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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 15 – NO. 13

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 12, 2017

State Fire Marshal Orders Strathmore Mill Secured

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – The cryptic item on the Montague selectboard's January 9 agenda simply read "Strathmore update."

Earlier in the meeting, town planner Walter Ramsey had already discussed a proposal to tear down seven buildings and a loading dock at the town-owned former paper mill. (See Montague selectboard notes, Page A6.)



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

The town of Montague is considering demolishing a portion of the deteriorating mill complex, and was asked on Monday by the fire chief to better secure the premises.

But there was more bad news for the complex.

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz opened the discussion by noting that he had met the previous Thursday with the town administrator, building inspector, state fire marshal, and Turners Falls fire chief John Zellman.

"There was an issue at Railroad... uh, Strathmore, a few weeks ago, where there was a breach of the sprinkler pipe," Kuklewicz said. "A substantial see MILL page A5"

GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

School Budget Season Opens: Seven Jobs on Chopping Block

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – Gill-Montague superintendent Michael Sullivan presented the regional school committee a preliminary budget for the 2017-2018 school year Tuesday night that would eliminate four educator and three paraprofessional positions in an effort to cap the district's budget growth at 1.5% over the current year.

Sullivan did not specify where the administration envisioned cutting the positions, beyond that two of the teachers would be secondary level and two elementary level. He did respond to concerns raised by Christina Postera about classroom size at Sheffield Elementary by noting that the proposed cuts do not include classroom teachers at that school.

The working budget – which is likely to change during the next four months, as many variables, including assessments to the towns of Gill and Montague, are yet to be determined – would also shave hours off administrative positions, cut spending on textbooks and professional development, and defer planned maintenance at the high school and the purchase of replacement laptops for some teachers.

It also would not allocate any funds toward a school police officer at the high school, a proposal the towns have been discussing with the Montague Police Department. According to Sullivan, at a January 4 meeting with the Montague finance committee, police chief Chip Dodge indicated that he did not

see GMRSD page A4

GILL SELECTBOARD

Towns Consider Cost of Hiring School Police Officer

By KENT ALEXANDER

At its Monday night meeting, the Gill selectboard discussed a proposal to hire a school police officer for the Gill-Montague Regional School District. Town administrative assistant Ray Purington gave a recap of a January 4 meeting in Montague about the pros and cons of hiring such an officer, known as a school resource officer, or SRO.

Purington reported that the discussion, which included representatives of the district administration and school committee, the two towns' finance committees and selectboards, and the Montague police department, focused on school resource planning and on responses to incidents of school violence across the nation.

He said that those in attendance appeared divided as to whether the district needs an SRO, and that

school superintendent Michael Sullivan announced that, since no one was willing to pay for the position, there would have to be sizable budget cuts to pay for this new job should it be created.

Purington said that it appeared to him that the district was not "pressing" for an SRO since many did not see the need for such a position.

Selectboard member Greg Snedeker asked if each school would have its own SRO, and chair John Ward replied that there would be only one SRO for the entire district.

Member Randy Crochier added that he had a huge problem with the removal of a teacher from a classroom in order to pay for such an officer, "dressed in a polo shirt and khakis," as described by Montague police chief Charles "Chip" Dodge.

see GILL page A7

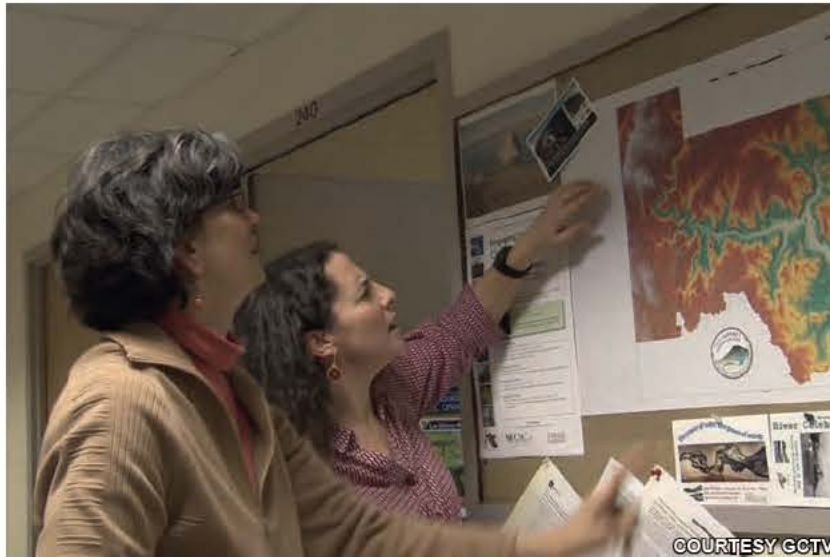
A MIDWINTER MEAL



ANNE BAKER PHOTO

"I'll have a gray goose, on ice": Anne Baker of Gill took this remarkable photograph of an adult bald eagle feeding on a Canada goose carcass on the frozen river ice at Barton Cove last week. "I like to go out and watch birds," Anne, who took the pictures from Riverside, told the Reporter. "I came upon it after it had already killed [the goose] – there was nobody else around. It looked like it had just happened." For more of Anne's pictures of this eagle, see page A6.

Hydrogeologist, Geographer to Towns: It's Time to Learn to Love the Floods



COURTESY GCTV

Researchers Christine Hatch and Eve Vogel study watershed maps.

By KAREN MILLER

FRANKLIN COUNTY – "We get so used to" our road and river systems, says UMass hydrogeologist Christine Hatch. She's looking at an oversized wall map of the Deerfield River, and talking about

Hurricane Irene. "We think, well, the river's just always there. But it isn't." Rivers move on very long time scales, she says. "It's not easy to remember that rivers are moving, living, evolving things."

When Hurricane Irene lumbered through western Massachusetts in

2011, it destroyed crops, flooded houses, damaged bridges. In Greenfield, the Water Pollution Control Facility was forced offline. The town of Hawley was cut off. Route 2 was closed.

Irene was one of the costliest tropical storms in the past three decades, and, in our warming world, such weather is predicted to happen more frequently. But though such storms may be inevitable, the harm they cause is not.

Through a project called "RiverSmart," Dr. Hatch and UMass geographer Dr. Eve Vogel are developing ways to mitigate the damage from extreme storms.

In western Massachusetts, Vogel explains, hurricane damage usually comes from wind. But with Irene, the damage was mostly caused by flooding, and by the overwhelming amount of debris carried by the swollen rivers. When Irene came, "the soils were [already] saturated,

see FLOODS page A7

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GUEST EDITORIAL

America Cannot Afford Trump's Nuclear Arms Race

By JIM MCGOVERN
and DR. IRA HELFAND

America is home to one of the world's two most powerful nuclear arsenals. With President-elect Trump's reckless tweet calling for the U.S. to "expand its nuclear capability," he has put the world on edge. This came just hours after Russian President Vladimir Putin called for Russia to strengthen its nuclear arsenal.

Donald Trump is not even in the White House and he is already threatening to upend decades of U.S. nuclear policy and plunge us back into the dangerous arms race that led to the Cold War.

Both Republican and Democratic security experts have described Donald Trump as lacking the temperament to command our nuclear arsenal. And we are already seeing why.

Once Donald Trump is President, he will have absolute authority to initiate nuclear war with no legal check on this power. We can only hope his impulsive tendencies displayed on the campaign trail, and since the election, are not an indication of how Mr. Trump will govern.

It is clear, however, that our long-term response must be a transformational change in U.S. nuclear policy.

For decades, the U.S. has argued that even a few nuclear weapons in the hands of rogue nations would pose an unacceptable risk, but "responsible" states like the U.S. having these weapons is acceptable.

By transferring thousands of nuclear weapons to the control of a leader who appears temperamentally unsuited to command them, the U.S. has proven how fundamentally flawed that policy is.

Many in the medical and scientific community have long argued there are no "right hands" with nuclear weapons. A large-scale use of nuclear weapons will kill most of the human race. Recent studies have shown that even a very limited nuclear war, involving less than 0.5 percent of the world's nuclear arsenal, would cause worldwide climate disruption and precipitate a global famine that could put some two billion people at risk. No individual should ever possess such destructive power.

Opponents claim some leaders can be trusted with this ter-

rrible power, but they assumed we would always elect leaders who understand the grave responsibility that comes with it. The election of Donald Trump, in tandem with Vladimir Putin holding power in Russia, has shown how shortsighted that assumption is. With vast nuclear arsenals in the control of such leaders, we must finally acknowledge that no risk is acceptable when it comes to nuclear weapons. Our nuclear policy must be an urgent quest to eliminate these weapons.

Working together with the current nuclear states to move toward a nuclear-free world will not be easy, but it is both possible and essential to a safe and prosperous future.

Each nuclear state has their reasons for thinking these arsenals are necessary to protecting their national security and place on the world stage.

Trump claims an aggressive nuclear policy is justified until the world "comes to its senses," but it already has. There is a growing consensus in support of nuclear arms reduction and as our next president, he must answer that call.

First, the United States must make a fundamental decision to seek the national security that can only come from a nuclear-free world. This would lay the foundation for the real progress needed. The U.S. must begin by abandoning its intention to spend \$1 trillion over the next 30 years to enhance its nuclear arsenal.

Second, the U.S. must clearly commit to never using nuclear weapons against non-nuclear nations and never use nuclear weapons first.

Third, the U.S. must work with Russia to explore mutual steps to allow our two countries to take our weapons off hair-trigger alert to lessen the danger that they are inadvertently fired in response to a false warning of attack by either side.

Finally, the U.S. must embrace the international movement for a treaty to prohibit the possession of nuclear weapons. The United Nations voted overwhelmingly in October to commence negotiations for such a treaty in 2017. The U.S. should join this process and use the resulting treaty as leverage to bring the other nuclear nations into negotiations to reduce and eliminate their arsenals, with all the necessary verification mechanisms in place.

With every day, President-elect



Bill Cowan sports a "beard magnifique" while maintaining the engine of a 2011 school bus at F.M. Kuzmeskus in Gill.

Letters to the Editors

Reactions to Last TFHS Mascot Forum

Indigenous Nationhood Movement is an organization in Canada and the United States that is rooted in empowering Native American, First Nations, Inuit and Metis Peoples and in educating the general public about indigenous issues, one of which is the use of racially based mascots.

In the most recent forum in Turners Falls regarding the Turners Falls Indian Mascot, there were several instances we would like to address.

First and foremost is Chief of Police Chip Dodge and his comment, "You may not see it that way because maybe you don't feel the way the true Indians do, Turners Indians.

Trump demonstrates the danger of an unthinking approach to foreign policy. We join Republicans and Democrats in hoping this rhetoric from Trump does not signify a return to an outdated approach to nuclear weapons.

Now more than ever, the U.S. must work with world leaders to reduce the current nuclear stockpiles and pave the way to a nuclear-free world. We have the opportunity to leave our children a more secure future. We cannot afford to plunge the U.S. back into a dangerous arms race and new Cold War.

U.S. Congressman Jim McGovern represents the 2nd Congressional District of Massachusetts.

Dr. Ira Helfand is a Nobel Peace Prize recipient and the co-president of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

We grew up in the school, we played sports, it's a part of our growing up, it's a part of our heritage."

Chief Dodge's comment exemplifies why indigenous people do not feel comfortable or safe in the area of Turners Falls. We are not real to him, we are not "true" Indians because we are not part of the stereotypical fantasy that racial mascots infuse communities with.

I'm sure this is difficult to hear. I'm sure it makes many of you angry. Perhaps you should consider how it makes actual Native people feel? Being erased and replaced with a caricature of indigeneity?

Sorry Chief, you have no idea what it is to be Indian, you have no idea what our values encompass because if you did you would never have made such an insensitive and arrogant comment. Your pro-mascot cohorts should have called you out on such an embarrassing statement if they actually respected us. Their position is obvious.

With all due respect to Mr. LaRoche, you mention that you had a cousin who did your genealogy. You stated that on your Grandmother's side that you are Iroquois.

Iroquois is not a Nation, but a confederacy. That would be akin to saying that you have eastern European or Scandinavian ancestry. It does not make you a native of any country in those regions. If you went to one of those countries and tried to get in without a passport you would be denied access.

It works the same way in Indian Country. We are sovereign. You

can't declare yourself Indian. It doesn't work that way. Sorry.

Having possible ancestry that you have no ties to doesn't give you decision-making powers when it comes to our culture, how we are portrayed, and how the dominant culture chooses to use or abuse us.

Finally, Professor Singleton. As a member of the dominant culture – who you yourself state knew little about indigenous history, I am not sure why you feel you have expertise as to how we are to be portrayed by the dominant culture.

You yourself stated that the use of mascots came out of a time when we were equated as less than humans. We are more than just a logo that people wear on people's t-shirts. We are living breathing cultures.

I am not sure why we should be required to address the issue in a kind and gentle manner when it is not a kind and gentle issue. The truth is difficult sometimes and sometimes it hurts to hear it. Not everyone made such grave analogies, not everyone used charged language, but everyone spoke their truth.

There were also a number of studies shared that show the detrimental effects of racialized mascots on children. I cannot imagine that anyone would find that at this point intentionally damaging children would be acceptable.

David Karbon
Plainfield
Indigenous Nationhood Movement

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Like putting together puzzles? Have a collection of used puzzle boxes? Looking for a new challenging puzzle? Come and swap with other fellow puzzle-masters at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls on Saturday, January 14, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Make sure there are no missing pieces. That's not funny! This is a re-scheduled event, because of snow.

The Turners Falls Knights of Columbus, Council # 737, held their **Free Throw shooting Championship** on Saturday, January 7, at the Sheffield Elementary School Gym.

Madison Limatainen won the 10-year-old girls' bracket, Kyleigh Dobosz won the 11-year-old girls' bracket, Allison Kandel won the 12-year-old girls, and Haleigh Greene was the champion of the 13-year-old girls. Some of the girls' brackets had some tough competition going on with the event going into overtime and the spectators cheering on.

Dion Brewington-Smith won the 12-year-old boys' bracket.

The winners now move on to the

district championship which takes place on Saturday, February 11, at 3 p.m. at the Greenfield YMCA.

Listening to a Continent Sing: Join **birdsong expert Donald Kroodsmas** on his ten-week, ten-state bicycle journey as he travels with his son from the Atlantic to the Pacific, lingering and listening to our continent sing as no one has before.

On remote country roads, over terrain vast and spectacular, from dawn to dusk and sometimes through the night, you will gain a deep appreciation for the natural symphony of birdsong many of us take for granted. Come along and marvel at how expressive these creatures are as Kroodsmas leads you west across nearly five thousand miles – at a leisurely pace that enables a deep listen.

This slide show presentation is supported in part by a grant from the Montague Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

The program is free, and all are welcome. Arrive early for good

seating. Held at Great Falls Discovery Center on Saturday, January 21, starting at 1 p.m.

On Saturday, January 21 at 12:30 p.m., **women and their allies will gather on the Greenfield Town Common** (Court Square) for a rally in solidarity with the Women's March on Washington. Echoing the message of the Washington march, local speakers, songs, signs, and personal testimony will focus on standing together for women's and human rights.

Intended as a call to action, the rally will provide information about concrete actions participants can take to protect their rights, safety, health, and families. At 1 p.m., participants in the Greenfield rally will join individuals and groups across the country in observing the One Minute of Silence for Equality, a call for women's equality, women's rights, and human rights.

All are invited to attend the rally, and are encouraged to dress warmly for an outdoor event, and to bring signs that express their vision for women's rights and human rights, locally, nationally, and globally.

Seniors (aged 60 and above) are invited to join All Out Adventures

for guided **beginner and intermediate group snowshoeing** in the Wendell State Forest, or hiking in the case of no snow.

Equipment and instruction provided. There is no fee to participate in this program. Donations are gratefully accepted to offset the cost of the program. Meets three Wednesdays: January 25, February 15 and March 8. Groups leave at 10 a.m. and noon.

Gather at the State Forest HQ, 392 Wendell Road, Millers Falls. For more information and schedules, see www.alloutadventures.org, or contact info@alloutadventures.org or (413)584-2052.

If you are **donating food** to a local pantry or community meals program, please do not leave canned or jarred foods in your vehicle overnight. Those containers will freeze, and after defrosting the food will spoil. Canned foods' seals will expand and burst, and jars will crack, making a real mess in the pantry.

Do you put canned or jarred food in your freezer at home? Hope not. So don't leave them out in the cold!

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Repealing the Affordable Care Act Puts Rural Hospitals at Risk

By ALAN MORGAN

Plans are being laid in Washington to repeal the Affordable Care Act as soon as Donald Trump takes the presidential oath of office. Hidden inside the law is a little-known provision, unrelated to the health insurance expansion, that helps rural hospitals across America stay open.

It's called the 340B drug discount program. The ACA made 1,100 rural hospitals eligible, and it requires drug companies to supply these remote providers with discounted medications. These discounts can be passed along to patients unable to afford expensive medications or the savings can help fund essential medical services for their communities such as emergency rooms and labor and delivery.

Rural hospitals across the country face daunting economic challenges. Eighty have closed since 2010 and 673 -- fully one third of rural hospitals -- operate at a loss and are at risk of closure. These are often the only medical facilities for hundreds of miles in any direction.

Rural hospitals provide essential, lifesaving local access to health care close to home for the 62 million Americans living in rural and remote communities.

Rural hospitals serve vulnerable Americans who are older, sicker and poorer than their urban counterparts. These patients are more likely to suffer with a chronic disease that requires monitoring and follow-up care. That makes convenient, local access to health providers vital. It also reduces the overall cost of care and improves patient outcomes and quality of life.

The 340B program makes it possible for these hospitals to offer necessary services needed in their communities.

Cass Country Memorial Hospital in Atlantic, IA, uses 340B program

savings to pay for free medications for needy patients, and it helps fund the hospital's Behavioral Health Unit -- one of two critical access hospitals in the state that offers psychiatric services.

At RiverView Health in Crookston, MN, program savings allow the hospital to recruit orthopedic surgeons, pain management and oncology specialists. The facility has also been able to update equipment, start an anti-coagulation clinic and set up a 24/7 onsite laboratory and CT scan services even though patient volumes don't support them. The hospital is also able to offer additional charity care to patients in need.

In Wishek, ND, the Wishek Hospital has used its 340B savings to help buy a bone density scanner, relocated and renovated its physical therapy department for better patient access and purchased equipment for its cardiac rehab patients. It was also able to pay a private doctor to provide services at a local clinic until a physician was hired on staff.

It's important to understand that 340B is not taxpayer funded. The program is paid for by drug companies that can well afford it, particularly as medicine prices continue to skyrocket.

As Congress considers repealing the ACA, it is essential that any changes in health care law do not deny rural hospital eligibility in the 340B drug discount program. Savings from the program are critical to ensuring rural hospitals are able to meet the health care needs of their communities in an uncertain future.

Rural closures are already hurting the most vulnerable patients, and the loss of the 340B program eligibility could further erode timely access to lifesaving care.

Alan Morgan is CEO of the National Rural Health Association.



Another Letter to the Editors

Open Letter to the Gill-Montague School Committee

I'm Kathy Webber, Turners Falls alumni ('69), resident of TF, and I hope that you change the Indian logo.

I feel that we have heard from the local native Americans (including our local Nolumbeka project), and we know that an Indian mascot does not honor anyone by using a stereotype and objectifying their race rather than treating them as "real American people."

This issue is not new, not brought up by only outsiders, and is not just a P.C. Issue, or a School Committee personal agenda.

Since 1968, all 533 Native American Tribal Nations voted to eliminate Indian mascots for sports teams. (National Congress of American Indians information.) We are just very slow, in the U.S., to listen to this minority group. I believe it is your job as elected officials to make this important decision on behalf of the children in our community. Children who will learn that our community respects the rights of all cultures. Children will learn by what they see.

Currently seeing adults and HS students believe that they are "true Indians" by wearing a logo is not teaching anything positive about native Americans. We should learn to have pride in ourselves, our teammates, our school by what we accomplish, not by pretending to be "Indians."

If anything has been missing in this process, I believe it was lack of actual discussions that would allow back-and-forth conversation between those on both sides. Instead it has happened on social media and has become a disaster, which I don't see getting better until a vote is taken.

I don't know if the divisions will heal, but if there is a chance for all to work together, I believe it will happen in developing a new logo/mascot together.

If the pro-mascot group wants to honor our native people's local history, let's find a way to do that. Our town has been populated by many culturally different European immigrants who learned to become one community. One example is creation of a park with the name of "Unity."

Let's find a way to all become united again, this time honoring the reconciliation of 2004 between our town and native Americans by finding a symbol that represents our diversity, pride, history but does not degrade any one cultural group.

I do not envy your important decision, but I respect your professionalism.

Thank you again,

Kathy Webber
TFHS '69
Turners Falls



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Recalling the Sheffield School Fire of 1986

TURNERS FALLS – Do you remember the Sheffield School fire? Where were you when you got the news, what was your reaction, what did you do next?

On Monday, January 23 at 5:45 p.m., the community is invited to return to the Sheffield School to share their memories and stories.

The 1987 Sheffield School fire is a piece of history that had a significant impact on many members of our community, and getting together to reminisce about this will be a “heartwarming” experience. Thirty years later, there are still many unanswered questions from that night.

Firefighters, teachers and special guests will be present. We hope to gain a better perspective of how others experienced this event. Please join us to share your stories!



GMRS from page A1

think his department would be able to fund such an officer, either.

Business director Joanne Blier characterized the current school year as “overall, a very, very tight year,” with the largest loss of anticipated revenue caused by a lower-than-expected enrollment of students from Erving – a drop from 67 to 55.

“We need to underspend our expenses by about \$100,000 to break even,” she said, out of a total budget of \$21,158,097. Fortunately, this appears to be offset by favorable news in the number of students choosing in, and total district enrollment has held steady at exactly 951 students, the same as last year.

Next year, though, looks challenging for the administration. Health insurance premiums and

retiree benefits, out-of-district special ed placements, and a 1% cost of living adjustment will push expenses slowly up, while the continued loss of tuition from Erving, as well as the district’s decision to draw less from its shrinking pool of “excess and deficiency” cash, will weaken its revenues.

Adding up all the department’s “serious requests,” said Sullivan, came to \$22,171,788, which would mean 4.8% growth over the current fiscal year. Bringing projected growth down to 1.5%, or a total of \$21,480,647, meant tossing out requests for six new positions, including the school police officer, and then carving another \$460,000 out of “really difficult reductions.”

“They are going to definitely impact our ability to make improvements,” Sullivan acknowledged, “to be able to do some of the important things we’d like to do.”

The school committee took no action on the proposed budget, but plans to reconvene next Tuesday for a special session.

Mascot Saturation

The committee also discussed its ongoing process to reconsider the high school mascot or logo, currently the “Indian.” In line with a process it voted to adopt in the fall, the committee has been hosting a series of educational and “inquiry” events, in order to “learn stakeholder interests,” and plans at some point to move on to “develop a mascot selection process.”

“I’m getting very saturated with information,” said Sandy Brown of Gill. “I just wondered how much more we were going to do.”

“We’re open to all proposals,” chair Michael Langknecht said, including retaining the Indian. “More detail will be available when we work on creating the criteria – there are going to be tests to meet across the board for everybody, with every mascot. We’re going to decide what issues, what benchmarks a proposal should meet, but nothing’s going to be excluded or

prohibited.”

Still in question is a final “inquiry” event. Supporters of the existing mascot in the community, as well as students and school committee members, have expressed a desire to hear from Native Americans who support retaining the current symbol, but no willing local speakers have been located.

“I emailed all the New England-based Native American tribal organizations I could find,” Sullivan said, “the ones I was aware of across all of southern New England. And all of their leaders said, ‘We don’t know of anyone – we don’t think you’ll find anyone that holds that perspective.’”

Speaking during the public comment period, alumnus Chris Pinardi made several recommendations for speakers who could travel to Turners Falls to speak in support of the district’s retaining the mascot: attorney William Brotherton of Dallas, Texas, a member of the Missisquoi Abenaki Nation of Vermont; Mark Beasley of Phoenix, Arizona, a member of the Navajo Nation; M. Andre Billeaudeau of Virginia; and Eunice Davidson, a member of the Spirit Lake Sioux of North Dakota.

Billeaudeau is the executive director, and Davidson the president, of a group called the Native American Guardians Association, which specializes in sports mascot retention. All four speakers, Pinardi said, were willing to speak on the subject provided the district covers their travel fees.

During discussion, the committee agreed to research these speakers. “We are in no position to decide who is a legitimate voice in this discussion,” said Langknecht. “We’re listening, and then we’re going to have to be discerning, each of us individually, about what we learn from each discussion.”

Montague member Marge Levenson said she worried that moving on to developing criteria without deciding, first, whether or not to change the symbol might give community members the impres-

sion that change was a foregone conclusion. “I’m uncomfortable with the process,” she said.

“It doesn’t say a new mascot,” said Jane Oakes of Gill. “Some of the pro-mascot people have talked about tweaking it... It’s all available – any suggestions people have. It isn’t all new, necessarily.”

“We’re getting opinions to understand what’s important to people,” said Langknecht. “Speaking for myself, I feel the criteria should reflect that.... If we can come up with consensus criteria, I think the hardest part is done.”

Institutional Memory

Former school committee member Joyce Phillips also addressed the board during public comment period, offering clarification about a May 2009 vote by the committee to ban the tomahawk chop and chant.

“There never was a policy. There isn’t a policy,” Phillips said. She pointed out that, shortly after the vote, the school committee reorganized with four newly elected members under a new chair, and did not form a policy committee or take any steps to establish an official policy based on their vote. The district superintendent was also replaced at that time.

“All of the votes that the school committee makes don’t require a policy.... A policy, with its regulations and procedures, does provide guidance, clarity, and history for the future.”

“If there was a new policy,” Phillips continued, “it needs to be assigned a National [Association of] School Board[s] alphabetical code, and the Mass. Association of School Boards assists in this process.”

Phillips emphasized that she was not taking a position on the issues at hand.

Other Business

Jane Oakes, Heather Katsoulis, and April Reipold were appointed to a temporary subcommittee to review the district’s policies and compare them with a list of those

recommended by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC).

Gill’s selectboard has approved a new roof for Gill Elementary, and Blier said she would attend its January 23 meeting to discuss applying to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for reimbursement for the project. “They still may decide to wait a year,” she noted.

The committee unanimously approved the existence of the Four Winds School, a small private school located in Gill, to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The committee heard a presentation from Sullivan on terminology associated with what has become known as “affective learning,” and distinguishing between different approaches: “social and emotional learning;” “multicultural education;” “citizenship education;” and “social justice education.”

With the last of these, Sullivan said, “there’s definitely an agenda there... It may be something that we embrace, or it may not be, but I just want to make sure we don’t lump it in with all these other terms.”

Chair Michael Langknecht acknowledged that there have recently been a growing number of technical difficulties in broadcast of the committee’s meetings by Montague Community Television (MCTV).

“There’s sort of a string of breakdowns which is going to require a level of investment to correct,” he said, and suggested that the meeting room might move in the name of “finding a space that’s reliable.”

Well over \$10,000 has been raised through the schools for the Buzz Off for Kids with Cancer challenge, which will culminate next Thursday, January 19 with a hair-shearing ceremony at Sheffield Elementary.

The board’s next meeting, which will focus on the district budget, will be held Tuesday, January 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the high school.



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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Police Officer Job Declined; Hackers Jack School HVAC

By ROB SKELTON

Bruce Hunter of the county housing authority presented to the Leverett selectboard at its Tuesday night meeting, and scheduled a public hearing for February 7, 6:30 p.m. at the town hall. Up for consideration is federal "block" grant monies, approximately \$200,000 – \$40,000 for five Leverett projects – earmarked to bring properties up to code.

This particular housing rehabilitation grant covers four towns, with Leverett as the lead town, due to its track record; the others are Deerfield, Sunderland and Conway. Hunter described the types of code corrections this program provides, and also explained how the grants are awarded, based partly on aggregated non-wealth as defined by the 2010 census.

Gregg Woodard of the finance committee queried Hunter on cost controls, to which Hunter assured fiduciary competence, and described the checks and balances extant in this longstanding program.

The selectboard and finance committee also met with directors

of the library and the transfer station to peruse their budgets for the next year. Both departments seek a 2% increase, though Ananda Larsen of the transfer station said she could "make do" with less.

Ashley Blais of the library explained that, if she didn't spend 19% of her budget on "new materials," her library will get on the state's non-compliance list as it has been for two years, requiring time-consuming state "waivers" to continue in good graces in the state library system.

The state's setting a floor on salary for certified head librarians, and the 19% mandate was "designed by people on the other side of Framingham," according to selectboard chair Peter d'Errico, alluding to Boston and its disregard and unfamiliarity with the financial strains of small towns off its radar.

Sean Sawicki, offered a job on the Leverett PD, has declined, due to Leverett's pennywise practice of folding overtime into sick time, requiring a new search and the costs of police academy training for another candidate, likely to exceed

whatever he may have accrued over time in overtime.

D'Errico announced that the school's HVAC got hacked recently, discovered when the heat went out and the kids got cold. A naughty person used remote access to hack into the heating system in a "botnet" attack, now mitigated.

He warned the two boards that IT security will be one of its next charges, and to be prepared financially and politically for it.

The capital planning committee is short a few parsimonious members, especially those with experience in building maintenance. Gregg Woodard said he'd speak with former Leverett road boss Larry LaClaire, to see if he'd be interested in helping the town in this capacity.

Finance committeewoman Ann Delano urged that, without holding their feet to the fire, department heads justify all the lines in their budgets, and not simply ask for *pro forma* increases annually.

New winter Wednesday hours for the transfer station are 2 to 5 p.m., now open to Shutesbury residents also.

shal should understand that the town would need to appropriate money "in a legal fashion – show we will proceed accordingly."

On The Safe Side

The day after Monday's meeting, Montague officials went before the state Superior Court in Greenfield to request permission to demolish dangerous portions of the former Railroad Salvage building, in the aftermath of the December 30 fire.

Jeanne Golrick, the former sole member of the involuntarily dissolved LLC that owned the property, challenged the competence of the building inspector and fire chief, and questioned their authority to determine a building's safety and stability.

According to town administrator Steve Ellis, the judge took the town's request under advisement, promising a decision within 48 hours.

As of press time Wednesday evening, town officials said, no judgment had yet been communicated.

The request is being made under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 143 Section 7, which reads:

Any [owner of a structure deemed unsafe by the building inspector] so notified shall be allowed until twelve o'clock noon of the day following the service of the notice in which to begin to remove such structure or make it safe, or to make it secure, and he shall employ sufficient labor speedily to make it safe or remove it or to make it secure; but if the public safety so requires and if the aldermen or selectmen so order, the inspector of buildings may immediately enter upon the premises with the necessary workmen and assistants and cause such unsafe structure to be made safe or taken down without delay...

Zellman said this section of the law may not mandate a judge's order, but that the town brought the issue to the court because it wanted to be on the safe side, "given what we are dealing with here."



Bob Escott on February 19, 2014, to mark the building with a red box and white "X".

That order was not implemented, due to the town's concerns that so marking the structure would make it difficult to market to potential developers.

According to Zellman, the complex is not secure, with numerous open windows. Sections of the roof continue to leak, and holes in the floor make the complex dangerous for firefighters to enter.

"Everybody's afraid of the red X," Zellman complained. "Nobody wants to see a white box with a red X, but I do.... It's not a death sentence. If you have a plan [to renovate the building], take it off."

Selectboard member Michael Nelson moved that town hall staff develop a plan to satisfy the state fire marshal, and report back to the board at its next meeting in two weeks. The board voted to approve the motion.

David Jensen expressed concern that the implementation of any plan would require an appropriation of money at a special town meeting. Since it would take several weeks to legally call such a meeting, and since the town might be required to put the work out to bid, he argued, it would be impossible to make substantial progress by the fire marshal's deadline.

"My point is, you can plan all you want," Jensen said. "Unless you get an authorization [from town meeting], you are spinning your wheels, wasting your time." He went on to speculate that if there was a town meeting scheduled on or near the state fire marshal's deadline, "that would be considered progress."

Steve Ellis said that the fire mar-

MILL from page A1

amount of water flowed through an area of the building."

He went on to note the frequent problems in "that building" over the years. "Having just experienced a near-tragedy on Power Street," he continued, referring to the recent fire at another abandoned mill along the power canal, "we don't want another 'situation.'"

Zellman said he had first learned of the flooding from water superintendent Michael Brown on December 27. "Mike Brown stopped in my office two weeks ago Tuesday morning, saying they had lost 1.2 million gallons of water," he said.

"The reservoir dropped by six feet. They were trying to figure out what happened. We narrowed it down to the Strathmore complex, where we found a break in the [sprinkler] pipe. For whatever reason, we did not get notified by the alarm company."

The following day, Zellman, building inspector David Jensen, and town administrator Steve Ellis toured the Strathmore. "This building is dying," stated Zellman of the complex, which consists of ten connected buildings and an eleventh left free-standing after a major fire in 2007.

According to Zellman, the complex is not secure, with numerous open windows. Sections of the roof continue to leak, and holes in the floor make the complex dangerous for firefighters to enter. The state fire marshal has given the town until February 21 to secure the building, though Zellman predicted that if significant progress was made, "he would bend a little bit."

Kuklewicz said that fixing the sprinkler system may not be a priority, "but we need to make the building safe and secure."

Zellman forcefully requested that the town put a mark on the complex warning firefighters of potential danger of entry. He reminded the board of a previous fire department order, made by former fire chief

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

2017 Begins with Fire and Water – But Will We Finally Get to Dry Hill Cemetery?

By JEFF SINGLETON

If the Montague selectboard’s first meeting of 2017 is a precursor of things to come, this could be a very busy year. The board spent nearly two and a half hours addressing emergencies at two crumbling factory buildings, and the perpetual problem of access to an old cemetery on Dry Hill.

In addition there was a lengthy “information session” on the proposed 2018 Community Development Block Grant, a statement on complex energy legislation proposed by energy policy liaison Ariel Elan, and final approval of major changes in job descriptions at the town’s Water Pollution Control Facility.

Tear Down The Walls

The board appropriated “up to \$20,000,” pending approval by a court, to tear down portions of the Railroad Salvage building deemed a public danger. The money will come from the town’s “Unsafe and Unhealthy Building” fund, which is being supplemented by community development funds.

The decision follows a major fire at the Power Street site that started in the early morning of December 31 and burned for nearly three days. According to both the Montague building inspector, David Jensen, and the Turners Falls fire chief, John Zellman, the fire left several standing portions of the structure in danger of imminent collapse.

The selectboard held a special meeting on Thursday, January 5 that was dominated by the questions of ownership of the building and whether the town has the right to demolish portions of the structure. Millers Falls resident Jeanne Golrick, whom the town considers the current owner, was given until Friday, January 6 at midnight to begin demolition. However, Golrick has refused to say whether she owns Railroad Salvage, and the board believes the required work was not initiated by the deadline.

Golrick was not involved in Monday night’s discussion, as the board did not dwell on the problem of ownership. Instead it approved the “up to \$20,000” amount to tear down the most hazardous walls. The town will first go to court to seek “approval” of the action.

There was some discussion of the wording of the motion – selectboard member Michael Nelson suggested that the words “court order” be used instead of “court approval” – but in the end the board voted in favor of the original language, as suggested by town legal counsel.

Ariel Elan asked about the potential problem of asbestos contamination. Town planner Walter Ramsey said that he had invited the state DEP to look at the site a few weeks before the fire, and that “they did not see enough asbestos to warrant action.”

According to Jensen, “as fires go, [asbestos] was not an issue, although it did smell bad.”

The board also approved the minutes of an emergency meeting held at the site of the fire on the morning of December 31.

After the board concluded the Railroad Salvage discussion, it received a sobering “update” on the Strathmore building. This involved

the revelation that a sprinkler pipe in the complex had broken during the Christmas holidays, and had poured 1.2 million gallons of water into the structure before being noticed by the Turners Falls Water Department.

The disaster led to demands from both the Turners Falls fire chief and the state fire marshal that the complex be secured immediately. (See article, Page A1.)

Development Grants

The meeting began with the informational meeting about the town’s 2017 federal block grant application. Bruce Hunter of the Franklin Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCHRA, which administers Montague’s federal block grants) led the discussion. He noted that the grants are “highly competitive” and that Montague is eligible to receive \$533,000 in the upcoming year, 20% of which must be spent on social services.

Ramsey reviewed the process by which social service programs were selected. These included a workshop and training program for women administered by Montague Catholic Social Ministries; a meals program for the elderly through an agency called Life Path; a leadership skills program for “at risk” youth organized by the Brick House; and a request by the Western Mass Recovery Learning Community for funds to establish a “presence” in Montague.

The CDBG grant will also allocate funds for housing rehabilitation and \$57,400 for “bid-ready plans and specifications” for the Rutters Park renovation project in Lake Pleasant.

One of the more timely parts of the application involves funding similar plans and specifications for the possible demolition of some of the buildings in the Strathmore mill complex. Any such plan would have to be approved by town meeting.

Ramsey handed out a map of the Strathmore that showed seven buildings, and a loading dock, that could be eliminated under the plan. He noted that the demolition may include the landmark “KPG” (Keith Paper Company) smoke stack. Were the buildings to be demolished, the southern portion of the complex could still be developed.

He stated that the choice of buildings was based, in part, on a 2005 feasibility study of the complex’s reuse. He also cited the recent Turners Falls Downtown Livability study, which recommended the expansion of parkland along the Connecticut River.

The board executed a letter “closing out” the 2014 CDBG grant, and authorized the chair to sign an addendum to the 2015 grant extending it into 2017.

On Dry Hill

The board also entertained a request from Judith Lorei of the town cemetery commission to support a town meeting appropriation to improve access to Dry Hill Road Cemetery. Lorei was accompanied by Al Cummings and David Detmold. Access to the cemetery, which contains a number of veterans of the American Revolution, has been a major controversy for over a decade.

A shorter but steeper path to the site, once blocked by a local landowner, has been deemed too costly. The town ostensibly approved a

more circuitous approach several years ago though land owned by the Turners Falls Water District. But a section of this, according to Lorei and Detmold, is virtually impassable due to ledge.

The selectboard was asked to support a town meeting appropriation to upgrade this portion, which extends from East Chestnut Hill Road to the water district’s access road.

The board took the issue under advisement, noting that all articles for the upcoming annual town meeting need to be approved by mid-March. Ramsey also noted the possibility of a “land swap” facilitating the shorter approach to the cemetery from Wendell Road.

Energy Legislation

The board then discussed and approved a letter to state legislators on “energy legislation coming up in the new legislative session.” The letter was drafted by energy liaison Ariel Elan.

There was some discussion of a section of the letter calling on the legislature to eliminate part of a law that defined natural gas as “clean energy.” Elan defended the idea by suggesting that the “life cycle” of natural gas has as great a greenhouse impact as coal, and therefore was not “green.” But selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz, drawing a distinction between “green” and “clean,” said he was “not comfortable” with taking that position. Elan agreed to eliminate the sentence.

Other Business

The board approved a one-day beer and wine license for the Berkshire Brewing Company for an event at the Shea Theater on January 13.

The board endorsed a letter from police chief Chip Dodge commending three Montague officers and a dispatcher who helped prevent a man from jumping off the French King Bridge on December 21. The letter was addressed to Christopher Williams, Joshua Dobosz, John Dempsey, and Steven Chase.

The board approved a permit renewal from the firm LightLife Foods to send industrial wastewater into the town sewer system. LightLife, located in the industrial park, specializes in vegetarian meat substitutes.

Acting as the personnel board, it approved a variety of re-classifications and union agreements involving personnel at the wastewater treatment plant. This is the culmination of the reorganization of the treatment plant following the retirement of long term superintendent Bob Trombley. The process has taken over a year. The various elements of the reorganization were presented at Monday’s meeting by new superintendent Robert McDonald.

The board also voted to provide a cell phone stipend for Steve Ellis; approved a request to place a sandwich board sign on Second Street and Avenue A; heard an announcement that the Senior Center would be closed for three weeks beginning on January 16 for renovations; and held a community development discretionary fund hearing (involving the transfer of funds for Railroad Salvage demolition).

Finally, the selectboard went into three executive sessions, all to discuss potential litigation. Its next meeting will be on January 23.

Carrion Luggage Hampers Lift-Off



ANNE BAKER PHOTOS

Continued from page A1: According to Baker, the eagle “tried three different times” to carry its meal away, “but the goose was just too heavy.” She came back the following day to find the eagle had also returned, as had other scavengers, including this crow.

LOOKING BACK:

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was January 11, 2007: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Rendezvous to Reopen Under New Ownership

At the beginning of November, Yesterdays closed, following a noise ordinance violation hearing that resulted in a one-month suspension of the Third Street bar’s entertainment license. On Friday, three neighbors – Chris Janke, Emily Brewster and Jaime Berger – purchased the bar at a foreclosure auction, along with their business partner Mark Wisniewski.

Berger said the neighborhood could expect a quieter, but still quite lively gathering place, at the revived Rendezvous.

“We’re talking about a place where people can talk and drink, but we want to add a cultural thing, too. Maybe knitting groups, poetry readings, acoustic music, comedy, board games, cards, you name it. We’re going to have a pingpong table and a pool table.

We’re going to be open in the afternoon. People can come in and have a cup of coffee, and we will have light bar fare: soups, sandwiches, salads, maybe a little finger food.”

Railroad Salvage Building Heading for Litigation

At their January 8 meeting, building inspector David Jensen updated the Montague selectboard on the status of the former Railroad Salvage building on Power Street in the Patch. On January 5, Jensen met with the building’s owner, Gary Kosuda, who flew up from Ft. Lauderdale, FL to discuss his “hopes, plans and dreams for the building,” before the matter went to mediation

at Housing Court in Greenfield.

Jensen said their pre-arbitration meeting seemed positive, with four options presented to Kosuda, whose derelict building has partially collapsed, causing the town to barricade Power Street for the last year to protect motorists from falling bricks.

The options discussed included Kosuda moving ahead with his plans for the building, clean up the site, stabilize the building, or lastly he could sell the building.

However, during arbitration, negotiations broke down when the issue of a timeline came up. “The timeline was unacceptable to Mr. Kosuda,” Jensen said. Jensen said the one positive to come from the mediation session was Kosuda’s agreement to seek an appraisal of the property.

At the close of arbitration, the mediator recommended that Kosuda and the town both get a lawyer.

G-M School Committee Moves Forward on Reconfiguration

Trying to marshal disparate forces in the community –and the school committee – chair Mary Kociela began Tuesday night’s discussion on implementing the committee’s December 19 5-4 decision to reconfigure Montague elementary schools by expanding Montague Center School and all but closing Hillcrest Elementary, by telling a room packed with Hillcrest parents and supporters, “I know this has been very difficult for everyone. I have spoken with many parents in the district...”

“It would have been difficult no matter which decision was taken, or if no decision was taken at all. I will do what I can to move us forward.”

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FLOODS from page A1

and the rain came down hard and fast,” recalls Vogel. “In some valleys in Vermont, it was 7 inches in 12 hours.” The rain raced down Vermont’s steep slopes into tributaries that swelled to 10 times their normal size, bearing a force that tore out stream banks and infrastructure.

Usually, rivers dissipate that much energy by spilling the excess water onto adjoining fields, known as flood plains. In New England, however, roads, railroads and villages were often built right on the riverbanks. That destroys the flood plains. It also makes towns more vulnerable to river processes.

Attempts have been made to mitigate the problem. Between 1940 and 1960, says Vogel, the Army Corps of Engineers built 14 flood control dams along the rivers. These control about 25% of the watershed flow. During Irene, “they actually helped prevent large-scale, really bad flooding, along the main stem of the Connecticut,” she explains.

More typically though, towns have chosen to protect themselves by channelizing the rivers and armoring the banks. The idea was that the water would rush through the towns and get out of the way. This works much of the time.

But when towns up and down the

rivers all choose to channelize, then, during major storms like Irene, the water has no place to spread out. It picks up speed and power, carrying rocks, debris, trees, cars and torn-out bridge abutments.

When the river’s space to move is very restricted, that’s a really high hazard risk, says Christine Hatch. “In Vermont, they called rivers set up that way ‘Vermont fire hoses,’” she says, “because there’s just a huge amount of energy aiming straight down. They can and do take out whatever’s down below.”

In their recently released study, “River Smart,” the two researchers make several recommendations. Hazard mapping, says Vogel, is important. “There’s good scientific ability to predict how rivers are going to interact with the landscape,” she says. “You can come up with estimates of where the hazardous places are, where you’re likely to have a river carve out a bank, or deposit huge amounts of sediment.”

By using hazard assessments, towns can avoid building something likely to be torn up in the next major flood.

Creating appropriate stream crossings is another priority. “In Hawley,” says Vogel, “most of the damage happened because the stream crossings were blocked up.



The Deerfield River in “channelized” form, as it passes through southern Greenfield along Deerfield Street.

If you build [the culverts] so they’re big enough to pass a full flood of water plus debris, they’re not going to block up, they’re not going to turn into dams, they’re not going to crash and collapse and have everything collapse with them.”

The study suggests upgrading stream crossings so they’re properly sized and shaped. The knowledge to do that, says Vogel, is available – it’s money that’s the problem: “It’s expensive and complicated to do site assessments, to design and then pay for the construction of a larger and better-shaped stream crossing. That’s really difficult for a small town to do.”

In part, she says, perverse funding incentives prevent upgrades. A DPW superintendent in one Massachusetts town told her of a culvert he knew was likely to fail. There were no plans to upgrade: they were going to wait, he explained, until a storm took it out.

The reason? If infrastructure fails in a storm, the town can apply

for emergency special treatment, with FEMA typically covering between 75% to 90% of the cost. And, because it’s an emergency, environmental assessments are usually waived.

Even more problematic, though, is that to get the emergency waiver, the town can only replace the structure with whatever failed before. No upgrade is allowed, and so a still-inadequate culvert will likely continue to fail.

Hatch believes that towns can deal with these problems more easily by joining forces. For example, towns could, by working through state agencies or local compacts, like FRCOG, develop a template of culvert designs they all could share. That might pull the cost of building harder culverts within reach.

Even if towns must pay some percentage, it’s much more cost-effective to build a culvert that’s going to last for 50 years than to have to replace an inadequate culvert possibly three times in that period.

But, in the long term, towns need to work together, designing flood control plans for the entire watershed. The method that each town uses to protect itself from floods, says Hatch, has great impact on the towns around it.

Channelizing is sometimes unavoidable: where infrastructure already exists, there’s a need to protect it. In Greenfield, for example, “you’re going to need to keep the river confined,” said Vogel, “because Greenfield built right up against the river. But you might be able to do something up or down river that would really help.”

If towns look at the watershed as a whole, she explains, it might be possible for them to agree on areas of undeveloped land that can serve as “pocket flood plains,” mitigating the river’s force.

By working together, the RiverSmart research suggests, towns can mitigate damage and save costs throughout their watershed area.



A typical culvert, hard at work.

GILL from page A1

Ward commented that there seemed to be some attempt made to “emotionally link” the past tragedy at the Sandy Hook school to the need for an SRO in the GMRSD. He added that, with one officer trying to cover multiple schools, he seriously doubted that there was any conceivable way to stop a student bent on committing mayhem.

Snedeker surmised that a SRO would mostly “come in handy” in de-escalating fights between students, or when there was a report of potential gang activity in a school.

Crochier concurred, then added, “Sure, I’d love to see a school resource officer in the schools – but at what cost?”

Ward said he thought that the majority of the things an SRO might do in a school were already being done. All agreed they were interested to see where the discussion goes.

Easing In

The selectboard spoke with resident Bob Callery, who came to the meeting to ascertain what legal steps were required to receive either an easement or a variance for structures on his Oak Street property that sit partially within the town’s right-of-way.

Callery stated that only because he was now interested in selling that particular lot did he discover that the property could not be legally “grandfathered in” to any easement, since banks do not recognize such a term.

A discussion ensued around clari-

fying the need for a variance versus an easement. After an erudite explanation by Snedeker, the selectboard members concurred that an easement was called for in this circumstance.

Purington distributed copies he’d made of a procedural document used by the town of Petersham to help property owners apply for easements on town property.

As the board pored over both the draft application form and the photocopy of the Plan of Land brought by Callery, Crochier, noting that he “liked” Petersham’s document, suggested that the final decision about the easement would have to be made at the next town meeting in May. This would also give Callery time to go through the legal hurdles necessary to appease all parties.

All thought this to be the best solution for this situation, though Ward posed an important question: “How does the town give up property?”

Snedeker suggested that Callery give copies of all necessary documents to Donna MacNicol, the town’s counsel, and the board thanked Callery for his time and wished him well.

Complying

Purington shared with the board a proposed “public records compliance policy” that he had prepared. While admitting that he had “modeled heavily” his draft after the town of Hadley’s policy, Purington asked the board to approve his draft.

Ward stated that it looked good to him. Crochier moved to accept the draft as policy and Snedeker

seconded the motion, which was then approved unanimously.

The selectboard then voted unanimously to approve the appointments of town clerk Lynda Hodsdon Mayo as “chief records access officer” and police chief David Hastings, fire chief Gene Beaubien, and administrative assistant Ray Purington as “records access officers.”

Haying

Purington recommended the selectboard grant local farmer Brian Peila the right to exercise his Year 3 option in 2017 to lease the town-owned Boyle lot at \$125. Purington noted that Peila had been doing a “good job” the past two years using the field. The board quickly voted to accept the Year 3 option for Peila.

Purington then shared a draft copy he’d prepared of the town’s invitation for bids on the use of the Mariamante field as a hayfield or cropland during the 2017 growing season. The invitation specifies that the parcel is to be utilized without chemical fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides. Purington said that he had decided to add language specific to the “no tilling” and “light harrowing” discussion the board had at a prior meeting.

Crochier laughed and, after thanking Purington for his efforts, stated that despite the fact that Crochier himself had been the one pushing for language about “light harrowing,” he’d since done research and discovered that any kind of harrowing was not best for the soil.

The board edited the invitation

to delete any mention of harrowing, and then approved the letter, which Purington will post on the town website.

Becoming Aware

The board considered a request from the MA Pipeline Awareness Network to sign a statewide letter in support of legislation prohibiting and preventing unnecessary “pipeline taxes,” as well as prioritizing greater investment in energy efficiency, demand response, renewable resources, and energy storage.

Snedeker made a motion for Ward, the chair, to sign the online letter, but Crochier stated that there was certain language in the letter that he personally “wished not to support.”

The motion passed 2-0, with Crochier abstaining.

Other Business

The selectboard voted unanimously to commit to the 17% Riverside sewer cost hikes discussed at length in a past meeting. This hike matches a 17% hike in the fee appraised by Montague to Gill for handling the sewage from the neighborhood.

Purington stated that he would be sending a letter, with an apology, to all affected residents.

The next item was “mostly a heads up” by Purington apprising the board about a notice from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments informing local officials about the availability of District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA)

program funds for 2017. The board asked Purington to bring to the next meeting the various funding needs that the town came up with.

Purington then announced two events partially funded by Gill Cultural Council grants.

The first is “Lovely and Lyrical, Music to Soothe and Inspire,” a concert by Da Camera Singers featuring Marianne Lockwood on piano, and the world premiere of “Our Flawed Garden” – a setting by Jessica Marlor of a poem by Sylvia Plath. This event will be held on Sunday, January 29 at 3 p.m. at the Northfield Mount Hermon School’s Rhodes Arts Center.

The second is “The Evolving Face of Housing Discrimination,” a free program hosted by local anti-racism organization Racial Justice Rising, on February 4 from 10:15 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Greenfield.

Further information on both events can be found on the Gill town website.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Park Water Tower “Sign” Needs Approval

By KATIE NOLAN

The Erving selectboard and finance committee met jointly on January 9 to continue their review of town budget requests for FY'18.

The board approved level-funded FY'18 budgets for the personnel relations review board, conservation commission, zoning board of appeals, historical commission, tree warden, ceremonial flags, and Memorial Day celebration.

The request for veterans' services showed an increase of \$2,804 over FY'17. The board of health budget request increased by \$364, based on additional cost for the health agent. The town's insurance cost will be \$80,470, down from \$94,362 for FY'17. The town has not received the assessment from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, but it is expected to be higher than the FY'17 cost of \$40,028.

The board decided to reduce the “town buildings” line item from \$67,000 to \$50,000. Selectboard chair Jacob Smith said that the line item has been used to fund projects and items for many town departments, some of which could be funded more transparently from the reserve fund.

“If you parse out the expenses,” said selectboard member Scott Bastarache, “not all are building expenses.”

The Usher Plant re-use committee asked about establishing an expense line, but Smith said that its incidental costs and conference fees could be “absorbed under selectboard expenses.”

Riverfront Park

Town coordinator Bryan Smith told the board that construction at Riverfront Park was 46% complete.

He said the work had slowed because of winter weather, but that the bandshell would be built in February. He said there were some unanticipated costs associated with removing an old foundation and parking area.

Bryan Smith said that there were also complications with the as-yet undesigned “wrap” for the old water tower at the park. Because a design painted on the water tower is considered a sign, it would need a building permit and zoning board approval, with scheduled public hearings.

Debra Smith said that “Erving” was formerly painted on the tower, and wondered, “Is it grandfathered?” Smith said he would consult with the building inspector about the water tower “wrap”.

New Expenses

Bryan Smith told the board that Erving Elementary School's 20-year-old snow blower was out of service, requiring new brackets and pistons. The board considered various methods for financing a new snow blower and repairing the brackets and pistons for the snow blowing attachment.

The fin com will consider whether to fund the purchase from the reserve fund at its January 19 meeting.

Bryan Smith said that maintenance of the new security cameras at French King Bridge will cost \$2,000, to be split evenly with Gill.

Other Business

Board members informed the fin com members present about their January 3 recommendations for 2% merit raises for town accountant Deb Mero, highway foreman Glenn McCrory, water and wastewater supervisor Peter Sanders, police chief

MONTAGUE-REPORTER



Greenfield's Alice Thomas browses the Reporter in Kings Park, Long Island, New York. Going anywhere this winter? Take us with you! Send photos to editor@montaguereporter.org.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Arrests; Suspicion of Vehicles

Tuesday, 1/3

6:38 p.m. Criminal application issued to [REDACTED] for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

7:45 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle at Renovators Supply. Located same, parked with no occupants.

10:45 p.m. Criminal application issued to [REDACTED] for operating

revoked registration, uninsured and unregistered motor vehicle.

Wednesday, 1/4

9:45 a.m. Report of suspicious female walking along Old State Road. Arrested [REDACTED] for court warrant.

Thursday, 1/5

4:25 p.m. Suspicious person reported at French King Bridge. Negative contact.

6:02 p.m. Arrested [REDACTED] for possession

of class B, operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration,

uninsured, unregistered motor vehicle and defective equipment.

Saturday, 1/7

7:13 p.m. Report of suspicious male in area of North Street and East Prospect Street. Unable to locate.

Sunday, 1/8

7 p.m. Report of vehicle off the road on North Street.

7:25 p.m. Report of vehicle off the road on Rte. 2. Tow called.

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The Week in TFHS Sports



Turners' Tionne Brown (11) drives past Panther defenders Garrett Cote (13) and Tyler Martin (23) at Messer Gymnasium in Northfield.

By MATT ROBINSON

This week in Turners Falls High School sports, the hockey team dropped another close match, the girls' basketball squad went 1 and 1, the swim teams came up even and

the boys basketball team dropped their first game of the season in a good old fashioned barn burner.

Girls Swimming
Palmer 48 – TFHS 38

Both the boys and the girls swim

teams competed against Palmer this week in the first meet of the new year. Both squads lost their matches and both currently sit at 2-2.

On January 6, the Lady Indians got back in the pool and hosted the Palmer Panthers, losing their 2017 inaugural meet by a score of 48-38. The loss gives the Tribe a record of 2-2, 2-1 in the Constitution Class.

Against the Panthers, Olivia Whittier and Jade Tyler both finished first in two events. Whittier took the 50-yard freestyle in 29.30 and the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:19.05. Tyler won the 200-yard freestyle (2:14.88) and 500-yard freestyle (6:02.35).

The relay team – Melissa Hersey, Allison Wheeler, Whittier, and Tyler – finished first in the 400-yard freestyle relay, with a time of 4:44.73.

Boys Swimming
Palmer 55 – TFHS 34

The boys swim team also dropped their meet against Palmer, by a score of 55-34. Three Turners' boys finished first in individual events. Nick Taylor won the 50-yard freestyle in 27.86, Cameron Bradley took the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:30.21, and Chase Blair won the 200-yard freestyle in 2:37.45.

Both swim teams travel to the Ludlow Boys & Girls Club on Wednesday, January 11 to take on the Lions. After that, they host the Sci-Tech Cybercats on January 17.

Girls Basketball
Southwick 35 – TFHS 15
TFHS 50 – Mohawk 31

On Friday, January 6, Turners fell

see **TFHS SPORTS** page B6

CONCERT PREVIEW

A Rare Treat, Reissued

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

TURNERS FALLS – This Saturday, folk-songwriter Gary Higgins will perform at the Brick House. Higgins is best known for his self-produced 1973 folk record *Red Hash*.

The record was recorded in just two days, immediately prior to Higgins' incarceration for the sale and possession of hashish. It was released by Nufusmoon Records, Higgins' own label, and then almost exclusively distributed by friends while he was locked up.

Many copies from this first release of just a few thousand records ended up as attic-filler, never leaving the boxes that they were shipped in from the record press. But some did make it out of rural northwestern Connecticut into the wider world.

Higgins got out of jail one year and nine months later. He began a new, different life: "I walked the straight and narrow for many years," he says. "So many things changed shortly after that. I avoided my former lifestyle."

But while he was raising a family, working in healthcare, and not being involved much in music, *Red Hash* records silently infiltrated used record stores.

Maybe no one knows who or



Gary Higgins' 1973 album, *legendary in certain circles*.

when someone first exalted *Red Hash*. In some ways, records are like memes, being transmitted, like in the game Telephone, whispered from one person to another. Their strength is dependent on the content itself, and also the coolness of the sender.

Ben Chasny, a western Mass. resident who performs as Six Organs of Admittance, is often credited as being behind the revival of Gary Higgins. In the way that Kurt Cobain popularized Daniel Johnston's outsider rock 'n roll and Nation of Ulysses' post-hardcore, the perceived sharpness of Chasny's acumen and the influence of his taste lifted Higgins into the mainstream.

To some experts, the sound of

see **HIGGINS** page B4

MAKING FUN OF GARBAGE IS HIS BUSINESS



America's favorite Trashologist, Dr. T., as featured on the cover of *The Weekly Reader*.

By JOE KWIECINSKI

LEYDEN – When Jack Golden performs his comedy routines, he's very serious. After all, the Leyden resident is the creator of dynamic, fast-moving, educational, environmental performing arts programs. Jack brings these immensely wacky but sublimely meaningful shows to schools, festivals, theaters, and conferences.

"What I strive for," said this master of meaningful

mayhem, "is combining humor and heart. I want the kids who watch my programs to thoroughly enjoy themselves while learning important things about our world. What I do is entertainment with a purpose, and laughter can be a surprisingly effective teacher."

Jack has four different productions. They're called "Garbage Is My Bag," "Water Water Everywhere," "A Little Bit Goes a Long Way," and "Environmental Extravaganza: Enviroganza."

Jack adopts the zany character "Dr. T," with a Ph.D. in the field of garbology, in "Garbage Is My Bag." This presentation features a way-out trash-to-treasure recycling machine.

In "Water Water Everywhere," he blends four elements: circus, theater, humor, and magic to put the spotlight on our precious gift of clean water. Rated as "Best of Fest" for six straight years at the Georgia Water Festival, this show focuses on pollution, water cycles, and conservation.

Meanwhile, Jack utilizes a game-show format as he joins emcee Les Litter in "A Little Bit Goes a Long Way." Here the focus is on where litter comes from, the reasons people litter, and what we can do to halt it.

The fourth production, "Enviroganza," is an amalgamation of Golden's other three offerings, covering the subjects of litter prevention, water issues, and recycling.

Jack is a native of Westport, Connecticut. He graduated from high school in Vershire, Vermont and studied forestry at Unity College in Maine. He took a mime workshop with Jody Scalise back in 1979. "As I went further with classes," said Golden, "I learned to juggle, studying with Peter Abbott, and I decided I wanted to be a professional."

His expressive face breaks out into a wide grin as

see **GOLDEN** page B4

BOOK REVIEW

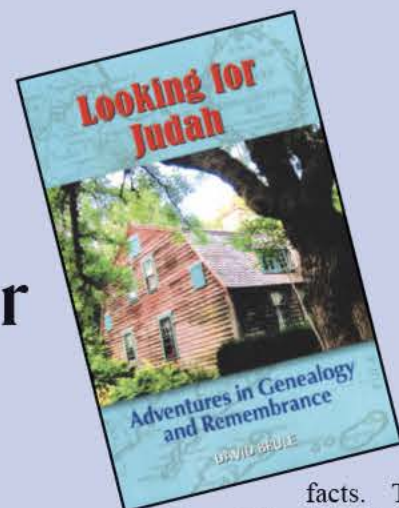
Chasing our Tales: An Ancestor Speaks

By LYN CLARK

MILLERS FALLS – On the back cover of David Brule's latest book, *Looking for Judah*, appears the following:

"On this genealogical adventure, our author encounters a close relative, a man of another race, and together they set out to find mutual ancestors that link them to the black slaves of a Tory pastor, to a Narragansett tribal leader, to the elusive son of a prominent white family, and to an endearing mixed-race grandmother who finally brought them together."

This "adventure" eventually led Brule to the home, still standing, that his 10-generations-removed ancestor, Joseph Jeffrey, a Native American, built in what is now Charlestown, Rhode Island. Brule's book uses the vehicle of a family council to teach the family lore and oral history from the mouths of the ancestors themselves, which, while fictionalized, nevertheless remains true to the



facts. The following is an excerpt from the book, in which Joseph Jeffrey tells his story:

Soon he appears, emerging from the shadows near the wall. He moves to the family circle, stands in front of the hearth. He is tall, dignified, skin the color of mahogany, black hair cropped in the colonial fashion. He's wearing a rough-spun cotton shirt, a black waistcoat, long buckskin leggings, moccasins. He looks at each of us for long minutes, and then speaks:

I am Joseph Jeffrey. I am proud that you are gathered here in my house, this house I built with my own hands for myself and my children in 1720. I am showing myself to you because it is the right time for you to hear me, you are ready, and have come here to finally meet me. I am proud to see you, my descendants unto even my 7th great-grandsons, ten generations of my blood line. There are those among you who are and will

see **ANCESTOR** page B6

Make it happen!

Registration is now open for Spring 2017!

Greenfield Community College



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Pet of the Week

Hi, I'm Ronald! I'm a very friendly little guy. I love people, cats, and dogs. Really I like everything I've met so far, except for vacuums.

As long as you keep them away, I'm happy as can be. I'm really curious and would love a new place to explore and search around.

I like to play, and I'm very easy to amuse. Toilet paper rolls are one of my favorite toys, and it always seems people have plenty of them around. I also like boxes that are safe for me to shred with hay inside!

I like to sit on laps and enjoy feasting on dried apples – *dried*.

If you are wondering what a mini rex is, we are one of the most popular rabbit types in the USA. This is because we are a small size, with plush fur, and very friendly personalities. We are ridiculously cute. Enough about me though, I'd love to learn more about you too. Please stop by Dakin and visit.

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



CARMODY COLLAGE

“RONALD”

Senior Center Activities JANUARY 16 to 20

GILL and MONTAGUE
January 16 through February 1: The Gill Montague Senior Center will be closed from January 17th through February 1.

The work crew from the Franklin County House of Correction will be painting the Center's interior and refinishing the wood floors. Staff will still be available by voice mail at 863-9357 or by e-mail at COA@montague-ma.gov. Please feel free to call if you have any questions.

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday exercise classes (aerobics and chair) will be held at the Montague Elks beginning on Wednesday, January 18th. All other programs are suspended until the Senior Center reopens.

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 1/16 CLOSED MLK
Tuesday 1/17
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch
Friends' Business Meeting
Wednesday 1/18
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs
Thursday 1/19
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors
Friday 1/20
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop
9:30 a.m. Bowling

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.

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

MCTV's movie of Pumpkinfest 2016 is finally here! Enjoy countless musical acts, interviews of folks in and out of costume, folks dancing on Avenue A, a pirates themed dance concert, fire dancing, animal puppets, and of course... lots and lots of pumpkins!

Relive the fun on montaguestv.org and check for it in our TV schedule in the weeks to come!

Speaking of the TV schedule, here are some programs to watch out for this weekend:

Saturday, January 14:

- Common People Concert: Michi Wianko, 6:30 a.m.
- Democracy Now, 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- Explore: The Arctic, 9:30 a.m.
- *Aladdin* 6/4/16, 11 a.m.
- It's a Wonderful Night in Turners Falls 2016, 3:30 p.m.
- Gill-Montague School District Mascot Forum: Local Perspective, 6 p.m.

Sunday, January 15:

- Carlos W. Anderson: "God Inhabits Praise" 9/11/16, 7:30 a.m.



- Road to Recovery September 2016, 8:30 a.m.
- Franklin County Matters 2016, 9:30 a.m.
- Honoring Frank Abbondanzio, 11 a.m.
- Gill-Montague School District Mascot Forum: Local Perspective, 2:30 p.m.

Something going on you think others would like to see? Get in touch to learn how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment.

Contact us at (413) 863-9200, infomontaguestv@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!

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Q. What is the leading cause of brain injuries?

About 1.4 million people suffer a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) each year in the United States. Half of all TBIs are caused by accidents involving automobiles, motorcycles, bicycles, and pedestrians. These accidents are the major cause of TBI in people under age 75.

Falls cause the majority of TBIs in people 75 and older; this group has the highest rates of TBI-related hospitalizations and death.

(A note to older people who suffer a blow to the head: If you are taking a blood thinner such as Coumadin, get immediate attention from a healthcare provider to check for internal bleeding.)

TBIs fall into several categories:

- **Concussion**, which is an injury produced by a violent blow or impact. A concussion is followed by a temporary, sometimes prolonged, loss of function. If you suffer a concussion, you may pass out, feel dazed and may lose vision, balance or memory for a while after the injury.
- **Contusion**, which is a bruise of the brain. This means there is some bleeding in the brain, causing swelling.
- **Skull fracture**. Sometimes the

THE HEALTHY GEEZER Brain Injuries

edges of broken skull bones cut into the brain and cause bleeding or other injury.

Hematoma, which is bleeding in the brain that collects and clots, forming a bump.

Symptoms of a serious head injury may include: headaches, vomiting, nausea, sleepiness, convulsions, dilated pupils, slurred speech, weakness or numbness in the arms or legs, loss of coordination, confusion, agitation, bloody or clear fluids emanating from ears or nose, blurred vision or seeing double, dizziness, respiratory failure, paralysis, slow pulse, ringing in the ears, inappropriate emotional responses, and loss of bowel or bladder control.

Anyone with signs of moderate or severe TBI should receive medical attention as soon as possible. Because little can be done to reverse the initial brain damage caused by trauma, medical personnel try to stabilize an individual with TBI and focus on preventing further injury.

Patients with mild to moderate injuries may receive skull and neck X-rays to check for bone fractures or spinal instability. For moderate to severe cases, tests such as a computerized tomography (CT) or a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan are required. Approximately half of severely head-injured patients will need surgery to remove or repair hematomas or contusions.

Moderately to severely injured patients receive rehabilitation that involves individually tailored treatment programs in the areas of physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech/language therapy, psychiatry (physical medicine), psychology/psychiatry, and social support.

Treatment and outcome depend on the severity and location of the injury, the patient's health and age, and the time it took to get the proper medical treatment. Healing of the brain takes time and a lot of rest.

After an injury, about 40 percent of TBI patients suffer from postconcussion syndrome (PCS). Symptoms include headache, vertigo, memory problems, trouble concentrating, sleeping problems, restlessness, irritability, apathy, depression, and anxiety. These symptoms may last for a few weeks after the head injury. Treatment for PCS may include drugs and therapy.

Many TBI patients have sensory problems, especially problems with vision. Also, TBI patients often have difficulty with hand-eye coordination. Other sensory deficits may include problems with hearing, smell, taste, or touch. Some TBI patients develop tinnitus, a ringing or roaring in the ears. Language and communication problems are common disabilities in TBI patients.

Most TBI patients have emotional or behavioral problems that fit under the broad category of psychiatric health.

In addition to the immediate post-injury complications, other long-term problems can develop after a TBI. These include Parkinson's disease and other motor problems, Alzheimer's disease, and post-traumatic dementia.

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Saturday at the Full Moon Coffeehouse: The Slik Pickers and The Green Sisters!

WENDELL – Come to the Full Moon Coffeehouse this Saturday, January 14 for bluegrass and more! Benefit for Wendell Old Home Day.

Good music and good food brought the **Slik Pickers** together – playing endless joyful hours at festivals, their music is influenced by folk, blues and Bluegrass.

They typically play in a small circle, weaving rhythms and melodies into soulful songs (with some extra laughter and storytelling thrown in). They play to have a good time.

Growing up on a farm, four sisters spent many hours singing

to pass the time, and in 2015 they formed **The Green Sisters** to keep the music and love alive.

Their harmonies blend with ease over simple melodies on acoustic instruments (which they often swap amongst themselves). Selections range in genre and age from 1950s barbershop to folk, Celtic, old-timey, and today’s originals.

The Full Moon Coffeehouse takes place at the Wendell Town Hall. Sliding scale donation: \$6 to \$15. Door opens at 7:30 p.m. For more info, contact (978) 544-5557 or see www.wendellfullmoon.org.

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WENDELL – If you or a loved one have a disability and would like to try accessible snowshoeing, kick-sledding, or sitting cross-country skiing, now is your chance!

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This winter, join us for acces-

sible snowshoeing, kicksledding, sit cross-country skiing, sled skating, and snowmobile rides (conditions permitting) at Wendell State Forest. Instruction, adaptive equipment, and assistance provided free of charge. There is a warming hut at the program site.

Call All Out Adventures at (413) 584-2052 to sign up. For more information, email info@alloutadventures.org.

Every Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., from January 14 through February 25.

MOVIE REVIEW: Collateral Beauty (2016)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

I decided to see *Collateral Beauty* in theaters because the preview for the movie looked good. I wondered whether there would be a twist in it, like there was in another movie I once saw in theaters.

The story consists of a man named Howard Inlet, played by Will Smith, who has lost a child. He’s a mess and his advertising company is barely holding itself together. Three

of his co-workers develop a plan to save the company.

Since the loss of his child, Howard has been questioning Time, Love and Death, through letters to them. So they hire three actors to play these things, so it seems like they are answering him.

When this starts to happen, he starts to talk to a woman who runs a grief support group.

Ironically, the actors end up helping Howard’s co-workers deal with

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Asportation; Loose Boxer; Icy Spots; Neighbors’ Pets Pester Callers, Callers’ Pets

Sunday, 1/1

4:58 a.m. Officer located a motor vehicle occupied by two parties parked by the basketball court at Sheffield Elementary School. Officer states female will be driving vehicle away; male party is intoxicated.

[Section of police log covering rest of January 1 missing from document provided upon request.]

Monday, 1/2

10:10 a.m. Report of loose brown dog on Center Street; dog is on caller’s property and is causing caller’s dogs to bark inside his house. Animal control officer off today; MPD officer located owner, who retrieved his dog.

3:20 p.m. Walk-in reports seeing black smoke coming from the chimney at the Montague Water Pollution Control Facility. Spoke to on-call person for treatment plant, who advised this is a known problem due to an older furnace. Not a concern at this time.

3:41 p.m. Employee from Food City reports he saw an older white male stick a bottle of wine in his jacket. A Gill resident was issued a summons for shoplifting by asportation.

6:15 p.m. Caller from K Street reports that a male and female who are not on the lease have been staying in the apartment he lives in and won’t leave. They are also threatening to harm him. Officers out on K Street report that two parties have packed up and left the apartment without incident.

Tuesday, 1/3

9:53 a.m. Officer came upon a vehicle off the road on Ferry Road; requesting a tow truck. Requesting DPW to respond to treat icy road. DPW notified and en route with a sander. Tow company pulled vehicle out; operator driving vehicle home.

12:46 p.m. Caller from Dell Street reporting that overnight his vehicle was broken into and his wallet stolen.

4:13 p.m. Caller from Fifth Street states that her neighbor’s cat is never brought in by the owner and is always outside of her door looking to come in. The caller has a cat who is becoming agitated by the fact that the neighbor’s cat is outside their door. Copy of call left for animal control officer, who is out of town.

4:21 p.m. Mail clerk stating that there is a full grown boxer running loose with no collar in the area of the Lake Pleasant post office. Animal control officer is out of town; officers out to search area.

6:10 p.m. Walk-in states that tobacco boards were stolen from his barn on Meadow Road. Report taken.

7:09 p.m. Radio transmission from control stating that at East Main Street, a train brushed and hit a black sedan that took off down Route 2; unknown plate. Units clear; no injuries; car was able to drive off on its own. Accident number assigned and involved train engine identified.

9:44 p.m. Caller from K Street states that he just returned home and his home was broken into. Bed frame and coffee table are smashed; other big items are overturned and broken; one or more items stolen. Caller believes that this was caused by parties who were involved in a disagreement last night that resulted in their being removed by police. Apartment secure; units clear; incident number assigned.

Wednesday, 1/4

12:07 a.m. Caller from Third Street reporting loud music from apartment across street. Officers en route. Same caller reports that music has been shut off. Officers cancelled.

12:53 p.m. Box alarm at Farren Care Center received through alarm system. Employee called saying it was an accidental trip of the alarm in the dietary section.

2:50 p.m. Report of a disabled tractor trailer in the intersection of Avenue A and Third Street. Officer requesting Roseledge for a tow. Roseledge on scene; truck moved; units clear.

5:31 p.m. Caller states that a male party is leaning over the railing of the Canal Street bridge. Area checked; negative findings.

7:49 p.m. Officer calling out DPW to address icy spots all over town.

8:21 p.m. Caller states that a raccoon that was hit on Greenfield Road is still alive and appears to be suffering. Officer en route; animal located and handled as needed.

9:20 p.m. Caller states that the bars by the track at the Lake Pleasant train trestle are down and flashing, but he has been waiting for 10 minutes, and nothing has come. Caller states that he got out of his vehicle, looked down the tracks, and cannot see anything in the distance. Pan Am contacted; they will have someone come out to take care of it.

Thursday, 1/5

11:48 a.m. 911 misdial; mother came on the line advising that her child was playing with the phone. No noise of concern was heard in the background. Officer advised. Confirmed misdial.

4:20 p.m. Caller states that an employee at Judd Wire became verbally violent and threatened another employee, then took off. Request for officer to escort employee that was threatened out. Officer made contact with other half of situation and advised him of his employer’s request to stay off the property.

5:28 p.m. Two-car motor vehicle accident on Montague Street. TFFD and MedCare en route. Officer confirming no injuries, but officer requesting to keep MedCare en route due to airbag deployment.

6:33 p.m. Caller states that three or four black males surrounded him in a back parking lot on L Street. One of the males asked him if he had a problem and [redacted]. Downtown area searched; negative findings.

6:44 p.m. Caller from Solar Avenue states that a nearby home lets their Rottweiler out without a leash. Caller states that the dog is extremely friendly and tends to join him and his dogs on their walk. Caller would like animal control officer advised and owner of Rottweiler fined due to leash laws in order to “teach him a lesson.” Call left in ACO’s mailbox.

Friday, 1/6

2:12 p.m. Report of a dark object in the river that the caller believed was in distress. Caller speculated that it may have been a dog or a deer struggling to come ashore. TFFD and officer advised. TFFD checked area and could not locate any people or animals in distress.

7:24 p.m. Report of brush fire in area of Green Pond Road. TFFD advises that this is the new location for the Ramblers Club and that they called in a cooking fire earlier this evening. TFFD confirmed that the flames were from the permitted fire and the fire is under control.

8:31 p.m. Report from Park Street of a dog that has been outside without shelter for approximately three hours. Caller advises that all the lights in the house are off, so she does not believe anyone is home. Officers spoke with owner, who has two adult dogs and one puppy and advised only one of the dogs was outside and it was out for only 10 minutes. Owner advised of new dog laws.

Saturday, 1/7

3:59 p.m. Caller reporting that there is a dog tied to a silver car in the parking lot outside of Rite Aid. The dog is howling and covered in snow; appears to be in distress. Officer spoke with vehicle owner, who did not realize that the dog had gotten out of the car; she unknowingly closed the door on his leash when she left, trapping the dog outside of the car. Another person made her aware of the problem, and she came right out.

issues that are related to the parts they are playing. The actors’ help ends up working for Howard and his co-workers. The company is saved, which is the effect they desired.

But about that twist I wondered about. The woman from the support group is not some stranger. It’s a very good twist that is featured in film.

Also look for one of the actors at a very unexpected time. The scene is very surprising to see on the screen, and it makes the film very good. During that scene, if you listen very carefully to the words the actor says, you will know where the title came from.

At one point, it seems that these actors were helping out very well with both the situation with the ad company and problems the co-workers were having.

But I didn’t say for certain they were just actors. It’s like the twist I mentioned with the woman from the grief support group: As for those actors not being actors, watch the scene at the end with close attention. Once you see that one scene, you will get the idea of what they are. You could call it another little twist that happens in the movie.

The movie was just a pleasant surprise, and very enjoyable to watch.



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Submitted Photo
An audience of a thousand third graders at the Cherry Blossom Festival in Macon, Georgia express how much they love Jack Golden's show.

GOLDEN from page B1

he continued, “I became obsessed with the art of juggling. It got so that I would talk on the phone and be juggling at the same time. Peter suggested that I go to Maine and study physical theater, which included, among many other things, the art of mime.”

Jack called the world famous mime master and stage director Tony Montanaro. It was a fortuitous phone call. “Tony said he was starting a three-month workshop and told me ‘to come on up.’” Montanaro invented the classic mime illusion known as The Wall.

“Studying with Tony changed my life,” said Jack. “He made me realize how serious this work was and how much I would have to commit to it. I’ve had many influences in my career, but Tony taught me so many lessons as a teacher and as a wise person. In effect, he was teaching a philosophy of living.”

His professional days began as a performer on the New England vaudeville circuit. Next, he became affiliated with the world famous Pickle Family Circus of San Francisco where, as lead clown, he mimed and juggled at venues such as the fabled Palace of Fine Arts in the troupe’s hometown.

In 1986, Jack started a new vaudeville group, the Wright Brothers.

“At first, the five of us performed in schools, then in theaters and festivals. Teachers would approach us after shows and tell us how hard it was to keep the kids’ attention in a classroom for 45 minutes but that ‘you’re able to get rapt attention for 45 minutes because you do all this fun stuff.’”

They played at places such as Lincoln Center in New York City and the Annenberg Center in Philadelphia. The 63-year-old Leyden resident looks back at these times whimsically.

“We were very good onstage,” he chuckled, “but we needed counseling to figure out where we should have lunch. We were just like a rock band. I left the group in 1989 to go on my own and develop an educational emphasis with my performances.

“If I could only write a show that was just as much fun as it was educational! I already had a clown routine about a janitor who tries to throw out a piece of paper in a trash can that keeps coming back out of the receptacle. I realized that was a metaphor for our solid waste program: Even after we’ve thrown out our garbage, it doesn’t go away. I started to write a show on this, and the show became very successful.”

Highly talented, Jack Golden is a master of physicality. Among many other skills, he can balance

a ladder on his chin, walk on a large fiberglass ball, juggle fire and knives, and go down imaginary stairs and elevators.

“I feel very fortunate to be doing what I love. It fulfills me as a person and contributes to the world in a positive manner. I do juggling, magic, humor, jokes, and rap songs. But I’m also talking about very serious issues that affect all of us – like solid waste, water conservation, and pollution.” The charismatic performer stresses that all the information he imparts in his show is scientific fact.

In addition, Golden’s repertoire includes dramatic theater pieces. He’s written a new piece based on his relationship with an old friend who died a decade ago. “Mister Leighton” is the name of the work, which he performed at the Holiday Vaudeville Festival last month at the Shea Theater. Jack also appeared in the role of Antigonus in Shakespeare’s “A Winter’s Tale” performed at the Arts Block.

The recipient of many awards over the years, the versatile entertainer was featured on the cover of the *Weekly Reader*, the national student magazine. Jack Golden was also the subject of a broadcast of Charles Osgood’s “The Osgood Files” on CBS Radio.

As an entertainer, Jack has come full circle from student to teacher. He gives lessons in physical comedy and improvisation at his own studio in Greenfield. He’s also taught at the New England Center for Circus Arts in Brattleboro and is offering a class in physical comedy and improv on a credit-free basis at Greenfield Community College.

Golden’s wife, Lisa, works at the Food Bank of Western Mass. in Hatfield.

To reach Jack Golden, you may write him at P.O. Box 933, Greenfield, MA 01301 or call him at (413) 774-3563.



“Stories of Green Burial” at Greenfield Library



GREENFIELD – The Greenfield Library will host “Stories of Green Burial” on Saturday, January 14, at 10 a.m. The sponsors of the talk, Green Burial Massachusetts and Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, are working together to establish Massachusetts’ first green cemetery open to all.

Leigh Youngblood, of Mount

Grace, and Carol Coan, of Green Burial Massachusetts, will lead the discussion and will be joined by other local speakers.

Learn from people who have conducted green burials for members of their family or community. Explore the possibility of donating or selling your land to help establish a natural burial ground. Come with

your questions and curiosity.

“Many people have expressed an interest in being buried as simply as possible and yet natural burial is not available for most Massachusetts residents,” explains Coan. “Increasingly, people want to forego the features of a conventional burial, including an expensive casket, cement grave liner and granite headstone. We believe that if someone wants to be buried in a plain pine box or wrapped in a shroud and placed directly into the ground, they should be given that choice.”

Mount Grace is currently assessing suitable land for a green cemetery. A property would need to have a minimum of 10 acres that are dry, have less than a 15% grade, and have easy access to a road.

“We see this as a way to combine land conservation with the community’s expressed desire for more natural burials,” adds Jay Rasku, Community Conservation Director at Mount Grace. “With this project, we can provide those who choose natural burials the opportunity to use their final act to protect the natural world and inspire future generations to make respectful use of it.”

The program is free and open to the public and refreshments will be served. The library is located at 402 Main Street.

If you know of a possible site for a green cemetery in eastern Franklin County or the North Quabbin region, please email rasku@mount-grace.org.

HIGGINS from page B1

DIY and private press recordings is a sign of authenticity of expression. To these audionauts, an absence of music industry involvement makes the album an object that is a pure extension of the writer’s creativity and self.

Johan Kugelberg, author of a book on private press albums titled *Enjoy the Experience*, discusses this scene: “There was a bit of a network of private press fan-boys motivated ultimately by those holy moments of pure human expression that are much more common on privately released records than on mainstream releases.”

“All of these records are artifacts that represent a living person’s dreams and aspirations at a point in time,” his co-author, Michael P. Daley, elaborates. “So even when they are bad, or silly, or downright baffling, their greatness is realized when it strikes you that this is all very real, that the LP is the crystallization of a time and place in the past.”

The story of *Red Hash*, being recorded immediately prior to being locked up, fits this aesthetic perfectly – it was not just any moment in time, but, to Higgins, a very important one, with enormous emotional value.

While we don’t know the genesis of Higgins’ comeback, we do know that a watershed moment occurred in Boston in the late 1990s. At the time, Robert Thomas, member of the band Sunburned Hand of the Man and current Easthampton resident, was living in a Charlestown warehouse, originally a Civil War-era coffin factory.

Thomas was employed at Cheapo Records, the Cambridge record store where he worked for 18 years. He owns, according to his own estimate, “five or six thousand records.” One day in 1997 his friend Geoff Grunkmeyer, of the Boston band Peppermint Seahorse, gave him a record to listen to. That record was *Red Hash*.

That same day, the No-Neck Blues Band arrived from New York to play at his house. Keith Conolly, a member of the band, gave Thomas a tape. Of the two albums on the tape, one was *Red Hash*. That same week, Thomas found a copy of *Red Hash* at Looney Tunes Records in Cambridge, and purchased it for \$3.

Then, early in 1998, an entire box of unopened copies of *Red Hash* arrived at Looney Tunes. According to Thomas, the owner of a record distribution company possessing the albums had been institutionalized, and the company’s records had been dropped off at the store. Also included in this trove were four copies of a Hickory Wind record that at one point retailed for \$1,000. Thomas bought fifteen of the *Red Hash* albums, but passed over the still-unknown Hickory Wind.

From this bonanza and/or moment of fertilization, Josh Burkett of Mystery Train Records in Amherst acquired the record, and played it for Ben Chasny. Years later, after Drag City’s reissue, Thomas finally met Higgins at a show in Boston. He wanted Higgins to understand the unlikely series of prodigious events that had led up to their meeting. “I tried to explain all this weird stuff,” he says, “but maybe I was too drunk.”

With the popularity of psych music today, musicians and fans are searching for the elders of the genre, those playing psychedelic music back in the ‘60s and ‘70s, to forge a bond of history and continuity. Artists like Michael Hurley have

enjoyed a surge of interest during the past decade, while others, like Vashti Bunyan, were rescued from historical oblivion. *The Acid Archives*, published in 2006 by Patrick Lundborg, obsessively catalogs and reviews 4,000 underground albums from 1965 to 1982, and was a major touchstone for renewed interest in psych rock.

“It was one of those *Acid Archives* records that probably not too many people had,” remembers Shannon Ketch of the Turners Falls-based band Bunwinkies. “Back in the early 2000s, you could find these albums from a link off of the Acid Archives web page. That was a great reference source for weird records that went mostly unnoticed, or private press records that no one knew about.”

While Higgins’ music today is often described as psychedelic, he did not consider it that while writing “Red Hash” back in the early 1970s. Discussing today’s take on his work, he explains: “I never looked at it like that. I wasn’t harmed by it. I’d say it was folk-rock.”

People collect records for different reasons. One variety of record collector is like the archaeologist in the lost temple. Adventure, discovery, interest in the exotic and obscure, and the dream of personal gain are motivators for these sonic explorers. Obscurity and myth were attributes of *Red Hash* that appealed to the ear of this type of collector.

Until Gary Higgins came forward in 2004, the mythology suggested that the entirety of *Red Hash* was recorded while Higgins, the marijuana martyr, was in prison. Copies of newspaper articles about the trial were included in the sleeve of the original pressing, along with mysterious bumper stickers portentously proclaiming that “Red Hash Is Coming.”

While *Red Hash* was gaining popularity in the underground, Higgins was essentially a missing person; he could not speak for the record. Its obscurity gave it a pure and untarnished quality, one that others could use as an empty canvas for their own stories and values – or as foundational for a contemporary revival of psych music.

Obscurity is the quality that makes a record a diamond in the rough. “Hard-core record-collector guys,” explains Thomas, “are always looking for something totally obscure. Everyone wants to discover someone classic.” It is this process that can produce enormous economic value – transforming a \$3 bargain-bin record into a classic that right now is on eBay for \$425. “The visionary record collectors would find someone, and kind of name their own price,” says Thomas. “It was hard to determine their distribution.”

Since the 2005 reissue of *Red Hash*, Higgins has put out two more albums on Drag City, one of new material. He continues to write songs and play shows. Searching for meaning beneath the phenomenon of his rediscovery, he may be expressing a feeling that underlies human life generally: “It seemed so bizarre that it could be true, but then, things kept happening.”

Higgins will perform as a duo with his son Graham. Opening for them will be the Austerlitz, NY-based Pigeons, the Star Wars franchise-like Sunburned Hand of the Man, and Frozen Corn. All ages, substance free space; doors at 8 p.m. Suggested donation \$10.



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Esta es la página en español del periódico The Montague Reporter. Aquí podrán encontrar cuestiones acerca de la comunidad hispana, eventos de interés, curiosidades, y noticias en español. Si quiere colaborar o compartir alguna sugerencia, envíenos un correo electrónico a: spanish@montaguereporter.org. Esperamos su participación.



La iglesia católica como santuario: Entrevista al padre Sean O'Mannion, de Nuestra Sra. de Czestochowa



El padre Sean O'Mannion.

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO

TURNERS FALLS – Hace unas semanas se empezó a hablar de la posibilidad de que las iglesias católicas ejercieran como santuarios para acoger indocumentados y refugiados. Habiendo oído hablar de esto decidí ponerme en contacto con el Padre O'Mannion, de la parroquia de Nuestra Sra. de Czestochowa en Turners Falls.

Contacté con él a través de Facebook, y esto me hizo pensar que la iglesia se estaba adaptando a los nuevos tiempos. Amablemente me invitó a su casa, que se encuentra al lado de la iglesia y tuvimos una larga charla en español.

Cuando me dirigía a su casa me encontré en el jardín de la iglesia vecina, Nuestra Sra. de la Paz, un cartel en inglés que decía: "Inmigrantes y refugiados son bienvenidos". Esto alimentó mi esperanza mientras me dirigía hacia lo alto de la colina.

El padre O'Mannion me recibió en una casa antigua que se encuentra al lado de la iglesia. A cualquier lugar al que dirigía mi mirada, me encontraba con una imagen religiosa, ya fuera en forma de cuadro, pequeña estatua o calendario. Pasamos al salón decorado con un árbol de Navidad del cual colgaba una imagen de la Virgen de Guadalupe, como no podía ser menos, debido a su origen.

La vida del padre O'Mannion está llena de mudanzas y cambios del destino. Sean O'Mannion nació en NYC, y después de que sus padres se divorciasen, se mudó a los siete años a Mérida en el Yucatán mexicano de donde era su madre. Cuando llegó a México no podía hablar inglés, ya que había cursado

los dos primeros años de la escuela primaria en Brooklyn. Así pues, fue una inmersión total, ya que ninguno de sus profesores o compañeros hablaba inglés, aunque su madre y su abuela le hablasen siempre en español.

De madre mexicana y padre irlandés, Sean O'Mannion no nació católico. Su padre irlandés era católico, pero no practicante. Su madre, aunque nacida en NYC, volvió de niña a México al morir su padre. Allí, la abuela de Sean volvió a casarse con un coronel exiliado español que había luchado del lado republicano y que pertenecía a la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día.

Hasta los 16 años estuvo en Gualajajara, y después volvió a los Estados Unidos, concretamente a Los Ángeles, en los años 80. Allí tomó parte en la sub cultura del punk-rock que estaba en auge en aquella época. En el año 88 se mudó de nuevo a NYC para trabajar en Manhattan con la compañía española de mantas Mora que tenía su sede en la Quinta Avenida.

En aquellos años Mora vendía sus productos en grandes cantidades para comercios como K-Mart o Target y la orden de compra mínima era de un millón de dólares. Cuando Mora empezó a atravesar problemas, se trasladó con la oficina a Framingham, cerca de Boston.

Dejó la compañía de mantas Mora y empezó a trabajar en la Universidad de Tufts, cerca de Boston. Más tarde, empezó sus estudios en la Universidad de Massachusetts en Amherst donde cursó una licenciatura y un máster en francés.

Su periplo religioso empezó en la orden de los Jesuitas. Primero

en una misión Wyoming, trabajando con los nativos americanos en la reserva y más tarde para estudiar con la Compañía de Jesús en Salamanca y en Roma. El padre O'Mannion compartió conmigo que los Jesuitas lucharon en favor de los nativos americanos para que pudieran volver a celebrar la danza del sol, ceremonia importantísima dentro de sus tradiciones.

Cuando estaba estudiando en Salamanca echaba de menos Massachusetts, estado que el padre O'Mannion considera su casa, y paseando por la Plaza Mayor de esa ciudad castellana, encontró un ambientador para auto hecho en Yankee Candle. Hechos como este ayudaron a soportar su "morriña" de Massachusetts.

Más adelante se fue de la Compañía de Jesús porque los consideraba demasiado liberales, aunque me confesó que siempre sería Jesuita en su corazón. Allí en la compañía aprendió latín, una de sus pasiones, ya que cree que las traducciones a otras lenguas pueden sufrir cambios importantes. El padre O'Mannion es partidario de la liturgia en latín ya que lo considera la lengua oficial de la iglesia.

Hablamos un poco sobre el Papa Francisco y como la iglesia Católica cambia bajo cada pontífice, aunque realmente la célula central de la iglesia es la parroquia y el Vaticano se inmiscuye poco en la vida diaria de las diócesis.

También discutimos acerca de la iglesia católica en Estados Unidos. O'Mannion me contó que la iglesia católica llegó a Estados Unidos en una atmósfera anticatólica. Los primeros inmigrantes católicos que llegaron fueron los irlandeses que eran ridiculizados y estigmatizados por su poco bagaje cultural.

Este clima provocó incluso la quema de iglesias católicas. Así mismo, el presidente Kennedy tuvo que firmar un documento diciendo que no iba a ser un títere del Vaticano durante su mandato.

Le hice al padre Sean la pregunta que me había llevado hasta allí, su opinión sobre la posibilidad de que las iglesias católicas pudiesen ser consideradas como santuarios. Su opinión es que el edificio de la iglesia es propiedad de la diócesis de Springfield, y el padre O'Mannion cree que el obispo de Springfield no pondría ningún problema en considerarlo.

El padre O'Mannion me confiesa que durante el gobierno de Obama ha visto muchas deportaciones de ciudadanos centroamericanos, especialmente en la zona de Amherst. Está a favor de una amnistía como la que hizo Bush o de un programa de braceros que permita que los trabajadores vengan a trabajar legalmente y regresen a su país.

El Padre Sean conoce de cerca este tema puesto que celebra misa en la cárcel de Greenfield y muchos de los internos son indocumentados

Noticias del Mundo Hispano

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO

Argentina

El gobierno argentino decidió suspender la aplicación de retenciones arancelarias a las exportaciones de petróleo y sus derivados. Estas medidas se iniciaron durante la crisis política y social que tuvo lugar en el 2001.

El actual presidente, Macri, perteneciente al partido de centroderecha está intentando estabilizar la economía con medidas como esta.

Bolivia

El presidente Evo Morales está pensando convocar un referéndum acerca de la posibilidad de establecer la cadena perpetua como pena contra los agresores sexuales que cometan delitos contra menores. El establecimiento de este tipo de sanción llevaría consigo una reforma constitucional.

Colombia

El gobierno colombiano ha pedido a la Organización de Naciones Unidas que mantenga su neutralidad en la verificación del alto al fuego con un grupo guerrillero de las FARC (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia).

Esta protestada presentada en forma de carta a Jeffrey Feltman, secretario general adjunto para Asuntos Políticos, llega después de que se publicara un vídeo de algunos observadores bailando con excombatientes de las FARC en la celebración de la Nochevieja.

Cuba

El gobierno cubano anunció la pasada semana un acuerdo histórico para vender carbón vegetal a una empresa de los Estados Unidos. Esta sería la primera exportación cubana después de 50 años en que estas se consideraban ilegales.

La venta supone solamente unos 17.000 dólares, pero tiene un gran simbolismo en estos momentos en que las relaciones entre La Habana y Washington pueden estar en la cuerda floja.

Ecuador

El 25,4 % de los jóvenes en Ecuador son *ninis*, es decir, ni estudian, ni trabajan. Chimborazo y Santa Elena son las dos provincias con un porcentaje más alto de jóvenes que no han terminado el bachillerato.

que están allí por delitos menores y esperando su deportación.

Ha intercedido también en casos de acusaciones más graves, como por ejemplo, en un caso de un feligrés acusado de asesinato. El padre O'Mannion le regaló al acusado una imagen de Santo Tomás Moro que él cree muy milagroso. En la última vista cambiaron los cargos de asesi-



Latinoamérica.

España

Prosiguen las investigaciones en torno a José Ramírez el español creador de la moneda virtual *Unete* y que era la base de una estafa piramidal. Los ingresos provenían no solamente de España, sino también de otros países como Ecuador, Panamá, Colombia y República Dominicana.

Ramírez entró en prisión provisional, pero ahora mismo se encuentra en libertad condicional.

Guatemala

La cadena de televisión Univisión localizó en Miami a Erick Archila, prófugo de la justicia guatemalteca por corrupción. El exministro vivía en una zona exclusiva de dicha ciudad y fue descubierto por la cadena que realizaba un reportaje de investigación.

México

La planta de Ford en el estado de San Luis Potosí se ha convertido en una *planta fantasma* después de que Donald Trump criticase a la firma de autos estadounidenses por sus operaciones en México. Trump también amenazó a la japonesa Toyota con un impuesto de frontera en el caso de autos vendidos a los Estados Unidos fabricados en México. En el estado de San Luis Potosí la industria depende un 70% del sector del motor.

El Salvador

En la madrugada del domingo 8 de enero tuvo lugar un sismo de magnitud 4.1 en la escala de Richter. El epicentro del movimiento sísmico se localizó frente al estado de Sonsonate, en el Pacífico salvadoreño. El sismo no causó víctimas, solamente algunos daños materiales.

Fuente: Agencia Reuters.

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TFHS SPORTS from page B1

to the Southwick Rams 35-15. The Lady Indians finally hit their stride to recover from a poor first half.

Maddy Chmyzinski led the Tribe with 7 points, and Kylie Fleming put up 5 in the loss. Aliyah Sanders, Hailey Bogusz and Dabney Rollins each sank free shots.

On Tuesday, January 10, the team got back on the winning track by beating the Mohawk Warriors, 51-30. The win evened Powertown's record at 4-4.

Although Blue only dropped in 9 points in the second half, the result was never in doubt. Chmyzinski set the tone early by sinking two 3-pointers and a 2 to open the contest.

Then Chloe Ellis hit a bucket, Emma Miner sunk another, and Fleming got fouled on her way to the hoop. After she hit the follow up freebee, Powertown led 17-3.

Turners piled on the points in the second quarter while neutralizing the Warriors' offense, and by the break, they held a 30 point lead 41-11. Powertown's in-your-face defense stymied Mohawk's shooters, but also led to foul trouble for Blue. By the end of the game, 9 of Mohawk's points came via the foul line.

Chmyzinski again led the Tribe with 20 points, while Fleming hit double figures with 11. Dabney Rol-

lins added 8 points and Ellis scored 5. Hailey Bogusz and Miner also helped out with 3 apiece.

The Lady Indians host 6-1 Ware this Friday, then travel to Chicopee to face the Pope Francis Cardinals on Thursday, January 18.

Ice Hockey
Easthampton 3 – TFHS 2

Last Saturday, the Turners Falls Skating Indians dropped yet another 1-goal game, falling to Easthampton 3-2. The defense did a remarkable job, especially goaltender Jordyn Lavallee, who deflected 25 shots on goal.

Bryan Baumann and Camden Barnes scored Blue's two goals, with Dalton DeForest giving an assist. The Boys (and Girls) in Blue next take the ice against Amherst this Saturday, then travel to the Fitzpatrick Skating Arena to challenge South Hadley on Tuesday, January 17.

Boys Basketball
TFHS 67 – Frontier 47
Pioneer 57 – TFHS 55

On January 5, Turners Falls defeated the Frontier Red Hawks, 67-47. The Indians shot out to a 19-5 first quarter lead and never looked back.

Tionne Brown was the Tribe's high scorer with 21 points. Ricky

Craver sank three 3s and ended with 15. Tyler Lavin also hit three outside the arc, finishing with 11.

James Vaughn had four field goals for 8 points, while Anthony Peterson hit three for 6. Nick Croteau and Kyle Bergman finished with 3 points each.

On Monday, the Indians lost their first game of the 2016/17 season in the last seconds of the battle against Pioneer. The loss gives Powertown a record of 7-1.

Pioneer is a school that, unlike most schools, is about the same size as Turners Falls High School. Consequently, when the two schools meet in sporting competition, there is usually quite a rivalry.

Before Monday's game, the bleachers in Northfield were cordoned off, separating Pioneer fans from the Tribe. Furthermore, they also segregated Indian students from Indian adults, and Pioneer students from Pioneer adults.

This seemed to fuel the competitive fire and add a fun, rowdy element to the contest, allowing fans to cheer for their teams in the midst of likeminded allies. At the beginning of the game, only two kids sat in Blue students' section. But as the game went on and the JV team came out of the locker room, their section grew in number and volume.

The game seesawed back and forth from the outset. The Indians roared back from a 0-4 deficit to take a 10-5 lead. Then Pioneer scored 8 straight points and clawed ahead 13-10.

Toward the end of the first quarter, Pioneer held a thin 1-point lead when they hit another basket. Turners was held scoreless in the last 41 seconds of the period, and after 1, Pioneer led 17-14.

The second was just as close, as both teams stepped up their defenses. With 29 seconds left in the period, the game was knotted at 24, but a foul put Pioneer up by 2.

Again, the Indians were unable to score on their last possession, and the teams went into the locker room with Pioneer up by a basket, 26-24.

In the third quarter, the fans grew louder and more intense. Chants of "You can't do that!" rang out after every mistake made on the court, and cheers and clapping followed every good play.

Turners took back the lead 34-30 with 3:32 left in the third, but the Panthers rallied and went back up by 2 with 50 seconds left. Another foul gave Pioneer the lead by 3 going into the final period, 39-36.

By the fourth quarter, every student was on their feet in their respective sections. Even some in the adult

sections were yelling, stamping their feet, and loudly voicing their disapproval of any contested call.

And when the game was tied at 51-all with less than 3 minutes to go, the tone in the bleachers began to fluctuate, from deafening noise to deathly silence and back to deafening noise. As the game reached a crescendo, the police moved the cheering Turners kids away from the court and back to their seats.

With 26 seconds left in regulation, down by 2, and with Pioneer in possession, Coach Garry Mullins was forced to intentionally foul. Pioneer missed, and Turners got the rebound, calling time with 17 seconds remaining.

Powertown lost the ball and tried one more foul, but the rebound was lost out of bounds with Pioneer in possession of the ball – and the game.

Lavin led the Tribe in scoring with 12 points. Anthony Peterson, banging on the inside, shot in eight foul shots and hit a field goal for 10 points. Brown hit a 3-pointer and ended with 9 points, and Josh Obuchowski made four field goals for 8.

Craver had two buckets and two freebees for 6 points. Both Bergmann and Javonni Williams scored 4 points, and Vaughn helped out by hitting a 2-pointer.



ANCESTOR from page B1

be leaders, others of you are the keepers of the fire, carrying its light and with it, our knowledge. Some of you are warriors, some of you are peacemakers. Many of you have become Go-betweens. It is good that you are here. Our family story will not be lost now.

I was born not far from here in 1695 in our summer *wetu*. My father was away, gone as far as the valley of the great blue river, the Quinneticook, scouting with the English, hunting and fishing in Pocumtuk and Peskeompskut. I am Nehantic and Narragansett, and I sat on the Sachem's Council.

Before I was born, the great Ninigret the Elder guided us and kept us from harm by the English. We saw what they had done to the Pequot, and although we feared and disliked the Pequot, we learned how cruel and merciless the English could be. My cousins the Montauk had survived by allying with the white men. They did not suffer as the Wampanoag, the Nipmuk, and the Narragansett would by the hands of the English.

Ninigret told us that we should become similar to the English, for he had seen in a vision that they would grow in strength and power and never leave this land. We changed our given tribal names, we left the Indian spirit ways for the Anglican beliefs. We attended church, we listened to their preachers, although we disapproved that they did not use their own words. Instead they stole words from their ancient prophets in their book called the Bi-

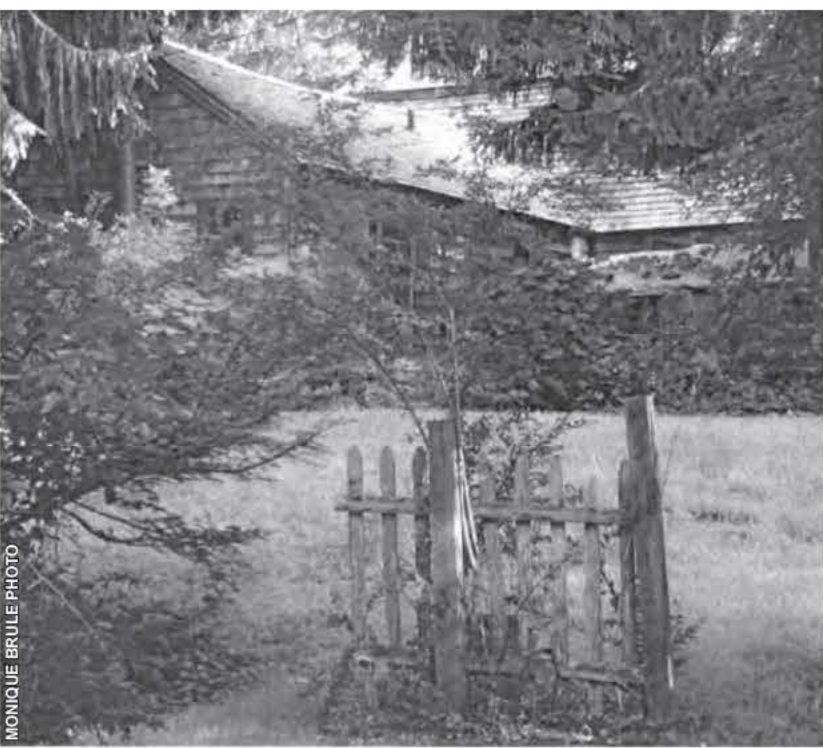
ble. We thought them weak for this, but we did not protest. Later, some did. They gave one of their preachers, Joseph Fish, some very difficult years by and by.

We saw what the English did to Metacomet, to Canonchet, to the other Narragansetts who dared defy them. We saw the Great Swamp Massacre not far from here, where some Jeffreys died. We saw the slaughter of old men, women, and children at Peskeompskut. We adopted English ways because we knew they would destroy us if we did not.

By embracing the white men's ways, we hoped to survive. From them I learned the carpenter's trade and sawyer's trade. Ninigret the Younger, Ninigret II, became Sachem in 1692, years after the Nehantics had taken in survivors of the Pequot and Narragansett people to protect them. He was Sachem when the reservation was established in 1708. Ninigret granted me this site and I built my house and sawmill here where we are now gathered. The house is bigger now, but still sturdy. I built well and lived in safety here.

But that was not to last. Shortly after my first son George was born in 1718, Ninigret died and many others of the royal bloodline of the Ninigrets succeeded him down through the years. I was part of the Sachem's Council because of my noble lineage, I was advisor to the Ninigrets during those years. But when Thomas Ninigret succeeded Charles, and then George Ninigret in 1745, my troubles began.

Tom did not always act wisely as protector of his lands and people,



Joseph Jeffrey built this house around 1720 in Charleston, RI.

and very soon the tribe began to pull apart from inside. Many disapproved of Tom, for he had a weakness for strong drink and playing games of chance, which he continually lost to white men. Some of the tribe were angered when he gave away land and timber to pay back his debts.

Many who fought against Tom also did not approve of the Anglican minister and sought Separate Ways to worship, ways similar to the old Indian beliefs. These times were painful for our family. Many of my children returned to our ancient Nehantic lands at the mouth of the Quinneticook in what is now called Black Point in Lyme. My

grandchildren were born there, and many of them never set eyes upon their grandfather.

King Tom's troubles grew. He gave up more and more land, including this house. I had to leave, and I had great sorrow in doing that. I knew that my best days were done. But I did not give up.

After Tom's death in 1769, I fought in the English courts to get my house and sawmill back. But bit by bit it was clear that the whites who coveted our lands on the reservation were finding ways to take it over. I moved away to other parts, but kept coming back here to see if I could stay and die in my own place. But most of my children had gone

to the Nehantic lands of the forefathers at the mouth of the great river.

I will not tell you where my body lies. It is not even familiar to me. But my heart is here, and my heart is joyful now in the spirit world. I have come here to see you gathered so that you would see and hear me together. My hand has guided many of you in your life's journeys before. You may have felt that, but you could not know that if your heart was not open.

I am here. You may call on me if you need me.

His eyes burned as he looked again at each of us. He stepped away from the light to the back of the chamber and blended with the smoke of the tobacco and the sweetgrass.

David Brule, the author of *West Along the River*, which appears bi-weekly in this newspaper, lives in the house that his great grandfather, Judah Smith, bought in 1882. Joseph Jeffrey is Brule's seven-times-great grandfather. As David states in his book, "We are the storytellers of the clan, the storytellers of the tribe. We have been called upon, as it were, by our elders, who summon us to tell their story, so we do."

Looking for Judah is available at local bookstores such as the Montague Bookmill and the World Eye in Greenfield, or by contact through the *Montague Reporter*.

Your ancestors should not be forgotten. They should be honored. Please send their stories to genealogy@montaguereporter.org.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ONGOING EVENTS

EVERY SUNDAY

McCusker's Co-op Market, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*. Musicians of all levels welcome to play traditional Irish music. 10:30 a.m.

Underdog Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Jazz Night*. 6 p.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 playgroup. Grown-ups can chat and connect with other parents and caregivers while supervising their children's play. 10 to 11 a.m.

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

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

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Jazz Series with Ted Wirt and his Hammond B3*. 7 p.m.

3rd WEDNESDAY MONTHLY

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

Carnegie Library, Turners 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. \$

Underdog Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Open Mic*. 7 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.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *It's Kildeidoscope!* Each week (except Jan. 13); includes a story, interactive games, and a craft to introduce you and your child to the natural world. Program recommended for ages 3-6 with a parent or guardian. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

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. \$

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *First Saturday Throwback Dance Party*. Ladies night. Free.

EXHIBITS:

GCTV, Greenfield: *Alice Thomas's "Whispers" series*; paintings about endangered and ex-

tinct species in nature. Through March 28.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *River Rooms by Alice Thomas*. "A unique series of paintings by Alice Thomas that brings metaphor and poetry to our rivers." Through March 2.

GCC Downtown Center Gallery, Greenfield: *Venture/Adventure: Applied Photography Projects*. Photography by students. Through January 19.

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

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *The Liquid Edge: Polar Regions*, photographs by Sarah Holbrook. Also *Painting Nature: Botanical Watercolors by Thayer Tomlinson*. Through February 28.

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

SUBMISSIONS CALL:

Sawmill River Arts Gallery, for their February show: *Small Works Art Exhibit and Sale*. No entries larger than 6" x 6". No jurying. Register by January 14. Reception Saturday, February 4, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

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

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Mohawk "Story Slam" Maker-space Fundraiser*. 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Doug Plavin All Stars*, featuring special guest. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Wet Tuna (with MV and PG Six); John Shaw; Galacto Fidelity (with Byron Coley, Matt Krefting, and Bill Nace); Crystalline Roses; Frozen Corn; Pigeons*. 9 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

Great Hall Discovery Center, Turner Falls: *The Great Falls Coffeehouse presents The Well Tempered Ukles*. They'll be playing hit songs of the last 500 years. Donations to support educational programming at the Center. 7 p.m. \$

Arts Block, Greenfield: *"Very Superstitious Supper with Sister Jawbone"*. Four course meal and music. 7 p.m. \$

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Twenty Feet From Stardom*. "Just a shot away" - ode to background singers of the past 6 decades, directed by Morgan Neville. 7:30 p.m. Music by Dick Moulding at 7 p.m. \$

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Psychic & The Skeptic*.

Psychic readings with audience and critical commentary added in. 7:30 p.m. \$

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Jen & Willie, Ginger Cooky, Night School*. All ages, substance free. 8 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Mama's Marmalade, Humble Digs*. String quintet of bluegrass, old-time/folk rock. 8 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Staff, Scott Kuzmeskus*. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

Worcester State College, Worcester: *NOFA/MASS Winter Conference*. See their website for details. All day. \$

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Open Mic Night #8*, Big town performance art in a tiny village. 7 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Twenty Feet From Stardom*. "Just a shot away" - ode to background singers of the past 6 decades, directed by Morgan Neville. 7:30 p.m. Music by Jim Egan at 7 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Gold City Ashes*. Heavy blues, rock. 8 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Gary Higgins, Frozen Corn, Sunburned Hand of the Man*. All ages, substance free. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*. Hypnoboogie blues. 9 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Misty Blues*. 9 p.m. \$

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Boy Harsher, Wydyde, Hammer and Snake*. Industrial, drone, melodic angst, rock by whatever means necessary. 9 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Big Mean Sound Machine*. Ten Piece Band playing funk and avant garde jazz. 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Cosmic Duct Tape, Cyanide Bride*. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

Arts Block, Greenfield: *New England Jazz Trio Part 3* with Wayne Roberts, Richard Greenblatt, and Draa Hobbs. 5 p.m. \$

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

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Ghostlight Project*. National observance; see website for details. 5:30 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Longfellow's. Funky Blues featuring Doug Smith along with Tommy Filiault, Doug Plavin & Klondike Koehler*. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kildeidoscope!* This week it's

Winter Birds. There will be a story, a game, and a craft project. For ages 3-6; siblings and friends welcome accompanied by parent. 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crab Grass Band*. Americana-ana. 6:30 p.m.

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Homesteading, Inch By Inch

Discussing the benefits of self-reliance, simple-living quality of life, and land trusts.

GREENFIELD — Homesteading tasks can often fill entire days, and involve a wide variety of duties. This workshop will cover the importance of part-time and flexible work so that ample time can be devoted to homesteading as well as the importance of creating quality of life rather than wealth.

The benefits of a land trust owning the land and the houses, and the benefits of low-cost housing that go along with community land trusts, will also be discussed.

Speakers include Scott Nielsen, Nelia Sargent, Stan Macomber, Jenny Wright, and Vanessa Keith of Quaker City Land Trust, and Meb Boden and Tom Vaiciulis of Meb's Kitchenwares.

Stan, Jenny, and Vanessa have over 130 years' combined experience in organizing crews of apple pickers and apple tree pruners. Founders of QCCLT, Stan, Jenny, and family have lived in Quaker City since 1970. Scott is also a founder of QCCLT and has been the treasurer from the start. Nelia is a long time peace activist.

In 1992, residents of Quaker City, NH, swapped their homesteads for stock in Land Trust. Al-

ready a community of self-reliant people, the Trust has been able to provide affordable housing in a beautiful setting while maintaining stable finances.

Meb and Tom have lived off the grid for 20 years, first on a sailboat in the Caribbean, and since 2000 in a 156-square-foot cabin on 21 acres of forest in northeastern Connecticut. They have cleared roads, planted gardens, built three out-buildings, and are currently building a much larger house from their own trees.

They began a woodworking business in 2003 that has supported the building of a homestead — mostly affording them the time, tools, and rough materials to follow their dreams.

They sell their work at 15 to 20 juried craft shows a year, as well as venues such as Orvis Catalogue and The Metropolitan Opera gift shop.

This is the first in a series of three Winter Workshops, sponsored by the Valley Community Land Trust together with the Franklin Community Coop.

Requested donation is \$10, but no one will be turned away. More information is available at vclt.org.

Saturday, January 21, 10 a.m. to noon at Green Fields Market, 144 Main Street, Greenfield.

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