'n roll performance. It's a found sound dream drama, an anti-everything group formed in response to the current situation."

In Escape-ism's songs, Svenonius flickers back-and-forth between sparsely ripping rock 'n' roll guitar licks and chant-like vocal lines. The distillation of the song into these separate components gave both his words and his guitar playing a pent-up, impatient intensity.

Escape-ism songs also incorporate tape loops, prerecorded synthesizer and bass tracks, and beats made by a wood-cased, un-programmable

see **SVENONIUS** page B3

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Yuletide



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

Feasting

*Feasting is the flame in mid-winter
That kindles the fire of friendship
And strengthens the community.*

– anonymous Chinese poet

By **LESLIE BROWN**

MONTAGUE CITY – The yule approaches. This word for the solstice, or celebration of the return of the light, comes from the Nordic winter festivals.

The yule log is a significant part of the festival, and involved the cutting of a whole tree stem. Each year the ashes from the old log were saved to be placed on the hearth for the new log to rest upon. Then this hefty log burned at one end in the hearth and would gradually be consumed as the log was pushed from the butt end.

No one ever said all rites and rituals were safe; that is not the point. Rituals are what they are; the ways things are done. Saving the old yule log ashes is a wonderful metaphor for the cycle of death and life, of darkness and light.

Celebration of moving from the dark back to the light must have been especially significant in those Nordic countries of dark days as well as nights. It definitely merited a major festival of song, dance and wassail.

So the winter brings the short days

and long cold nights. But when the sun is up, the light is intense, often reflected on snow and ice, on trees and fields. The light is strong for a few hours, the cold sharp, waking thought and spirit.

And now the cleansing snow is decorating our Maine balsams, the slanting roof of the red bird feeder, the river's edge. It is lovely and pristine, this painting of Mother Nature. It falls silently, a beautiful backdrop for the black squirrel and the cardinal red.

Perhaps later we will strap on our snowshoes and walk the quiet fields watching for the nearly full moon. Perhaps an owl will call in the dusk. Then we will treasure the gifts of warmth and love seated around the woodstove.

We too will ring in the winter solstice with friends, food and drink, remembering the Tao meditation on winter which ends:

They call this the first day of winter, but it is the beginning of winter's death. From this day on, we can look forward to warming and brightening.

– Deng Ming-Dao, from

365 Tao: Daily Meditations

Our year with its sadness and joys, terrors and triumphs is ending. And then comes the miracle of a new year in which to start afresh.

Such a gift!

May the gifts of the Yuletide be yours and great hopes for the new year!

Montague Author Pens New Mystery Novel with Local Flair

By **JOE KWIECINSKI**

TURNERS FALLS – Chatting with Vincent J. Interlande about his first novel is a bit of a cat and mouse game.

The personable Turners Falls resident wants to talk about his recently released work of fiction – but at the same time doesn't want to give too much away. "I've labored so hard on it for three years," said Interlande. "I just don't want to spoil the surprises my book has in store for its readers."

Published five weeks ago, *Burning Scars* presents a labyrinth of twists and turns. Yet Interlande has



Vincent J. Interlande

taken great pains to keep the underlying mysteries, clues, and sequences accessible.

"Making it all understandable," said the author, "was very important to me. I didn't want to confuse readers." He devoted those three years preparing the book to writing, rewriting, and edits.

The gripping thriller features a tasty gumbo of haunting flashbacks, a multitude of clues, an intense growing thirst for vengeance, a phantom killer, survival, and romance. Stir lightly with crisp, delectable prose and *voila!* you have an entree of the effects of past events (prior to the start of the novel) on life in the present.

"I wanted this tale to have

see **INTERLANDE** page B4

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Registration is now open for Spring 2017!

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Pet of the Week

Hi, I'm Savannah and I'm up for adoption with my pal, Charlie. We are small and unbelievably adorable. Just put the two of us side by side and you'll overdose on cuteness.

We're indoor bunnies who are accustomed to being bathed and brushed. Hey, we want to look our best when you come to visit! We love being with each other and got

along fine with the family dog and cat. We lived with adults and older children but, unfortunately, our guardians can't care for us anymore. Come down and treat yourself to some bunny bliss.

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



“SAVANNAH & CHARLIE”

Senior Center Activities DECEMBER 19 to DECEMBER 23

GILL and MONTAGUE Gill / Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the Center is closed. Tues, Weds & Thurs Noon Lunch M, W, F 10:10 a.m. Aerobics; 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise Monday 12/19 8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic Appts. 1 p.m. Knitting Circle Tuesday 12/20 9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach 9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga Wednesday 12/21 12:30 p.m. Bingo Thursday 12/22 9 a.m. Tai chi 1 p.m. Cards & Games Friday 12/23 1 p.m. Writing Group LEVERETT For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us . Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.	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 12/19 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m. Holiday Bazaar 9 a.m. Tai Chi 10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance 12:30 p.m. RAD Class Tuesday 12/20 8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics 10 a.m. Stretching & Balance 11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch 12:45 p.m. Name That Tune Wednesday 12/21 8:45 a.m. Line Dancing 10 a.m. Chair Yoga Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs Thursday 12/22 8:45 a.m. Aerobics 10 a.m. Healthy Bones Friday 12/23 9 a.m. Quilting Workshop 9:30 a.m. Bowling 11:30 a.m. Pizza, Salad & Dessert 12:30 p.m. Movie & Popcorn 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.
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By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Here at MCTV, we're getting ready to fully welcome the winter. Here are some new videos to check out this week on our website and in the TV schedule:

- Honoring Frank Abbondanzio, November 13: Frank Abbondanzio retired on December 6, and has been the longest-serving municipal administrator in Franklin County. Learn about his work in Montague

in this celebratory event, which kicks off with a speech by Abbondanzio himself.

- Veteran's Day Ceremony, November 11: Stay tuned to watch the Veteran's Day ceremony on TV or at montaguenv.org.

- GMRSD Mascot Forum Social Justice Perspective, December 8: This is the School Committee's second "expert inquiry" event on the question of the high school's mascot. Laura Valdiviezo, Ed.D. pres-

ents information pertaining to the mascot debate from a social justice perspective.

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 (413) 863-9200, info-montaguenv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. We'd love to work with you!

Vaudeville Spectacular Graces the Shea this Weekend

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

TURNERS FALLS – Linda McNerney of Egg-tooth Productions explains that when her recent projects, the Full Disclosure and Double Take Fringe Festival, ended, she was looking for an answer for what to do next. She found it by looking back and creating something new.

Back before movies and TV, and even radio, people had to make their own entertainment. Vaudeville began in saloons and music halls as a very popular form of entertainment: variety shows, made up of lots of performers in a series of short bits.

Along with the traveling circus and minstrel shows at the turn of the 20th century, vaudeville made up the bulk of live entertainment across the country. Many of the early stars of television and radio came from vaudeville.

And so, as everything old is new again, here we have the **New Vaudeville Holiday Spectacular** at the Shea Theater on December 15, 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday December 18 at 2 p.m. A variety of short performance pieces of dance, theater, music, installation, puppets, drag, *a cappella* vocals and monologue, all in five- to seven-minute segments built around a theme of "grace."

Performers are drawn from McNerney's earlier projects with talented local artists, many offering original pieces they've developed just for this show. A few of the performers participating in the show spoke with the *Montague Reporter* about the work they will be presenting.

Lori Holmes Clark will be performing an original dance piece. Now a resident of Deerfield, she was a choreographer on Broadway before moving to the area to marry a farmer and raise a family. Her choreography is inspired by her thoughts around what it takes to find grace. She says, "It takes practice, time, space and ease." As a mom, Clark says, "It's about finding a higher level of grace."

Joe Delude says he's not a singer, but he will be singing in this show. In drag. With a beard. Delude has worked for eighteen years as a makeup artist for the theater, with his work in New York's Broadway theater beginning thirteen years ago with the show *Wicked*. Since he moved to western Massachusetts, Delude has been exploring new creative opportunities. He travels a lot, but says he loves that when he's done he gets to come home here. Delude will be singing "Rainbow Connection" from the *Muppet Family*



Professional clown Jack Golden rehearses his skit for the Vaudeville show this weekend at the Shea. Golden's performance is a tribute to a friend who was an assemblage artist. Here he examines things he has found in the trash, which he will use to create something unique.

movie, to express his idea of grace as "courteous good will," of being kind to each other.

Grace Booth grew up in Gill and has returned to create a home for the Til Lalezar Theater Company, now located at 12 Federal Street, above the People's Pint in Greenfield. She describes the performance piece they will be presenting as cabaret with a mix of the comic and surreal, using two of the characters from their main show "Happyland," to reflect their view of grace. Booth says there will be a lot of audience interaction.

The rest of the cast of characters participating in the event includes: Joshua Platt, Katherine Adler, Emily MacLeod, Rachel Schneider, Anna Sobel, Maya Rivera, Meghan Zarembo, Emily Ditkovski, Anuva Kolli (Thursday and Friday), Lindsay Stamler (Saturday and Sunday), Amy Johnquest a.k.a. Bannerqueen, Emma Ayres, Pam Smith, Maureen McElligott & Company, Jack Golden, Lindel Hart, David Fersh & Art Fuleuhan, Joe Graveline, Nate Martel, and Kyle Boatwright.

This promises to be a very special and exciting evening. Tickets are \$15 for adults; children under 15 are free. Purchase tickets in advance from Brown Paper Tickets at brownpapertickets.com/event/2712960, or at the door.

“Light Up the Shea” Campaign Has \$10,000 Challenge to Raise Final \$25,000

TURNERS FALLS – The Shea Theater Arts Center is completing the final stage of its "Light Up the Shea" launch campaign, seeking to raise a total of \$310,000 to renovate the historic performing arts theater in downtown Turners Falls.

Since late 2015, over \$125,000 in donations have come in from individuals, local businesses, and the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, leveraging an additional \$150,000 in public funding to address critical building repairs.

These include an overhaul of the lobby and concession areas; new carpets; refinished flooring

and painting throughout the building; upgrades to the theater offices and performers' green room; and installation of new roofing, heating and cooling systems.

Since re-opening in March, the Shea has hosted or produced 56 shows, bringing more than 10,000 people to enjoy the performing arts in Turners Falls.

Now, an anonymous donor has challenged the community by offering \$10,000 to the Shea, if the remaining \$25,000 is donated by individuals and businesses by December 31.

The remaining funds in this

campaign will help purchase state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems, and finalize improvements of the lobby and concession areas. Completing these renovations will create a high quality experience for audiences and help ensure the financial sustainability of the Shea from here forward.

Contributions can be made at www.sheatheater.org or PO Box 773, Turners Falls, MA 01376. For more information, contact David Sharken at david@rainmkr.org or (413) 835-1930.

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Shannon Madigan - Property Manager

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was December 14, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive

School Committee With Double Vision

School officials wrestled with competing visions for elementary school configuration for the town of Montague on Tuesday night. Most of the committee, and the three Montague school principals, took a strong stand for “one school in two buildings” at the Turners Falls campus, and for closing the Montague Center School.

But the three men on the school committee – Richard Colton, Michael Langknecht, and Ted Castro-Santos – held out for broad grade span schools at each end of town: one at Sheffield and one at Montague Center.

The schools’ attorney, Fred Dupre, again played math tutor for the committee, reminding them that according to the district agreement, “eight votes,” out of the nine-member committee, “are needed to close a school.” But only a simple majority of a quorum (as few as three votes) are needed to change the grade configuration within schools

that remain open, Dupre said.

Either proposal will need to gather two more votes to pass. After three hours’ discussion on Tuesday, there was very little change to the basic math.

Montague Regulates Free Speech

“The challenge facing the select-board,” explained board member Allen Ross at the beginning of the public hearing on free speech on the town common in Montague Center and Peskeomskut Park in Turners Falls, “is to develop guidelines consistent with the First Amendment of the Constitution to allow freedom of expression and freedom of religion. That’s basically it.”

And, by the end of the meeting, that is basically what the select-board accomplished. By a 2-0 vote, with board chair Patricia Pruitt out of town to care for a family member, the board adopted guidelines allowing groups or individuals to “place objects on the Montague town common and on Peskeomskut Park for a period of no longer than 21 days.”

The first group to fill out such a permit to place such an object on

the Montague town common was the Firemen’s Relief Association, and they filled out the paperwork, before the meeting even ended, to erect their traditional creche.

The guidelines specify the group or individual responsible for the display must include a disclaimer sign, not greater than four square feet in area, stating, “This display is strictly from a private citizen or group. It in no way represents an official view of the town of Montague, nor is it endorsed by the town.”

Not content with that, the town’s attorney recommended the town also include a permanent sign with a general disclaimer on both the Montague Common and the Turners park.

The town may turn down a request for a permit to place a display on the common or park if the board determines the event is “of such nature or duration that it cannot reasonably be accommodated in the area applied for,” or if the event “presents a clear and present danger to the public health and safety,” or if it is in conflict with the schedule of another event or display, or with public celebration of the town.

INTERLANDE from page B1

significance,” said Vince. “The story is set in the year 1989, and three locations figure prominently in the book: Greenfield, Boston, and Leyden.”

According to the 67-year-old author, the origin of *Burning Scars* goes back quite a few years. “A long time ago,” said the storyteller, “I wrote one chapter of what was to be a story set in Cambodia. But I didn’t want to write an entire novel about that part of the world at that time. I put the story away for three years and went back to writing poetry and short stories. I then switched to writing a self-help book, as I was going through a peaceful divorce that changed my life considerably. I titled it *Emotional Transitions*.”

After Interlande completed this manuscript, he ran into the “first-time author syndrome.” “I was a first-time author, and many publishing houses won’t look at a person like that 99.9 percent of the time.”

Vince did extensive research into self-publishing as a possible way of cutting the Gordian knot. He determined that iUniverse was the best choice to print his motivational *Emotional Transitions* book, which contained some of his thoughtful, well-crafted poetry.

Burning Scars was also published by iUniverse, since Vince had enjoyed working with that house. “I’ve been pleased,” said the pony-tailed writer, “in all my dealings with them. They help you with any problem that might come up. It’s a very professional group. If I have any questions about marketing my novel, for example, I can call them for advice.”

The main character of *Burning Scars* is Vic Moreno, a native of Greenfield who spent two tours of duty in Vietnam as the head of special ops teams back in the 1960s. Moreno is now an FBI agent stationed in Boston. He returns to his hometown after a trio of mysterious and brutal murders.

The perpetrator has devised what Interlande terms “a deadly game of chess” with Vic. Demanding that Moreno lead the investigation – or more victims will die – the criminal specifically calls for the Greenfield native to make his return to the environment where he grew up.

Both Vic and the serial killer suffer from flashbacks. But while the FBI man is able to control his, the quarry

is on a vendetta, unable to handle his fiery flickers from the past.

“Vic is a fine person,” said his creator. “He’s an Alpha leader, who does his job thoroughly and yet remains a sensitive, compassionate man. Moreno understands why the criminal does something but still is able to uphold the law. A friend of mine told me that she thought Vic is one of those men that many women would like to meet – a multi-faceted man of conscience who wants to see justice prevail.”

Interlande himself has a varied background. He’s a 1967 graduate of Greenfield High who earned a bachelor’s of science degree in physical education and coaching in 1971 from UMass-Amherst. He went on to teach for seven years in the Greenfield school system, first as a fourth-grade instructor and then as a physical education teacher.

Seeking a career change, Vince earned a contractor’s license and has spent 35 years working full-time or part-time in the building trade. Interlande also tried his hand in retail, opening and managing Second Hand Rose, a second-hand general merchandise store in Turners Falls in 2003. Currently, the local resident is laboring part-time in home contracting, offering masonry, painting, building, and all-around services.

Interlande’s 41-year-old son Ryan underwent a heart transplant this summer. “We’re all encouraged,” said Vince. “Ryan is doing exceptionally well.”

Daughter Gina, 38, lives in Springfield, Vermont, and recently became a postal supervisor in an adjoining town. Brother Paul lives in Turners and is well-known as a musician and proprietor of a recording studio here.

Meanwhile, Vince remains sole owner of all the rights to his novel, and is working on a second one. “If a commercial publishing company wants to issue *Burning Scars* I still own it,” he noted.

Copies of *Burning Scars* are available at World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield and Scotty’s Convenience Store in Turners Falls. The novel and e-book are obtainable through Amazon along with Barnes and Noble, and the book can be ordered on Facebook. Also, any bookstore can order *Burning Scars*.



Franklin County School Superintendents Award Their Best and Brightest



Gill-Montague regional superintendent Michael Sullivan (right) awards Turners Falls High School senior Jordyn Fiske a Certificate of Academic Excellence.

By MICHAEL REARDON

TURNERS FALLS – Chad K. Williams of Franklin County Technical School and Jordyn Fiske of Turners Falls High School were among nine area students to win the prestigious 2016 Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents’ Certificate of Academic Excellence.

In presenting the award to Williams, Franklin County Technical School Superintendent Richard J. Martin lauded the student as “a leader, mentor and friend.”

“Chad is a goal oriented and mature young man who exhibits characteristics of leadership, goal setting, initiative taking, and exemplifies a strong moral fiber,” he said.

Williams, a senior from Leverett, is dual enrolled in the school’s machine technology program and at Greenfield Community College. He holds a 3.8 grade point average. Williams also works as a Computer Numerical Control (CNC) operator at KEO Milling Cutters in Athol through the FCTS cooperative ed-

ucation program, and has earned a position as engineer understudy at the company.

“I’m very honored to receive this award,” Williams said following the ceremony. “I don’t expect to get anything. I don’t feel like I’m an extraordinary student. I’m surprised to be honored.”

The Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents’ Certificate of Academic Excellence awards were presented to the students following the annual Franklin County Area Superintendents’ Association Awards Dinner, held at Franklin County Technical School’s Apprentice Restaurant. The event honors the award-winning students, and includes invited guests such as parents, guardians, family members, principals, teachers and other staff from participating schools.

The Certificate of Academic Excellence is awarded to students who have distinguished themselves in the pursuit of high academic standards throughout their high school careers, as well as service to the

community, and personal qualities such as leadership and integrity.

Fiske ranks first in her class at TFHS, with a 110.43 grade point average on a 100-point scale, and maintains a rigorous schedule of coursework that includes many honors and advanced placement courses. A member of the National Honor Society and student council, Fiske created and coordinates a “Love My Dress” drive to provide free prom dresses to students who can’t afford them.

“Jordyn’s teachers and coaches universally characterize her as being a very conscientious student, a kind and caring person, and someone who possesses a strong sense of personal values and responsibility,” said Gill-Montague Regional School District superintendent Michael Sullivan. “Jordyn wants to become a physical therapist, and based upon her high level of academic achievement and strong leadership ability, those who know her believe she will excel in all that she pursues.”

Besides Williams and Fiske, other award recipients were Grace R. Rathbun of Pioneer Valley Regional School, Tyler B. Rice of Mohawk Trail Regional High School, Sarah O’ Sullivan of Greenfield High School, Jonathan Delaney of Frontier Regional School, Olivia A. Kimball of Athol High School, and Kacy Nintean and Yunjung Seo, both of Ralph C. Mahar Regional School.

In his free time, Williams enjoys hunting and archery, and he helps train German Shepherd dogs for Rebuilding Warriors, an organization that provides the trained dogs to armed service veterans who require extra support.

Williams, who hopes to become a mechanical engineer, plans to continue as a student at GCC following graduation and then go on to attend

UMass-Amherst.

“We’re extremely proud of him,” said Kevin Williams, Chad’s father. “He’s a very motivated and dedicated individual. He’s an all around good kid and a pleasure to be with. He’s not only a good son, he’s also a good friend.”

Janet Williams, Chad’s mother, said he set his sights on attending

Franklin County Technical School when he was in 8th grade.

“He knew he wanted to be in the machine technology program,” she said. “We’re very pleased with the school, and the education he got.”

Michael Reardon works as a public relations officer at FCTS.



FCTS senior Chad Williams (left) receives a Certificate of Academic Excellence from superintendent Richard J. Martin.

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Grade 6

First Honors

Alina Bocharnikova	Thomas LaBombard
Kendra Campbell	Adam Maynard
David Damkoehler	Taylana Pabon
Lindsay Davenport	Stephanie Peterson
Eli Dresser	Lillian Poirier
Ian Farrick	Emma St. Hilaire
Shealyn Garvin	Tyler Tetreault
Mia Gonzalez	Corin Wisnewski
Derek Helms	Sophia Wolbach
Samuel Hoynoski	Cadence Wozniak
Maria LaBelle	
Second Honors	Third Honors
Logan Addison	Cassidy Douglas
Deion Brewington-Simon	Richard Hall III
Morgan Dobias	Landon Smith
Abigail Holloway	
Nikolas Martin	
Brooke Thayer	

Dylan Burnett
Laura Cioclea
Brendan Driscoll
Emily Fess
Dalton Henderson
Caitlyn Jacobsen
Jada Jurek
Amos Koyama
Christian Larouche
Jacob Lyons
Sujal Manandhar
Jacob Norwood
Kiley Palmquist

Haley Bastarache
Catherine Bezio
Kate Boulanger
Gabriella Castagna
Xavier Chagnon
Gemanaia Cruz
Austin Demers
Dylan Demers
Emily Denison
Jacob Dodge
Hunter Drost
Isabelle Farrick

Caelyn Patenaude
Blake Pollard
Brandon Pollard
Lucy Postera
Odalis Ramirez-Martin
Greyson Rollins
Maria Romashka
Abigail Sanders
Ivan Sankov
Olivia Stafford
Paige Sulda
Samantha Thorpe
Madison Tirrell

Hannah Warnock
Emily Williams
Tessa Williams
Devin Willor

Third Honors
Dillin Kulesa
Jasmine Meattley
Isaiah Thompson
Katelynn Thurber

Second Honors
Willia Jane Beltrandi
Joshua Brunelle
Xavier Carlo
Olivia Delisle
Alicia Emond
Britney Lambert
Corbin Leh
Dezirae Porlier-Longo
Autumn Sandberg
Lestat Senn
Elizabeth Whitney

Grade 8

First Honors

Sohpia Gobeil
Kate Graves
Haleigh Greene
Abigail Hoynoski
Isabella Johnson
Natalie Kells
Nicholas Lyons
Mackenzie Martel
Derek Martin
Mercedes Morales
Taylor Murphy
Audrey O'Keefe

Karissa Olson
Dalver Perez
Catherine Reynolds
James Robison
Madison Sanders
Lana Spera
Julie Sprankle
Amber Taylor
Brynn Tela
Shelby Terounzo
Taryn Thayer
Leah Timberlake

Second Honors

Timothy Agapov
Paige Bonarrigo
Vincent Carme
Emmalee Dobosz
Dylan McLaughlin
Samuel Nieves
Morgan Pendriss
Jacob Sak
Emily Sevrems
Addison Stacy

Third Honors

Isabella Allen
Kaden Cash
Morgan Millar
Juliana Rode
Kelli Schneider
Cameron Tuttle
Kolby Watroba

This week in TFHS Sports: Winter Preview

By MATT ROBINSON

This week, five Turners Falls teams began their winter athletic seasons. The hockey team skated against South Hadley. The girls swim team swept Sci-Tech and Holyoke, while the boys swim team split against those opponents. The girls' basketball team lost to Lee by 3 points, while the boys' beat Murdock in their home opener.

Ice Hockey

South Hadley 10 – TFHS 3

On Saturday, December 10, the Turners Falls Skating Indians dropped their home opener to the South Hadley Orange Tigers 10-3.

"We're a young team," Coach Darren Lenois told me before Saturday's game. "But we're improving."

South Hadley took an early 2-0 lead in Saturday's game, but the Tribe answered at 6:50 of the opening period when Mason Whiteman scored. In the second period, with the score 4-1, Bryan Baumann scored a second goal to half the score 4-2. But then South Hadley got a fifth goal off the skate of an Indian defenseman, and scored a slap shot to put the Tigers up 6-2.

In the third, Bryce Jordan scored the Tribe's third goal to make the score 7-3 Orange. The Tigers scored three more late-game goals to top the Indians, 10-3.

Whiteman, Baumann, and Jordan scored Blue's goals, with Baumann adding an assist. Dalton DeForest, Doug Hanieski and Ethan Laffleur also gave assists. Goal-tender Jordan Lavalier made 21 saves, while Nathan Pelletier saved 18 shots on goal.

The 2016/17 hockey team is young indeed, with only three seniors on their roster. Last year the Tribe finished 1-16-3, beating only Greenfield. This season, they play without the defensive talents

of Fay-Wright All League goalie Brandon Bryant.

To improve on their 2015/16 record, Powertown will need to keep the puck out of their own crease, while continuing to score in their opponents' net.

Girls Swimming

TFHS 80 – Sci-Tech 27

On Friday, December 9, the Lady Indians won every event except the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Jade Tyler took first in the 500-yard freestyle event and the 200-yard freestyle race. Olivia Whittier won the 200 IM and the 100-yard breaststroke.

Also winning first place were Lillian Poirier in the 50-yard freestyle, Allison Wheeler in the 100-yard freestyle, and Melissa Hersey in the 100-yard backstroke.

The relay team – Hersey, Whittier, Tyler, and Wheeler – won the 200-yard medley and 400-yard freestyle. *TFHS 48 – Holyoke 39*

On Tuesday the Lady Indians outswam the Holyoke Purple Knights 48-39, improving their record to 2-0. Olivia Whittier took first place in 2 events: the 200-yard IM and the 100-yard breaststroke.

Two other Lady Indians won their individual races. Tyler won the 200-yard freestyle and Wheeler took the 100-yard freestyle. The relay team also took first place in the 200-yard medley relay and the 400-yard freestyle relay.

The team, who finished last season with a record of 4-6, have already won half as many meets as they did in the entire 2015/16 season – and that's without Mackenzie Phillips, who competed in last year's Western Mass Championships.

However, because they're in the Constitution Class, they still have to compete against some pretty good teams, Chicopee, West Springfield, and Ludlow included. Their next

meet is against Chicopee on December 20, and then they'll host Palmer on January 6.

Boys Swimming

Sci-Tech 72 – TFHS 57

The Turners Falls boys swim team fell to Sci-Tech on December 9, but beat Holyoke in their home opener on the 13th.

Two Turners swimmers won two individual events. Cameron Bradley won the 200-yard IM and 100-yard butterfly, and Nick Taylor took both the 200-yard and 100-yard freestyles.

Ed Reipold also won the 100-yard backstroke. The relay team, Ryan Grace, Reipold, Bradley and Taylor, won the 200-yard freestyle relay. *TFHS 44 – Holyoke 34*

On Tuesday, Turners evened their record to 1-1 by defeating Holyoke 44-34. Bradley took two individual events – the 200-yard IM and the 100-yard freestyle – while Taylor won the 200-yard and 500-yard freestyle events. Reipold also finished first in the 100-yard backstroke.

Reipold, Chase Blair, Bradley, and Taylor won the 200-yard medley and the 400-yard freestyle relays.

Last year the boys' swim team finished with a record of 4-5-1, and in their class they were 2-3-1. They had five boys on their roster and lost two swimmers, Jay Fritz and Riley Palmer.

Right now, they're tied for third place in the Constitution Class with seven meets left in their own division, but their focus now is to improve on their individual times so they can send their swimmers to the Western Mass Swimming and Diving Championship in February.

Boys Basketball

TFHS 77 – Murdock 65

In the first quarter of Tuesday's game, Turners shot out to an early



And in other local schools: Franklin Tech's Isabelle Duga drives the ball past Mohawk's Hayley Lovell during first-round play of the Eagle Holiday Classic. The Lady Eagles defeated the Mohawk Warriors, 31-27.

14-7 lead, but Murdock outscored the Tribe 11-2 to take the lead 18-16 after a quarter.

Murdock kept their lead and led 27-26 with 3:36 left in the first half. But then the Blue Tribe went on their own run and by the time the halftime buzzer sounded, Turners had gone ahead by 15 points, 45-30.

Murdock made up a little ground, but Powertown finished strong and took the contest by 12 points.

Josh Obuchowski had the hot hand for the Indians, scoring 25 points, 24 of which were 2-pointers. Nick Croteau followed with


19 points, including 5 from 3-point land. Tyler Lavin cracked in two 3-pointers and ended with 8 points.

Javonni Williams also scored 8, courtesy of 2 freebies and 3 from the floor. Kyle Bergman finished with 7 points, while Anthony Peterson (4), Tionne Brown (3), and Ricky Craver (3) also scored for the Tribe.

Last season, even though they had a losing record, they qualified for the postseason because of their strength of schedule. They went on to win their first playoff game before losing to Granby in

see **SPORTS** page B8

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The Children's Page

YONDERNOD ILLUSTRATION

“A Hungry Trickster”

Story and pictures by BEVERLY KETCH



Junebug walked to Señor Cat's house for one of his famously delicious dinners!

Señor Cat was very busy and happy in the kitchen.



After a lovely meal, they chatted and enjoyed a strawberry for dessert.



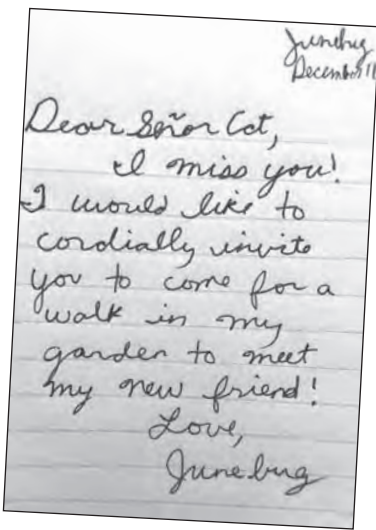
On the way home Junebug met Old Scratch. “How was dinner at Señor Cat’s?”, he asked. “One of his best!” replied Junebug.



Old Scratch stopped by Señor Cat's. “I've heard you are a fine cook,” he said, “but Junebug seemed to think you may have done better in the past!”
“Really!” said Señor Cat.
“I am a fair judge of fine food,” offered Old Scratch.
“Let me give my opinion!”
After a big serving, he exclaimed, “Magnificent! In me you have a dinner guest who appreciates your talent!”



Junebug hadn't seen Señor Cat in days! She sent him a letter.



Señor Cat was excited about the letter, but his feelings were still hurt! And who is this mysterious new friend?



Señor Cat met Christmas Tree Angel on the way home with the letter. “What's the matter, Señor Cat?” she said.

“I haven't seen Junebug around all week,” he answered, sadly, “just that sly Old Scratch. He told me Junebug didn't like my cooking. And now she has a new friend, too!”



“I met this new friend of hers,” said Christmas Tree Angel, “and the two of you have something in common.”



Señor Cat walks into the garden- a beautiful peacock! And there was Junebug. He had missed her so much!



“Hi, Junebug,” he said, shyly.

Would you have fun helping with the children's page? Your newspaper crafts, children's drawings and favorite activity suggestions would be a wonderful addition!
Contact Beverly Ketch at kidspage@montaguereporter.org.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Tuff Riddim International will play at the Roots Cellar in Greenfield on Friday, December 16, 9 p.m. \$

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.

FIRST SUNDAY MONTHLY

Franklin Community Coop/ Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *Co-op Jazz*. Blues, Latin, Straight-Ahead Jazz. Balcony. Afternoons.

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.



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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 WEDNESDAY MONTHLY

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Roots at the Root Cellar*. Reggae DJs mixing up roots, dub, dance-hall, steppas and more. 9 p.m. Free.

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAY

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Open Mic*. 6 to 8:30 p.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:

Von Auersberg Art Gallery, Deerfield Academy, Deerfield: *Reimagining Audubon: Gina Siepel & Lyell Castonguay*

Through December 16.

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

Lobby, Flynt Center of Early New England Life, Old Deerfield: *Natural Selections: Flora and the Arts*. Explores the subject of flora and how it inspired the decorative arts. Through March, 2017.

GCC Downtown Center Gallery, Greenfield: *Venture/Adventure: Applied Photography Projects*. Photography by students Anthony Borton, Elaine Findley, Cynthia Mead, Elie Shuman, and Shoshana Zonderman.

Little Big House Gallery, Shelburne Falls. Open by appt.; see 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: *"Wee the People"* presents little people, pets, and creatures. Includes garden slug figurine, a Frida Kahlo doll, a felted Kibosh creature, a paper robot, and a flying death angel. Great gifts. Through December.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *The Liquid Edge: Polar Regions, photographs by Sarah Holbrook*. Also *Painting Nature: Botanical Watercolors by Thayer*. Through December.

Sawmill Gallery, Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Light in the Darkness*, winter exhibit through January 1. Also *Mills Not Malls*, holiday shopping.

Shelburne Arts Co-operative, Shelburne Falls: *"Wintery Mix"*, Holiday Group Show. Music by *Uncle Hal* on Saturday afternoons. Through January 23.

Wendell Free Library: *Paintings from the Road*, oil paintings by *Jack Sikes* at the Herrick Gallery of the library through January 2.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Goodfellows featuring Doug Smith along with Tommy Filiault, Doug Plavin, and Klondike Koehler*. Funky Blues. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope!* This week is ducks! For ages 3-6. Siblings and friends welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Eggtooth Productions presents New Vaudeville Holiday Spectacular*. Each offering is 5-7 minutes long and the theme of the acts is

grace. Family fun with children under 15 free. 7:30 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Show of Cards*. Folk rock. 8 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Larry Dulong & Random Sighting*. 9 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Tuff Riddim International*. Reggae. 9 p.m. \$

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Skell Entertainment Presents Get a Grip*, hardcore punk; *SCVM*, heavy; *Tides*, groove-core; *Dopeghost*, hardcore; and 1 more TBA. 9 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Simon White*. Reggae/Soul. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Eggtooth Productions presents New Vaudeville Holiday Spectacular*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Friends Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Concerts for Peace and Social Change* presents *David Roth*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Original Cowards*. Garage Rock; and *Frost Heaves and Hales*. alt. Americana. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Wildcat O'Halloran Band*. Not your father's blues band! 9 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Llama Lasagne Holiday Special*. "Circus of musicians and performers." 9 p.m. \$

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Ruby's Complaint Christmas Show*. 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Mystics Anonymous and Rick Murnane*. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Eggtooth Productions presents New Vaudeville Holiday Spectacular*. 2 p.m. \$

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Wayne Roberts, Carl Clements, and Claire Arenius*. Jazz. 5 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Lazy Bones*. Old Time, Jazz, Blues & More. 7 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center, Northfield: *Solstice Headlamp Hike*. 1½ mile hike; we supply the campfire, snacks, and tales about the solstice. You bring warm clothes and headlamps. Appropriate for ages 11 and up. 6 to 9 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Creacion Latin Big Band*. See *Ongoing Events 1st and 3rd Wed.* for details. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Lunar Carnival*. Folk, Jazz & Americana. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope*. This week it's deer! For ages 3-6. Siblings and friends welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Kristen Hoffman*, singer/songwriter. 8 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Latin Xmass/Paranda with Jose Gonzalez and Banda Criolla*. 8:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*. Hypno Boogie Blues. 9 p.m.



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FRI. 12/16 no show

SAT. 12/17 9:30 FREE Mystics Anonymous Rick Murnane

SUN. 12/18 9pm TNT Karaoke

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VANESSA QUERY PHOTO

A wreath and ornament vendor at the Greenfield Winter Farmers Market.

OYSTERGIRL from page B1

farmers, food-makers, and craftspeople.” Available are the usual vegetables and fruit, as well as artisan bread, fermented foods, fresh fish, eggs and meat and cheese, plus local herbals and crafts.

There are usually kids activities and live music scheduled, so hang out for a while and enjoy hot drinks and baked goods. Visit their Facebook page for an event schedule.

See [amherstwintermarket.com](#).

Northampton Winter Farmers Market

The Northampton Winter Farmers Market is every Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., through April 22. It’s held at Smith Vocational and Agricultural School.

The Northampton winter market began in 2009 as the first weekly winter market in the area (remember that the Greenfield market was the first

winter market in the whole state!) and is a “vibrant community institution.”

There’s a hefty selection of local vegetables and fruit, meat and eggs and cheese – farmers and food producers come from all around the region to sell at this market.

You can also get a range of other locally-made products like honey-sweetened chocolates, hot sauces, henna, cutting boards and other woodwork, plants, medicinal products, and more.

If you can get there this month, Amherst’s Old Friends Farm will be there with turmeric honey, ginger syrup and chai syrup, made with their own ginger.

See [nohowintermarket.com](#).

Brattleboro Winter Farmers Market

The Brattleboro Winter Farmers Market is held in the River Garden, right downtown, every Satur-

day through March 25. The market runs from 10 a.m. through 2 p.m., except this month, when it will run until 3 p.m.

Brattleboro is one of my favorite places to go for local food – they’ve been satisfying the food snobs for a long time!

The usual vegetables, fruit, meat, and eggs abound. There’s also local wine and hard ciders, artisan bread and other baked goods, maple syrup and honey, and more.

Speaking of meat – in addition to the usual beef, lamb, chicken, and turkey, this market boasts vendors who sell rabbit, goat, duck, and goose (duck-duck-goose... sorry).

The market also serves lunch, and has live music from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

See [facebook.com/BrattleboroWinterFarmersMarket](#).

Other Regional Markets

There are other winter farmers markets, a little further away, if you’re feeling adventurous or happen to be traveling.

Putney Farmers Market: Sundays, 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., through December 18 at Green Mountain Orchards. See [putneyfarmersmarket.org](#).

Wilbraham Winter Market: Saturdays, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. through April 29 at Gardens of Wilbraham. Live music and a sit-down brunch from 11 until 2.

Farmers Market at Forest Park: Second and fourth Saturdays from January through March; second Saturday only in April. From 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Old Monkey House, Forest Park, Springfield. See [farmersmarketatforestpark.com](#).

If you see me at a market, say hi!

Vanessa Query, aka Oystergirl, digs all things local and sustainable. She writes about real food, natural movement, ancestral health, and more at [theycallmeoystergirl.com](#). She welcomes responses and questions at [oystergirl@montaguereporter.org](#).

TFHS SPORTS from page B5

the second round.

This season they face similar obstacles. Playing larger schools in the regular season is difficult, but prepares them well for the postseason, when they face like-sized schools. This year they need to overcome the loss of All Western Mass All Star Star Jalen Sanders, but they retain the talents of Obuchowski, who was an honorable mention All Star last season.

Girls Basketball

Last year, the Lady Indians made the playoffs for the first time in two decades. They began their season with a 0-3 start, including a 46-16 drubbing at the hands of Lee in their opening match. But as the season progressed, they got better and better, eventually evening their record at 10-10.

This season, although the Indians lost Franklin/Hampshire All Star Nadia Haslan, all the rest of the players are back – including Maddy Chmyzinski and Aliyah Sanders, who were selected to the PVIAC all league squad last year.

Lee 38 – TFHS 35

Although Turners led Tuesday’s game 28-22 after three quarters, they were outscored 16-7 in the final period, and dropped their first game 38-35.

Sanders led the Tribe with 13 points. Chmyzinski also finished in double digits with 10, and Chloe Ellis netted in 7. Abby Loynd (3) and Kylie Fleming (2) also scored for Turners.



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