



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 15 – NO. 15

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 26, 2017

## ERVING SELECTBOARD

### Erving Applies for Matching Grant to Build New Library

By KATIE NOLAN

On Monday night, the Erving selectboard and finance committee signed the application for a grant to build a \$4.9 million library near Erving Elementary School and the senior/community center. Library director Barbara Friedman and the library trustees prepared the application for a Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners grant that would pay 58% of the cost of building a new library. The town's share of the cost must be approved by town meeting.

Library building committee member Jacqueline Boyden pre-

sented the grant application and preliminary building design, saying the committee based the design for the 7,800-square-foot building on focus meetings and public input. The design includes a meeting room that can be used when the rest of the library is closed, a teen area, and a young children's area.

The \$4.9 million estimated cost includes demolition of the residence at the Northfield Road property, and installation of a solar array that would provide 25% to 30% of the building's electrical needs.

"The committee includes a good mix of very frugal people," said

see ERVING page A8

### In Greenfield, a Gear of the Nation's Immigrant Detention System Turns

By JULIA HANDSCHUH and MAGGIE DEBEVEC

**GREENFIELD** – The United States has the largest immigration detention system in the world, according to a report by the Switzerland-based Global Detention Project. The Greenfield House of Corrections, located on Elm Street in Greenfield, is one of 637 facilities nationwide that detain migrants awaiting a determination on their citizenship status.

It operates under an Intergovernmental Service Agreement with the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). ICE is housed under the umbrella of the Department of Homeland Security, which was created in 2002 in response to the events of September 11, 2001.

Greenfield contracts with ICE to provide space for 75 detainees. The ICE unit is separate from the rest of the prison and is typically at, or just below capacity, according to Sheriff Chris Donelan. The contract is ongoing, with no termination date, and is negotiated between Sheriff Donelan's local office in Greenfield and a regional ICE office in Hartford, CT.

Three other ICE detention facilities exist in Massachusetts, in Bristol, Plymouth, and Suffolk Counties. Recently, sheriffs in



One 75-bed unit of the Greenfield jail is leased out to the federal detention system.

Bristol and Plymouth Counties agreed to join an ICE program that will train their deputies to screen inmates and notify ICE of anyone whose is unable to provide verification of citizenship status.

"I have no interest in my deputies being ICE agents," Donelan told the Reporter.

500 immigrants were detained at the Greenfield facility between October 2014 and September 2015, according to the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) at Syracuse University, a nonpartisan database of information about US federal immigration enforcement. Of these 500 detainees, 394 were transferred to other ICE detention centers within the United States, and 106 "left" – meaning they were deported, released under

supervision while their cases were being addressed, or left for other reasons, including a resolution in their immigration status.

#### Filling Beds

In 2015 Congress passed a law that requires ICE to fill a quota of 34,000 detainees at all times. In order to house this many detainees at once, ICE contracts with private prisons, jails, "family detention centers" – which house children and families – and juvenile facilities throughout the country. These detention centers provide both temporary transfer sites and longer-term detention of people while they await immigration and deportation proceedings.

When we spoke with Sheriff see DETENTION page A5



IMAGE COURTESY JOHNSON ROBERTS ASSOCIATES

The architect's digital rendering of the proposed new library building.

### Montague, Deerfield Join Effort to Battle Mosquitoes

By JEN HOLMES

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – This past December, the town of Deerfield, along with Montague and six other Western Massachusetts municipalities, was awarded a "regionalization and efficiency" grant through the state's Community Compact Cabinet to create the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District. This soon-to-be underway program will focus on mosquito surveillance and identification within the involved towns, as a means towards more comprehensive mosquito-borne illness protection in the region.

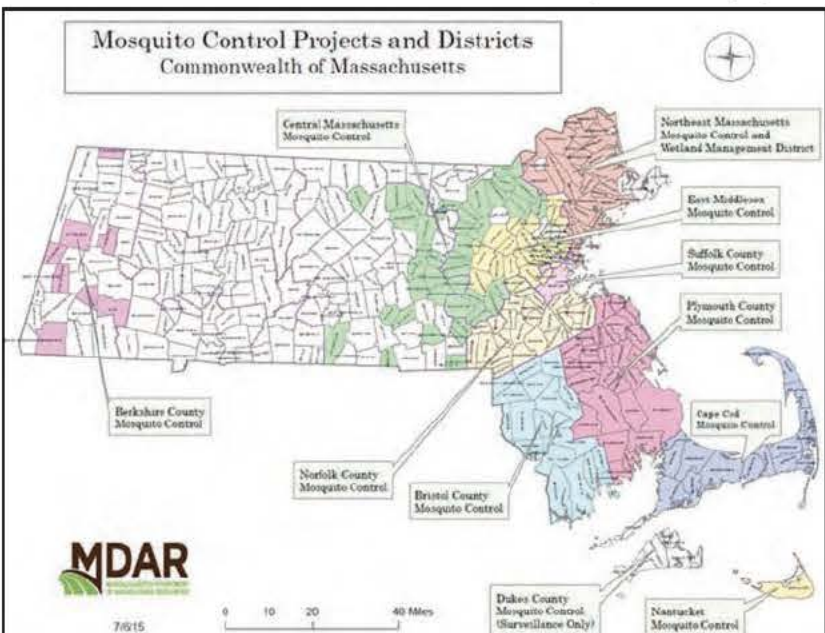
"The conversation started three years ago after a mosquito was found in Athol that tested positive for Triple E," says Gina McNeely, director of public health for the town of Montague. Triple E – short for eastern equine encephalitis – is a potentially fatal disease more often seen in the eastern part of the state.

"We also know West Nile virus has been in the area for a long time, and there are a lot of other mosquito-borne diseases we are going to be seeing, because of climate change," she says.

Carolyn Shores Ness, selectboard chair for the town of Deerfield, echoed that sentiment, explaining that the extreme or unusual weather events such as warmer winters, flooding due to tropical storms, and snowstorms in October – all likely due to climate change – contributed to an emergence of larger mosquito populations, because "everything was just wet."

Shores Ness explains that of the 70 species of mosquitoes found in our region, only three or four are really of concern. "But because of the weather in recent years, those habitats have expanded," she says. "Despite some drought, the trend is that we're having more and more of those disease-carrying mosquitoes."

see MOSQUITOES page A4



The state's existing mosquito control districts leave a wide swath of land uncontrolled.

## MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

### Town Nurse to Become Town Employee, But Still Works Five Hours Per Week

By JEFF SINGLETON

The January 23 meeting of the Montague selectboard included a discussion of the status of the town nurse, a currently unfilled position that has been the subject of controversy over the years. Some town officials have supported significant reductions and even the elimination of the nurse position, which was created in 1918. They have argued that federal programs like Medicare and Medicaid, coupled with an expanded network of doctors and hospitals, have over the past century made the position unnecessary.

This viewpoint has encountered stiff opposition from public health officials and members of Montague

town meeting, who have argued that the nurse provides important services, particularly for home-bound elders. At the January 23 meeting, public health director Gina McNeely stressed this argument, in addition to the view that there are increased "emergency management" demands on public health departments in the current era.

McNeely, who came before the board to request a change in the nurse's employment status, noted that the hours allocated for the position were reduced from 20 to 5 in 2008. Since then, she said, it has been very difficult to find a qualified person to take the job, "unless it was a retired person."

McNeely also noted that the job

was included in the 2013 pay and classification study, implying the nurse was a town employee, even though the position is currently filled on a consultant basis. She proposed that the nurse become a part-time town employee, without benefits, at five hours per week.

The position would be graded at Step 9 Grade E, and would be represented by the town employees' union, TOMEA. She said there was "plenty of money" in the health department budget for this.

The selectboard did not discuss whether this proposed change would improve hiring prospects for the nurse position, but it did approve McNeely's request.

see MONTAGUE page A7

### Reflection: A Trip to Our Nation's Capital

By KATIE NOLAN

**WASHINGTON, DC** – I marched with seven of my eight birth sisters, my husband, my daughter, daughters-in-law, son, brother-in-law, nieces, nephews, friends, and millions of other sisters and brothers and friends – in various cities all over the world, but certainly together. I felt the excitement and togetherness of the people crammed into the Metro cars or waiting in line at port-a-potties and DC coffee shops.

I walked down the middle of the wide Washington, DC streets with thousands and thousands of other people, and then many thousands

more, past those massive buildings that radiate power, and felt: "We own this city."

I admired the incredible array of colorful, thoughtful, angry, funny, rude, loving, artistic, crude, creative, hopeful handmade signs. I marveled at the sea of pink hats and pink shirts and posters.

Days before the March, I had visited a mini-workshop at the Deja Brew Pub in Wendell, where a small crew of dedicated knitters had made 46 hats to give to marchers. I didn't wear a pink pussy hat – to me it projected lack of power, and I wanted to celebrate women's strength. But see REFLECTION page A5



Our intrepid reporter, representing the free press and free speech in her free time!



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"The Voice of the Villages"

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## Our Biases...

One of our readers left an anonymous voicemail at our office Saturday night objecting to our tendency to print left wing viewpoints.

If it's a problem, it's a problem. This newspaper is open to all members of our communities, and we know that there is a very wide range of political outlook around here.

There may be reasons an essentially volunteer-run, nonprofit local newspaper ends up getting clogged up with liberals and leftists.

If you're interested in writing a letter or guest editorial, please get

in touch and share your thoughts. Unless it's libel, hate speech or incitement, we'll print it, provided you're willing to include a name.

Our lead editorials will be written by the current editorial staff, until such time as someone steps forward to relieve us. Cultural feature and personal reflection pieces will tend to reflect their authors.

And we commit to pursuing *just the facts* in our news coverage – and to believing in the pursuit of verifiable facts, even if doing so becomes politically unpopular.

## Cat-Dog in the Park

By NINA ROSSI

**BOSTON** – The rally on the Boston Common on Saturday, January 21 was an amazing and bonding experience among thousands of friendly, like-minded individuals. The canine side of my brain eagerly gobbled up the visual kibble of bright pink hats and posters with slogans, chanting and panting along with the urgent optimism of the day. Doggy brain was happy to stream with hundreds of others into the subway car at Davis Square and then walk *en masse* down Charles Street to join thousands of others on the common.

There was ecstasy, righteous feelings, and hope. The sun came out! The dog in me pranced and yipped for joy and took photos.

We didn't have to use the watered-down Maalox one of our group brought along in case of tear gas. We didn't need the Sharpies to incise phone numbers on our forearms. We didn't need to buy Charlie Tickets for the subway – it was free that day – and the Prius (!) that we left in a three-hour pay-to-park slot didn't even get a parking fine.

However, sly and disdainful feline brain asserted itself with the thought, voiced aloud at several times throughout the parade, of "Will we be brave enough when it really matters?"

And after listening to snatches of some of the speeches over loudspeakers barely audible at the far end of the park, that cat stretched

languidly and wanted to know what actual advice was being passed to 125,000 people about what action they could take to support their views. One speaker's words were so shrill and hoarsely emotional they could not be understood at all; the sly and detached cat brain twitched with a ripple of mirth.

Feline consciousness, intent on preserving individual initiative over group-dog-think, clawed my conscience with sharp reminders to not fall in love with the doggie satisfaction of feeling good. That's easy, purred Ms. Cat, and doing the right thing is going to be really hard when more is at stake than a sunny day in the park with cat-dog.

An online handbook for action ([indivisibleguide.com](http://indivisibleguide.com)) has been making the rounds and offers concrete guidelines for taking action by interacting in specifically local ways, as groups and individuals, with Congressional representatives and their offices. Taking steps outlined therein might get cat brain to purr, and connecting with others in small groups to engage incrementally in the democratic process might be the meaty bone my dog brain likes to chew.

I will probably attend other rallies, marches, and what-have-you. It was fun, it was affirmative, and I crave the slobbering ecstasy of dog days in the park!

However, cat brain is always going to think this is just a bunch of stupid, goofy, bow-wow do-goodniks, wagging their tails and sniffing each other's butts. Cat brain scoffs at surging endorphins! Cat brain writes letters, makes phone calls, shows up and complains, and is anything but compliant.

But, see you in the park anyways.

Nina Rossi is the Montague Reporter's features editor.



Donna Horn holds a pizza, ready for the oven, at the Wendell Country Store.

## GUEST EDITORIAL

## A New Year in Millers Falls

By RICHARD WIDMER

First and foremost, I wish to give thanks. Thank you for accepting our family into this community. Thank you to the many school teachers and coaches who are guiding our sons. Thank you to the many committed individuals who make this town run. Thank you to the Turners Falls Fire and Police Departments for protecting our safety. In a world full of inequalities and injustices, we feel blessed.

Next, I would like to share two recent observations. After the recent fire in the Railroad Salvage building, the *Montague Reporter* treated its readers to a review of the building's history. From Griswold to Vine to today, the building's fortunes have risen and fallen in conjunction with the commitment and ability of its owners.

People built these buildings, filled them with industry and put this town on the map. Then what happened? Last weekend, a new president took office. The following day, millions of people across the globe marched for women's rights. Personal politics aside, these two events are both expressions of our nation's greatness – the peaceful transfer of power, and the power of the people.

The year is young, but already so eventful!

Which brings me back to our new home – Millers Falls, a tiny village of 439 households, population 1,072. In the times before the arrival of the white man, I can imagine this place had great medicine, a place of security above the Falls of the Great River at Wissatinewag. Settled by European immigrants at the end of the 18th century, miniscule Millers became mighty – a rough-and-tumble hamlet known around the world for its paper mill and tool factory.

At its height in the mid-20th century, Millers was a strong community with a busy village center, including a railroad office, insurance company, hat and clothes shop, five-and-dime store, civic organizations, taverns, high school, post office, volunteer fire department, and two churches.

Then, like many mill towns and factory towns, across the US and across the globe: when markets shift and transportation and labor prices rise, places like Millers are left to rust.

Beginning in the 1970s, with the introduction of computers, global demand for paper production decreased. With the increasing popularity of power tools and pre-fabricated lumber, the need for high-quality hand tools also declined.

The Millers Falls Tool factory closed in 1982. The paper mill closed in 1990. Jobs were lost, families moved away. The village began its long and steady decline.

Millers Falls began to lose important community assets. The high school building was closed and turned into affordable housing; the fire station was closed; the post office was closed; library hours were reduced. Businesses that had been in families for generations were sold. Real estate speculators purchased key properties in town and failed to maintain their historic character.

The town center became a blight of derelict buildings snarled in litigation. Symbolically, the village's Roman Catholic church, with a small and aging congregation, was desanctified and sold to private owners. In a sense, the community of Millers was cast away.

At present, economically, there is almost no opportunity for employment within the village. Of the two mill buildings which once fired the economy of this village, one is low functioning, the other is abandoned, and both rest on the north side of the Millers River and belong to the town of Erving.

Without an economic anchor, an influential business community, or the social organization that comes from unity of economic purpose, Millers suffers from social apathy and political neglect. After just a short time living here, I sense that the people who are living in this village are increasingly detached from this place and each other. In the morning, people get in their cars and trucks and go to other places to work. At nighttime, residents drive

to larger towns for entertainment and dining.

The blue glow of television sets shines inside most houses. Our televisions keep us passive, seated on sofas and armchairs, in the security of our homes, feeding on fear and stereotypes, forming communities of viewers with no particular connection to this or any other real place. The internet isolates us even further, reducing us to preferences, clicks and vitriolic commentary.

Sadly, Millers offers few real world alternatives for people to meet and form connections to each other and this place.

The exceptions to this sad circumstance are the village's three remaining watering holes. The Millers Pub has definite local charm and proffers to its thirsty, loyal clientele a habit of camaraderie and solace, 12 ounces at a time. Element Brewery continues to expand its valence, offering world-class microbrews, farm fresh victuals and occasional live entertainment. The Pioneer Tavern keeps a steady schedule of karaoke and live music.

But unless you are drinking, there are few places to gather and meet neighbors. The village's grocer is a shell of its former self and stubbornly refuses to sell the community's newspaper, our *Montague Reporter*. Across the street, a coin-operated laundromat turns a slow but steady dime.

For such a small place, there seems to be an incredible amount of resentment between neighbors. Millers exhibits little unified sense of community.

Last week, I attended a meeting to discuss the official designation of a Turners Falls Cultural District. While this is an exciting, positive and logical next step for Turners Falls, listening to the thirty years of efforts by which town leadership has focused upon the revitalization of the Turners Falls community, during this same time, Montague's most far-flung villages have continued to fall into decline. By and large, for the past thirty years, we have concentrated our town's

see GUEST ED next page

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

## LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Effective January 23, the price of a US Postal Service Forever stamp has increased from 47 to 49 cents. As it stands, the cost for the *Montague Reporter* to mail papers to subscribers will increase. The 14-page papers will cost us 71 cents each, and 16-page papers will cost us 91 cents.

All Forever stamps you presently own are fine to use as is.

Join Scott Cote, Franklin County Registrar of Deeds, as he gives an updated look at his depart-

ment and the services and information it provides to area residents and homeowners. Held at the Greenfield Savings Bank, Avenue A, Turners Falls this Saturday, January 28, from 10 to 11 a.m.

The talk scheduled for Monday, January 23, on the Sheffield School fire of 1987 was postponed by a week, due to inclement weather. The new time is Monday, January 30, at 5:45 p.m. at the Sheffield school.

Join the Wendell Energy Committee on Thursday, February 2, at the Wendell Town Hall for a com-

munity potluck supper and conversation on energy, climate and sustainable lifestyles.

Presentations will be given on Green Communities projects, new committee members and plans for 2017, Wendell Community Solar development, connections with food and agriculture, and more. Save the date, bring a dish to share, plus ideas, questions, announcements. Start time TBA.

Please help Montague Catholic Social Ministries spread the word. They are drumming up interest in their first-ever "Lasagna Bake-Off," which will be held in Turners Falls at Our Lady of Peace Parish Hall on Friday, February 10.

The event is meant to be a mini-fundraiser for MCSM's programs, especially targeted to creating a more "family friendly" waiting space in their office. MCSM serves home-visiting and emergency basic needs participants there, and would

like to provide a more comfortable experience with a corner devoted to kids, comfy chairs, and learning materials.

If you are interested in entering a lasagna, you can email [susan@mc-smcommunity.org](mailto:susan@mc-smcommunity.org). All entrants dine for free. If you just want to come for dinner, the cost is \$15 at the door.

Teams or individuals will submit their pans of lasagna by 3 p.m. that day. Judging, including "celebrity judges" such as Rep. Stephen Kulik, Montague town administrator Steven Ellis, and Gill selectman Randy Crochier, will take place 4 to 5 p.m., and a "lasagna sampling" with salad, bread, drinks, and dessert will be open to the public from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

For more info please contact MCSM co-director Susan Mareneck, at (413) 863-4804 x1001 or at the above email address.

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

**GUEST ED** from previous page public resources into the larger village of Turners Falls.

Millers needs help. And we need to help ourselves.

As a start, we need to rediscover our community and sense of pride in this place. The village's greatest asset may be the Millers River, which has been rehabilitated after decades of environmentally destructive use by dozens of mills above and below the village.

The location of Millers is also an asset: certainly rural, but also close to many more culturally active communities, such as Turners Falls, Montague Center, Brattleboro, Northampton, Amherst, and Shelburne Falls. Neighboring Wendell and Erving also have important roles in the future of Millers.

Our town planner has begun the process of gaining historic place designation for Millers. A developer has made strong progress towards the repair and renovation of several of the blighted buildings in

the village's center.

For this process of community and economic revitalization to take shape will certainly require greater participation and engagement from all of our village's stakeholders. Civil society in Millers includes longtime residents, some of whom are elderly, renters who are attracted to Millers for the low cost of rent, and families/homeowners like myself who are also attracted to the relatively low price of homes in the area. There are an increasing number of young people, including elementary and high school-aged students, living in the village.

The private sector includes microbrewery, tavern and convenience store owners, a national railroad company, financial lending institutions, insurance companies and landlords. Government actors include seven town meeting members, the selectboard of the town of Montague, town planner, public assistance and health services, law enforcement, the highway department,

state Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Massachusetts Historical Society. Third sector non-profit Millers River Watershed Council is also a key stakeholder.

For this community to thrive again, all of these stakeholders will need to unify — *we, the people of Millers Falls*.

To this end, I propose that the people of Millers begin a process of deep dialogue between stakeholders, to engage in empathetic listening and storytelling that can help all of us understand each other's behavior, differences of opinion, as well as common values.

To encourage this process, I propose that we initiate a series of four community meetings to address community concerns, youth issues, theories of change, and potential place-making activities. Through a dialogue process, including community issue mapping, sound and video recordings of residents of Millers Falls, and community input

into town planning, we can deepen our understanding of our shared values, our historical past, and begin to build new connections with each other and with this place.

The impact of this activity will be a newfound unity of purpose and capacity to create change, and improve the quality of life, for residents of Millers Falls.

Respectfully, I hope that this letter helps to frame a process for these community dialogues to take place, encourages the village's residents and stakeholders to participate, and gains the support of our town's leadership as well as community members in neighboring villages for the re-discovery of Millers Falls.

*Richard Widmer is a documentary filmmaker and founder of the Millers Falls Arts Bridge (MFAB), an emergent arts and education project that aims to support engagement between artists and the local community.*



## SCENE REPORT

# Residents Focus on Building Community, Power

By SHARON DUNN

**LEVERETT** — Despite severe winter weather the evening of January 17, over forty concerned Leverett residents met for a potluck dinner at Town Hall to outline specific actions to build community and empowerment.

The longstanding Leverett Peace Commission launched this effort in December, and five working

groups are now developing plans and actions. The groups are: Building Community, Sanctuary, Building Bridges, Environmental, and Youth and Schools. All Leverett residents are welcome to join any of these groups.

The "Building Community" group plans to create an online listserv to promote all-community communication. It also is exploring networked mutual aid groups: for

example, who in the neighborhood knows CPR, and how can I get training? This group is also determining the most effective ways of gathering residents to create a greater sense of town community, such as forums, coffeehouse, and speaker series.

The "Sanctuary" group focuses on the safety of refugees and the undocumented. It is currently assembling facts about the role of our police with respect to the undocumented and to hate crimes, and the role of schools for dealing with incidents of bias and bullying due to cultural and racial differences. It is looking at opportunities for community outreach in order to foster celebration of heritage and inclusion.

The "Building Bridges" group is focusing on local initiatives at this time. It is identifying serious local issues where individuals and groups with different viewpoints could work together. One possibility is the plight of our elderly in the face of possible Medicare and health insurance cuts.

The "Environmental" group is working on plans for an evening of community letter-writing to urge our legislators to pass important environmental legislation that was refiled for the current session. The

group is also formulating a community discussion series on environmental issues and activism.

The "Youth and Schools" group intends to support youth in Leverett to build a stronger community, in and out of school. Its first initiative will be a facilitated conversation at Town Hall, Sunday, February 12, from 2:30 to 4 p.m., to which all Leverett Elementary School parents are invited, with the topic "How do we talk to our kids about post-election worries?" (Childcare will be provided.)

The group wants to facilitate integration of the school and the community, bring together youth and elders, and explore programs that could make the Leverett school a community hub. Under consideration is an activist workshop for middle and high school students.

The next whole group meeting will be held Wednesday February 15, 7 p.m., at Leverett Town Hall. In the meantime, the working groups will continue to meet and work on their projects.

For information about joining any of these working groups, please contact [Patfiero@yahoo.com](mailto:Patfiero@yahoo.com) or [tom@tomwolff.com](mailto:tom@tomwolff.com).



MARK GAMBLE PHOTO

Over forty residents turned out for last Tuesday's town hall potluck.

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week ending 1/13/2017:

**Grade 6**  
Eli Dresser

**Grade 7**  
Caitlyn Jacobsen

**Grade 8**  
Haley Bastarache

**MOSQUITOES** from page A1

So, how will a mosquito control district help to combat these simultaneously pesky yet serious threats?

"The idea is to identify the habitats, not just of nuisance mosquitoes, but the specific species, so you know where they are," says Shores Ness of the mosquito control district's primary objectives.

"Then you continue to trap to check for changes in volume and get [each species] tested to monitor if there's any disease circulating in the habitat."

If disease is found, then the affected town will treat those identified areas of concern through larvicide, a biochemical control method that targets the mosquito in its most vulnerable and confined stage.

"Larviciding is going into hot spots, like catch basins, and putting in powder tablets - that are just bacteria - that eat the larva," says McNeely.

The ultimate goal in terms of mosquito treatment options, according to both McNeely and Shores Ness, is to avoid adulticide spraying at all costs.

"It's expensive, ineffective and very questionable, in my mind," says Shores Ness, "with too many downsides, towards the environment and people."

McNeely explains having personally experienced, while growing up in eastern Massachusetts, "the deafening silence" after adulticide spraying.

"They kill everything," she remembers. "You don't hear a cricket or a katydid, a grasshopper or a bumblebee - it's really like nuclear war on insects, not just mosquitoes."

"We don't want to see that happen here."

Ensuring area residents' protection against mosquito-borne disease, by means of tracking and localized treatment, while avoiding the potentially more hazardous option of spraying, appear to be the main ob-

jectives of the program.

"The whole point of this is to be as proactive as possible, and to be the most cost-effective," says Shores Ness of the program's goals, "but it takes effort."

Most recently, a large portion of that effort, on the part of Shores Ness and public health officials from Montague, East Longmeadow, Greenfield, Palmer, South Hadley and Southampton, was applying for the regionalization and efficiency grant to secure funds to begin tackling this potentially costly endeavor.

The grant award, totaling \$35,310, will be put towards purchasing various traps, magnifying glasses, and other pieces of equipment necessary to the surveillance process, as well as hiring Charlie Kaniecki, former district health officer for the Western Regional Health Office, as a consultant to help develop the program and procedures.

"He knows the state labs; he knows the process - and he's done some mosquito work in the past," says Shores Ness of their decision to hire Kaniecki.

These initial first steps, however, do not ensure that the district will be officially designated within any specific time period. The next step for the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District will depend on a vote from the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board (SRMCB), slated for their next meeting on March 15.

"The board will vote as to whether we're legitimate enough to go forward with the forming of the district," explains Shores Ness. "They're not voting for us to be the district; they're deciding where to let us start the process."

The SRMCB, a division of the state's Department of Agricultural Resources, oversees regional mosquito control programs, and is responsible for establishing "policy, guidelines, and best management practices to ensure that mosquito control programs are effective and

safe," according to its website.

The Board also creates new control districts through "enabling legislation," which requires that "multiple towns express interest to form a new district," among other criteria to demonstrate legitimate interest and resources. This legislation makes the district official, but it does not provide any state funds.

There are currently eleven Mosquito Control Districts in the commonwealth, not including the Pioneer Valley District. Most are focused towards the east, with only a handful of Berkshire County towns otherwise covering the state's western regions. Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden County have until now been left completely uncovered.

This lack of surveillance efforts locally is partly due to higher incidences of mosquito-borne illness in the coastal regions, thus requiring more attention, resources, and action on the part of the state.

"Historically, 40 to 50 years ago, Triple E was much higher in that part of the state," says McNeely, "so I think that's probably how they got started."

In recent years though, state surveillance measures have found signs of both West Nile and Triple E in the Connecticut River Valley. While it is still not considered as high risk as coastal districts, the state has not taken initiative to further protect residents of western Massachusetts from those mosquito-borne diseases. And so it has become the responsibility of local public health officials to ensure residents are protected by means of regionalized efforts.

"I applaud the people who have really done the leg work on this," says McNeely, who acknowledges that she's played more of a peripheral role in the creation of the mosquito control district.

"It's really bureaucratic, and it's hard to keep pushing, but they did it," she says, emphasizing the integral role Shores Ness and Jean Gal-

loway, public health director for West Springfield, played in the endeavor.

"This could really save lives, so that's pretty awesome," she adds.

Though the Pioneer Valley Mosquito District has not been officially designated, and likely will not start tracking efforts until 2018, Shores Ness and other public health officials have already planned much of the workings of the district initiative, and how it be easily transitioned into any of the currently involved municipalities' already-existing public works efforts.

"My thought was, this has to be like our snow and ice budget," says Shores Ness. "You have to fund it at a certain level for mosquito-related issues, and ramp it up or down depending on whatever conditions exist."

While seven towns and cities were included in the grant application, four more towns have signed on to be a part of the district, a trend that Shores Ness hopes continues.

"We're going to sign on as many communities as possible," she says. "The more the better, especially to make it sustainable, because then we'll be splitting the overhead costs."

Once the program is up and running, each community will be asked to contribute \$2,500 to join, and there will be a menu of services and a voluntary contribution payment. "Services will be ramped up, or ramped down, depending on the community's choice," explains Shores Ness.

The next year will be one of meeting and planning for Shores Ness, McNeely, and the other public health officials involved in the endeavor, all for the sake of protection against that summertime nuisance.

"We've got to be committed to handle climate change," says Shores Ness, "and this is a proactive way to do that. This is trying to deal with something before it becomes a huge health issue."



**GUEST EDITORIAL**

By **ROBBIE LEPPZER**

Last Saturday, January 21, 2017, was a momentous day of history being made from the grassroots.

About 3 million people protested against Trump around the country, with nearly a million more protesting across the planet.

About 700 protests took place in all 50 states, as well as around the world. This was the largest mass mobilization in U.S. history.

There were three times as many people protesting Trump in Washington, DC alone, as were there to attend the inauguration.

I participated in the Boston Women's March, where over 175,000 people marched and rallied.

It was the biggest protest in Massachusetts history.

It was very energizing to be there and feel the determination and chutzpah of the crowd.

I feel it is vitally important for us

all to take in this historical moment - deeply and fully.

What transpired last weekend around the U.S. and around the globe is an absolutely amazing accomplishment and quite historic, as it shows the power of people acting from the grassroots - and particularly from women-led organizing, with a large number of women of color in leadership roles.

In Boston, I was particularly moved by seeing many men allies holding handmade signs in support of women and women's rights.

Of course, most of the corporate-controlled mass media has not emphasized the significance of what took place.

As they have taken Trump's deliberate bait to distract from this widespread populous grassroots rebellion to change the subject to "alternative facts" and disputes about numbers of people who showed up in Washington for the inauguration.

**Believing in Our Own Power in the Age of Trump**



Robbie Leppzer, in Boston.

This is all a deliberate campaign of psychological warfare.

I saw what happened at the start of the Iraq war. The anti-war movement was growing at a faster rate than during the Vietnam War. 15 to 30 million people protested around the world on February 15, 2003 - a month before the war began, with over a million people protesting in the U.S.

After about 18 months, the movement began to lose steam, because - in my view - people internalized the myth that if they are not covered by the mainstream media and

affecting immediate change, they were not making a difference and were not relevant.

We cannot afford to make this mistake again.

We must believe in ourselves first.

I actually see a silver lining in Trump becoming president. The illusion has been stripped away. No one is going to save us but us!

This is what democracy looks like!

Robbie Leppzer lives in Wendell and is a long-time independent documentary filmmaker, who has chronicled grassroots social change movements for the past 40 years. His most recent film, *POWER STRUGGLE*, chronicles the grassroots political battle to close the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. For more information, visit his websites at: [www.PowerStruggleMovie.com](http://www.PowerStruggleMovie.com) and [www.TurningTide.com](http://www.TurningTide.com).

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**DETENTION** from page A1  
 Donelan about the detention unit in Greenfield, he explained that the people held at the facility come there from all over the United States. "They could have committed a crime in California," he said. "They served their criminal sentence in California – now ICE put a detainee on them, and they're holding them for their status. So now they get transferred to different parts of the country to be held for ICE, pending their deportation."

Donelan also explained that detainees have hearings via video court with an immigration judicial officer who can make final determinations about their deportation status. A detainee is typically held for six months in Greenfield before either being transferred to another location, put directly on an airplane to be deported, or released.

**Longer Detentions**

In some instances, detainees are held for longer than six months without a hearing. In one high-profile case, Mark Reid, a US veteran and legal permanent resident from Jamaica, was held for 16 months in Greenfield before being released on bond in 2014.

Reid, represented by the Yale Law School and working with the American Civil Liberties Union, filed a successful federal habeas petition in US District Court contending, according to Yale, "that his prolonged detention without an individualized bond hearing violated immigration statutes and the Constitution."

Following this resolution, Reid moved to represent a larger class of

ICE detainees in Massachusetts that have been held for over six months. The District Court granted the class certification, and made a determination that under US immigration statutes and the Constitution, "detainees who sought judicial review or moved to reopen or reconsider" a deportation order maintained a right to a bond hearing.

"It's hard to fight your case when you're detained," Yale's Joseph Meyers, who represents the class of long-term detainees, told the *Reporter*. Meyers described barriers in contacting detainees' family members, accessing legal aid, and getting paperwork done, as well as the difficulty in raising bond when it is set, given the unwillingness of bail bondsmen to post in immigration cases.

Donelan declined to comment on the case, known as *Reid v. Donelan*.

**Meeting the Budget**

Massachusetts balances its budget, in part, by contracting with federal agencies to provide fee-for-service work. The state assumed budgetary responsibilities for Greenfield's county jail in 1997 when Franklin County government was dissolved and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments was formed.

After the Franklin County Jail's expansion in the 1990s, immigrant detention provided an opportunity for an increase in revenue. Donelan said that when the facility initially began contracting with ICE, the money from that contract went directly into his department's budget. In recent years, that revenue has shifted into the state's general fund.

It costs \$86 per person per day

to detain and/or transfer someone through the Greenfield facility, according to TRAC. Donelan noted in our conversation that the last adjustment made to their contract with ICE was concerning the fee they received from the federal agency.

Donelan said that, when the state absorbed the revenue associated with the ICE contract, he was told the Franklin facility's operating budget would be increased. That has yet to happen, and Donelan is currently seeking additional support from the state to provide resources to non-immigrant detainees being held awaiting trial, who he said he views as a higher priority than immigrant detainees, as they often are in immediate need of services such as detox.

**Reasons for Detention**

The sheriff's office runs inmates through a screening process that assesses their risk and makes determinations about what services would give them the tools they need "lead a normal life." While immigrant detainees are given access to all of the social, educational and mental health services offered to other inmates, Donelan said, they do not go through this initial screening process to match them with these services.

In part, Donelan said, this is due to a lack of resources to support immigrant detainees. But he also argued that they are not facing the same risks that other inmates face, particularly in regards to substance abuse, as they are likely to have committed their crimes for different reasons.

"I think sometimes you're going to find that your immigration population commits crimes, not

out of substance abuse, but out of desperation," he said. "Because they can't just stand up and say, 'I need this' – so that means maybe they have to steal it. They also need a Social Security card to get a job... Whatever the circumstances, it has more to do with the fact that they're afraid to just stand up and live a normal life because they're living in the shadows."

**Executive Orders**

In 2012, the Obama administration attempted to address immigration issues in part through an executive order called the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA. This program deferred deportation for people who came to the United States as children, and made them eligible for work permits.


President Donald Trump's "10 Point Plan to Put America First" outlines a plan to "immediately terminate President Obama's two illegal executive amnesties," referring to DACA as well as Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA), which has been held up by a 2015 injunction. It is unknown if executive orders will be signed this week to repeal these programs.

Trump had his first meeting with the Department of Homeland Security on Wednesday, during which he signed two executive orders. The first ordered the construction of a wall on the US-Mexico border, which he continued to say that he will make Mexico pay for, and the second announces plans to punish "sanctuary cities" – municipalities that refuse to report or detain undocumented immigrants – by strip-

ping them of federal grant funding. In addition to the aforementioned executive orders, Reuters reports that Trump is expected to place a temporary ban on most refugees seeking asylum, and suspend visas "for citizens of Syria and six other Middle Eastern and African countries."

Included in this week's activities is a ceremony to install the new Secretary of Homeland Security, retired Marine General John Kelly. During his confirmation hearing before the Senate, when asked about Trump's plan to build a wall, Kelly expressed that a "physical barrier will not do the job". He was quoted in the *New York Times* as having said, "It has to be a layered defense... If you build a wall, you would still have to back that wall up with patrolling by human beings, by sensors, by observation devices."

When asked to comment on national immigration policy, Sheriff Donelan was outspokenly critical. "The federal government has just failed the entire country by not coming up with a comprehensive immigration policy," he said. "And all these things, like sanctuary cities, are all spinoffs of the federal government not doing its job..."

"I hope the Congress and the President have the courage to stand up and make a comprehensive immigration policy that makes sense and is fair – fair for American citizens, and fair for people who want to immigrate here. Because we are a nation of immigrants, and it wouldn't be good for America to shutter its border. It's not good for America to have all these people living in limbo." 

**REFLECTION** from page A1  
 at the Deja Brew, Patti Scutari had told me she saw the hats as women taking charge and saying "You can't dis half the country by dismissing us as some object to grab at." She also said that people not able to march could participate and express support for women's rights by knitting and donating hats.

As I walked the capital with so many others, I realized our power as citizens – on taking the oath of office, Donald Trump became *our* employee, answerable to *us*.

**Why did I march?**

The March's official mission statement was broad: "We stand together with our partners and our children for the protection of our rights, our safety, our health, and our families – recognizing that our vibrant and diverse communities are the strength of our country."

Because the March organizers had a broad vision, we the people, we the marchers were invited to express our own messages. Creating the sash I wore meant pausing and thinking, "What actually matters to me? What do I care about enough to go in the streets and support publicly?"

It's a useful exercise for anyone with political opinions. One poster I saw in Washington said, "Too many causes, not enough words..."

On the back of my sash, I wrote "Free Speech/Free Press," dear to the

heart of even local reporters. On the front of my sash, I put an American flag, and the title "USA Values" and a series of buttons: Medicare for All, Uphold Roe v. Wade, Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ Rights, Address Climate Change, and Immigrants Make USA Greater.

My brother Chris, a Hillary-hating conservative who dislikes Trump, gave me advice on how to make my messages more visible.

**But, really, why did I march?**

I wanted to tell the new administration and Congress that I will oppose any attempts to restrict my constitutional rights, or to harm my family or my community. And, in the afterglow of the March, my family and community got a lot larger.

At 9:30 a.m., my sisters Mica, Roxy and T-Marie, niece Zara, brother-in-law Bob, and I got to 9th Street and Independence Avenue, as close as we could get to the official stage at 3rd Street and Independence for the 10 a.m. rally. The night before, we had all camped out at Roxy's house in Maryland, and in the morning, we took the Metro into DC. Sister Gerry and her daughter Bethany had traveled from Connecticut by bus, but, in the incredible crowds, we never saw them.

A Jumbotron and a terrible sound system at Independence gave our tightly-packed crowd an idea of what was happening on the stage. Some-

times we could hear the speaker's remarks; sometimes catch a word or two through the static; sometimes there was video without sound. Occasionally, the video cut out.

Zara, who left us to find friends on Independence, said they had no sound or any connection at all to the program on the stage. The speakers were inspiring and heartfelt: Get organized; go back home and get active; contact elected officials; stay connected; keep informed.

Sophie Cruz, a poised 7-year old Mexican-American girl whose parents are undocumented, brought us to tears speaking about her fear that her parents could be deported. "We are here together to make a chain of love to protect our families," she said. "Let us fight with love, faith and courage so our families will not be destroyed." Actress Scarlett Johansson spoke very personally about going to a Planned Parenthood clinic as a 15-year old for contraception information.

In a powerful moment, singer Janelle Monae sang "Hell You Talm-bout." (I had to check Wikipedia to find out that the title means "What the hell are you talking about?") and it protests police or security killings of black men.) She asked the mothers of Jordan Davis, Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Mohamed Dah and Dontre Hamilton, who were all onstage, to "say your baby's name," and the

crowd to respond: "Say his name!"

But, for a crowd that could hear only in snatches, the speaker list was too long. Around 2 p.m., after 4 hours of standing crammed together in the cold and mist, people on 9th Street started chanting "March! March! March!" After a while, there was a message from the stage that there were only a few more speakers, and the march would start soon.

Half an hour later, after more speakers, the "March! March! March!" chant started up again. Someone onstage responded that, yes, we would soon be marching, and that when we did start, people on numbered streets should proceed toward Pennsylvania Avenue. Then there were a lot more instructions that we couldn't hear.

The mass of us at 9th and Independence just started moving, a free-form march. We had no idea of what the official parade route was, but we were on our way. And we walked and walked, past those powerful buildings, along the inaugural parade route, past the inaugural bleachers, now filled with sign-holders and pink pussy-hatters.

My family group marched down Pennsylvania Avenue, but, unfamiliar with the city, veered off before getting to the White House. We wandered along the broad streets, with marchers everywhere, but we marchers didn't need an official route, we


were there in the seat of US power, and could send our message from anywhere in the city. The feeling was powerful, but the mood was mellow.

Back at the stage, there were more speakers – I heard that we missed Cher, Madonna, and Bernie Sanders. But the March was what we came for, and we were fired up enough already, we didn't need more people telling us what to do.

**After the March**

I read a comment from a black woman, who said that the March was peaceful, with no arrests, because it was a mostly white march – she said that with a majority-black march, police would have acted aggressively, and there would have been violence. A new way of looking at this peaceful March, something to take to heart and ponder.

My daughter's childhood friend, not heard from for years, posted on Facebook that my daughter's Senator, Susan Collins (R-Maine), might be persuaded to vote against an inappropriate cabinet choice. Knowing my daughter is only a sporadic Facebook user, I texted her to write to Collins, and she immediately agreed.

Opening your heart to other people's views, connecting to make our government work for us: That's how the March keeps marching. 


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## the poetry page

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

- William Carlos Williams

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

CHRISTOPHER CARMODY PHOTO

### Earthworks

most of the water body sulks  
unmoved above the dam  
the river leaves your favorite  
tree in white alone below the dam

until the sirens say  
fall down - reach  
until the tree in white  
receives the waterline

double crested cormorants sit  
above the dam on buoys  
turkey vultures wait  
below the dam on silos

### Grebes

A Landgrebe lives on land.  
It is not a bird.  
A grebe is a freshwater diving bird.  
It is not a duck.  
A Landgrebe may be German  
Maybe Swabian.  
A water grebe may  
visit the sea in winter.  
Landgrebe may mean ditch digger  
or it may mean judge of a high court.  
Both are expert divers.  
One is an actress.  
Grebes make floating nests  
and can swim at birth.  
The Landgrebes live in Michigan.  
Loons and grebes are not related.  
Typical voice  
usually silent unless  
grebe grebe  
grebe grebe grebe.  
The winter red-necked grebe  
is gray and dingy.  
Michigan is a rest stop  
for the horned grebe  
before winter feeding  
before later breeding.  
The least grebe  
remains easily overlooked  
and poorly understood  
as far south as Argentina.  
The Landgrebes live  
in Michigan year round  
concealing themselves  
right by the lake.

### Lesser and Greater

birds take  
what's left  
of the sky  
  
barbed winter  
  
it's the tension  
on the river  
  
in hand  
  
that is where  
your hands  
should be  
  
inconsolable  
in your coma  
  
you heard us  
the seventh time  
  
and used  
the standard  
signals to sleep  
  
young drakes  
fly drab  
in spring

### Rock Beach

I make contact  
with the surface

you leave  
I hug the door

I like sensation

you know  
a spell  
a name  
you name it

a pulse of light

to stay at sea  
to envy or pity  
the skin

I weigh the rock  
and the wave  
and my body

I name beauty  
you name meaning

I hold on  
to the onshore buoys

I bind the air

### To Be a Habitat

It is spring.  
The pool is temporary.  
If a male wood frog squeezes  
another male wood frog by accident  
the squeezed wood frog  
makes a different sound.  
Wrong frog, they say.  
This happens only in a vernal pool.  
The other pools persist.

It is temporary.  
It is spring.  
Right sperm, she says.

The female spotted salamanders  
appear to swim around  
getting pregnant.  
Wrong frog, they say  
but right spermatophore, she says  
eyeing deposits  
on the sunken leaves.  
This is observed  
in the area of congressing  
to an audience I am not.

It is a habitat.  
It is spring.  
For the fairy shrimp  
reproduction is a recipe.  
First dry the eggs.  
Then re-submerge.  
Then the wind takes  
them and maybe caution.  
It is right in the mud.  
These are the indicators.

### Return to the River

return to the river  
to the rain pocks on the river  
move back to the ocean  
to the scar circles submerged

females return to the river  
the alarm code  
is sweet and true

give up on the current  
move to the salt  
float with the fat ocean  
remember the river

males return to the river  
they broadcast spawn  
hold on

smell home  
forget food  
return to the river  
turbid relief

no one knows  
if straying is accidental  
return to any tributary

however the return to the river  
many die year 1  
half of how many  
move to the ocean

after another  
return to the river  
spawn however year 4

so close to the mouth  
waves erase the river  
every surface injured

go back  
the rain pocks the air  
forget to breathe  
return to the river

We are pleased to present recent work by Janel Nockleby in this month's Poetry page. Janel was the Reporter's poetry co-editor from 2009 until 2012, and to our knowledge, never once published any of her work on this page.

We are happy to rectify this omission this month with the publication of this fine set of poems. Janel lives in Turners Falls, works at the Great Falls Discovery Center, and earned an MFA in poetry from UMass-Amherst.

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

# School Roof Study Goes Forward

By MIKE JACKSON

At their Monday night meeting, Gill's selectboard met with school district officials to chew over a strategy for replacing the Gill Elementary School roof. The deadline to send a statement of intent to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), which might reimburse the district three-quarters of the project's cost, is February 17. Though there is a chance the town might have to pay for it, the board voted to approve a feasibility study, which would be required for any roof project.

Gill-Montague superintendent Michael Sullivan and business director Joanne Blier were on hand, as were school committee members Sandy Brown and Valeria "Timmie" Smith, treasurer-collector Ronnie LaChance, and Claire Chang, who serves with both Smith and LaChance on the finance committee.

Besides the roof, the district is hoping the town of Gill will make two other improvements to the building in the 2018 fiscal year, which begins in July: an upgrade to the main electrical panels and switches, at an estimated cost of \$40,000, and a new coat of epoxy on the kitchen floor, which may cost \$13,000.

"That number seems to have skyrocketed," noted selectboard member Randy Crochier, of the floor sealant.

"Right - we were thinking about doing it in-house, but we just don't have the maintenance staff," said Blier. Three years ago, the district reduced its maintenance staff from four to two people.

The administration's best guesses for the cost of an elementary school roof are around \$600,000 for a replacement asphalt roof, with an expected lifetime of 25 years, or something "closer to \$1 million" for a standing-seam metal roof expected to last a half century. MSBA is predicted to be willing to reimburse around three-quarters of a replacement, but might fall short of that ratio for an improvement; further complicating matters, once the district applies, if it backs out it may never re-apply.

Gill residents must ultimately approve any spending at town meeting, though the district can borrow for the project, seek reimbursement, and assess the rest to the town. If MSBA were to approve the project this summer, the next year would be spent on study and design, the town could approve the project spring 2018, construction finish the following summer, and payment begin in 2020.

On Monday, the board faced a decision to move forward with a feasibility study, which could cost the town around \$7,500 - assuming reimbursement from MSBA - or \$30,000, if the town withdraws from the MSBA-supervised process.

Selectboard chair John Ward expressed preference for a longer-lasting metal roof, and mentioned that the town of Deerfield recently saved a considerable amount of money on an elementary school roof project "not through the normal channels."

Selectboard member Greg Snedeker wondered whether public money would even be as available in the future. "If we lose federal funding to the states, for whatever reason, then they're going to look at whatever things they can cut," he said.

Member Randy Crochier reasoned that the school needed a new roof, in any case, and that a feasibility study will be necessary.

In the end, the board voted to give the district the go-ahead to move forward on the project's first steps, though Smith voiced concerns that the town was committing to spending, of one sort or another, without town meeting approval. "You're getting in awful deep before you get approval to go ahead," she said.

**Priorities**

The board reviewed, and approved, answers drafted by town administrative assistant Ray Purington to a survey from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) about what sort of technical assistance the town desires.

Under the category of "planning projects," Purington prioritized updating Gill's open space and recreation plan, which expires next year; support around the hydroelectric project relicensing; bylaws regarding recreational marijuana retail zoning; and a wellhead protection plan.

Ward asked why the relicensing, which affects the Northfield Mountain pumped storage project and Turners Falls dam, wasn't listed as top priority. Purington said he reasoned it was a regional priority, unlikely to fall of the FRCOG's radar.

Ward worried that only Northfield, Erving, Gill and Montague might advocate for it to be prioritized.

"You might be underestimating a couple of the towns south of that dam," said Crochier. "It's important to Greenfield. I think it's important to Deerfield and Sunderland."

Under "regional projects," Purington ranked workshops for local officials; facilitating discussion about installing suicide prevention barriers at the French King Bridge; the opioid taskforce; and public health nursing.

Crochier said he had "issues" with the amount of money being spent on the opioid crisis. "I believe people with allergies are also important," he said, "and the cost of getting EpiPens is outrageous, but we're not doing anything about that."

The board discussed what FRCOG could bring to the table, regarding the bridge safety improvements.

"They might be able to facilitate meetings that don't seem to happen," said Crochier. "The only one it doesn't seem to affect is my state rep... I'd like to have a conversation with her someday."

"I've had more conversations with her than you," said Snedeker, who last year discovered a body washed up behind his Riverside home.

"If you've had one, you've had more than me," replied Crochier.

A final category concerned projects for the state governor's community compact. Gill listed the development of employee policies; an information technology assessment and backup; various "energy and environment" issues; and ADA accessibility as top priorities for assistance through the compact.

**Record-Keeping**

Progress is being made toward publishing the town's backlog of annual reports, with the FY'11, FY'12, and FY'13 reports awaiting final de-

**MONTAGUE** from page A1

McNeely also asked for approval of the nurse's job description, which created a good deal of confusion, since McNeely said the description has not changed despite highlights on the printed copy given to the board. The request was put on hold, pending review by McNeely and the town administrator.

**Culture Sought**

Town planner Walter Ramsey came before he board to request that downtown Turners Falls once again apply for the a designation as a "cultural district," which makes it eligible for certain grants. Ramsey was joined by Suzanne LoManto, director of RiverCulture, the town's program to organize and promote cultural events in the village.

Ramsey told the board that the state had created the "cultural district" designation back in 2011. There are just over 30 such districts in the state, including sections of Greenfield and Shelburne Falls obtaining the status. Montague applied in 2011, but was rejected.

Ramsey said the town "didn't make the cut because we were looking for too big a district." The center of the new proposed district will be Avenue A and Third Street, with the east-west axis from the Gill bridge to the Carnegie Library and a central line from the Third Street parking lot to Unity Park running north and south. This constitutes a five-minute walk from the central intersection.

He also stressed the improvements in the area, including Unity Skate Park and the Shea Theater renovations, since 2011.

LoManto talked about the process that created the new application, including "fantastic input" from a January 11 public meeting. Town administrator Steve Ellis agreed that the district would create a "focus of dialogue within the community." Ramsey said various stakeholders, including representatives of the Shea Theater and the Discovery Center, would be meeting on a quarterly basis to "oversee" the evolution of the district.

The board voted to approve the application.

**Hunting Farm Conserved**

Jamie Pottern, a land conservation specialist from the Mount Grace Land Trust, then joined Ramsey to discuss a proposed conservation restrict on a piece of farm land on East Chestnut Hill Road. The restriction, which limits development on the property to preserve farm land, would be granted by the owner, William L. Hunting, to Montague and the Mount Grace Trust.

Ramsey told the *Reporter* that a key part of the restriction is that it

limits subdivision of the farm into smaller home lots.

The property is part of a larger "green belt" being planned by Mount Grace that extends from the Connecticut River in Millers Falls, through Wendell, to the Quabbin Reservoir region. Most of the properties that will obtain conservation restrictions are in Wendell, but another agreement involving land in the Mormon Hollow section of Montague and Wendell will be coming before the Montague selectboard soon.

The board unanimously approved the grant of the conservation restriction, which applies to 81.51 acres.

The board granted the Berkshire Brewing Company one-day liquor licenses to serve alcohol at the Shea Theater during four events in February. The approval was accompanied by the usual comments expressing that these would be the final applications for one-day licenses for the Shea. Chair Rich Kuklewicz explained that the town would soon receive a regular beer and wine license "for the venue," eliminating the need for one-day requests.

Next at the front table was police chief Chip Dodge, who requested that the status of temporary full-time officer Jamal Holland be changed to reserve officer. The reason, according to Dodge, is that police officers were returning from the police academy, and a planned retirement "had not occurred yet."

"When [the retirement] happens, what's the likelihood of Jamal being available to us?" asked Kuklewicz.

"He really wants to work for us, and I really want him to work for us... I'm hoping nobody takes him from us," said Dodge. The board approved his request.

**The Return of Sludge**

Town administrator Steve Ellis requested the board execute an agreement with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District. The agreement allows the waste district to continue to oversee Montague's processing of "sludge" from other districts, at the rate of \$36 per ton.

This means that the town has received the "Montague process," allowing it to absorb sludge from other towns for a fee. The process has been on hold for the past six months due to staff changes at the plant and concerns expressed by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The DEP has ordered a third party review of the issue, but this must be conducted while the process is up and running.

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**Ageing in Place**

Ellis gave updates on the Railroad Salvage and Strathmore buildings. He said that the emergency demolition at Railroad Salvage, approved by the state court, had come in at \$5,000, considerably under budget. The reason, according to Ellis, was that the job "did not require much effort by the building excavator."

"It was pretty dramatic when the excavator touched part of a tower and the whole building collapsed," said Rich Kuklewicz.

With regard to the Strathmore, Ellis noted that the town is under an order from the state fire marshal to secure the building. Town staff have already boarded several of "the most obvious entry points," and the police department has increased its patrols in the area. The company Turners Falls Hydro will notify the town when its employees are in the part of the building it owns.

Town officials have been working to prepare a scope of work for a contractor to implement the upgrades required by the state fire marshal, and presumably funded by special town meeting. "David has been out this week so there has been a bit of a hiccup, but we are getting positioned to get that bid out," said Ellis, referring to building inspector David Jensen.

**Other Business**

Ellis then requested that March 2 be set as a date for a special town meeting, the main purpose of which will be to consider an appropriation to comply with the State Fire Marshall's demands to secure the Strathmore Mill complex. Warrant articles must be submitted by February 7, and the selectboard must sign the warrant at its meeting on February 13.

The board then set a deadline of March 13 at 4 p.m. for submission of articles for Montague's annual town meeting, which will be held May 16.

The board also added snow dates to future agendas: the Tuesdays following each Monday meeting, until the end of March.

It then approved a contract with Rowena Rantanen to "transcribe" minutes of the Montague selectboard at \$14 per hour. The contract would not exceed \$3,864 during the current fiscal year.

Rantanen, who has done this work for the town before, will not be a regular town employee. Ellis stated the contract would allow executive assistant Wendy Bogusz to focus on "higher order" activities.

The board then adjourned to executive sessions involving litigation and collective bargaining. The next scheduled meeting will be on January 30.



tails and fact-checking. Greg Snedeker has been volunteering his time to help compile and proofread the reports, and offered to put more time into the project in the summer, "if I get re-elected." "You just clinched your re-election," joked Ward, and Crochier asked if that meant Snedeker wouldn't volunteer for the work if he weren't elected. The selectboard and Purington discussed whether it made sense to retroactively include dedications with each report. "Have those been chosen?" asked Snedeker. "Generally, it's sort of the same thought process that seems to happen," said Purington. "What, of significance, happened during that year;

was there someone clearly responsible for it? Was there a key retirement, or longstanding person stepping down from a committee? And then, was there a significant Gill figure that passed away?"

Snedeker suggested that the reports could skip dedication pages, but then talk turned to taking the opportunity to honor deceased residents, including Allan Adie and Tony Matthews, and retirees such as Ann Banash.

**Other Business**

The town will soon be sending a permit application to the state Department of Environmental Protection with revised schematics for the planned drinking water treatment

system at Gill Elementary.

The agreement for the town's new CodeRED emergency alert system has been signed, and Purington and emergency manager Gene Beaubien will be working to implement the system, which allows residents to register for text or email notifications. "Residents should be on the lookout, in the soon timeframe," Purington warned, for a press release to be issued on the subject.

Isaac Bingham was appointed to the cultural council, and Mitchell Waldron, now a junior firefighter, was appointed as firefighter, contingent on the results of a physical exam, effective the day of his 18th birthday.

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**ERVING** from page A1

Boyden. "We won't have a country club."

Finance committee member Daniel Hammock said that, with the Northfield Mountain Project paying 85% of town taxes, residential taxpayers would pay for only about 10% of the cost of the building. He said that townspeople would decide whether they wanted a new library or not, but that if they want one, "financially, it looks like a good thing to do."

Boyden said the building committee is pursuing an additional US Department of Agriculture grant of \$25,000 to \$50,000. Library director Barbara Friedman said the Friends of the Library are committed to raising \$50,000 in donations for the new building.

Boyden said that more information was needed to determine the effect of a new library on residential taxes, but that every additional \$200,000 in spending would add approximately \$0.15 per \$1,000 of value for residential taxpayers. The amount that the town would borrow for the building has not yet been determined.

According to the timeline in the grant application, if approved at town meeting and if the MBLC approves the grant in July 2017, the new library could open in spring 2019.

Fin com and selectboard members asked the building committee to prepare estimates of the potential costs for operating a new building, if it is built.

**Proposed Budgets**

The selectboard and finance committee approved the Union 28 school district's request of \$2,905,200 for Erving Elementary School for FY'18, an increase of 2.27% over the current year.

"Outside of salaries," said selectboard member Scott Bastarache, "that's as close to level-funded as you can get."

Principal James Trill said that some line items based on enrollment may change, and that more accurate figures would be available in March, before the annual town meeting warrant is finalized.

The two boards also approved the library's FY'18 budget request of \$69,125, an increase of 4.7%. Library trustee Mackensy Bailey said that the trustees took out a previous request for a 14-hour per week

assistant, but had increased substitute hours.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith said, "I appreciate your going back through it and bringing it down."

Hammock said, "I hear no negative feedback about the library. You're doing a good job." He said that, although the increase over FY'17 was 4.7%, in absolute terms it amounted to only \$3,121.

**Special Town Meeting**

The board approved a warrant for a special town meeting.

Articles for the meeting include transfers of money, from the town's free cash account unless otherwise noted: \$10,000 for speed monitoring equipment at Church and North Streets; \$15,000 for voting check-in devices; \$50,000 for hazardous material cleanup at the former IP Mill; \$60,000 for repairing and replacing siding at the town hall; \$20,750 for updating the Open Space and Recreation Plan; \$15,000 for conducting a feasibility study at the former IP Mill; \$2,000 for formalizing the layout of Care Drive; \$14,448.08 for 2016 lighting upgrades at POTW#1; \$4,804 from the highway truck and plow fund for a sander; \$993.19 for town offices expenses; and \$4,525 from the Wastewater Retained Earnings fund for POTW#1 loan fees.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the senior and community center on Monday, February 6.

**Other Business**

The board approved a drug and alcohol policy, prohibiting employee use of these items and listing the procedures and criteria for mandatory drug or alcohol testing.

It continued review of the cell phone policy, for employees who use cell phones as part of their work for the town.

The board will schedule a meeting with Franklin Regional Council of Governments, environmental and engineering consultant Tighe & Bond, state economic development agency MassDevelopment, and the planning board to discuss the feasibility study for the former IP Mill, with tentative dates of February 7, 8 or 22.




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That warms us like your smile  
And your voice is still the one we hear  
As we chat with you a while*

*You're still here in your precious son  
You'll always look like Dad  
You're still the selfless heart of gold  
So many wish they had*

*You're still in every thought of ours  
Our guardian angel above  
You're the one we'll always have with us  
And who will always have our love.*

Mom, Dad & Melissa, Jeremy, Mary Rose, Sebastian, Anthony, Emily, Damien, Owen, Ayleanna, Sue, Tim, Roxanne, Iris, and Gemma

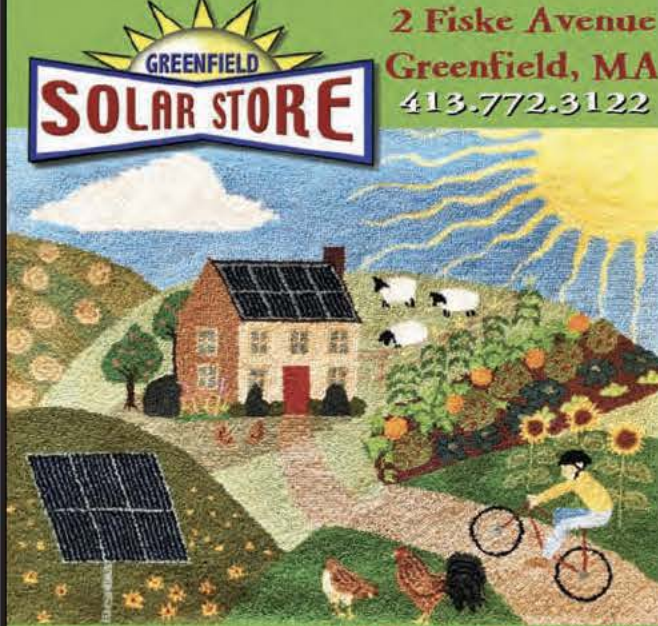
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# MoRe

## The Week in TFHS Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

This week marked the midpoint of the high school winter sports season as the Turners Falls sports teams jockeyed for position in their individual conferences. The boys' basketball team went 2-0, outscoring their opponents by 47 points. The ice hockey team scored early in their contests, but lost both games. The girls' swim team outscored their opponents by 52 points, but split their two meets; and the girls' hoop team improved to 7-4; and the boys' swim team came up even in their two meets.

Also this week, Western Mass All stars were selected for fall sports.

### Girls Basketball

TFHS 52 – Pope Francis 32  
TFHS 49 – Pioneer 41

On Wednesday, January 18, the Turners Falls Lady Indians defeated the Pope Francis Cardinals by 20 points, 52-32. Powertown stormed out to a 17-point halftime lead and never looked back. Maddy Chmyzinski led the Tribe with 21 points, popping in five foul shots, five field goals, and two 3-pointers. Emma Miner also hit double digits with 10 points, sinking four from the floor and two from the line. Kylie Fleming scored 6 points, Abby Loynd had 5, both Taylor Murphy and Chloe Ellis put up 4, and Aliyah Sanders hit a 2-pointer.

On Friday, January 20, the Lady Indians defeated Pioneer 49-41. The win moves Powertown into sole possession of second place in the Franklin South Conference, a full game ahead of Pioneer. Turners held a thin 2-point lead after a



Turners' Tionne Brown goes up for a shot as Athol's Isaac Raulston defends.

quarter, 16-14, but increased the margin to 5 at the half, 25-20.

Pioneer made it a 4-point game, 35-31 after three, but the Indians outscored Pioneer 14-10 in the fourth, giving the Tribe an 8-point victory, 49-41.

Chmyzinski scored a season-high 26 points, banking in four 3-pointers, four 2s, and six from the foul line. Fleming got 11 points off three 2-pointers, two free throws and a 3. Loynd also hit a 3, and ended with 5

see TFHS SPORTS page B4

## Five Lessons on Life from the Sober Sous Chef



Nicholas Damkoehler receives cooking and life lessons from his father Eric.

By ERIC DAMKOEHLER

**TURNERS FALLS** – At four years old, my youngest son is hard-headed, stubborn and defies parental law. This may transfer to a prosperous career cooking – behind bars.

He gets up first thing in the morning and slices his own apples. The first time was frightening for two reasons: he could hurt himself; and the second, terrifying fact that he might love food and cooking enough to become, someday, a professional chef.

Not to say my career cooking hasn't provided the very apples he cuts – in ample supply, no less. Contrary to my harsh, jaded and often disgruntled writings about life in an apron, I have been fortunate to realize financial comfort, a stable family life, and a position in a restaurant that allows me to exercise the nagging creative half of my otherwise logical and realist brain.

Still, cooking in a commercial kitchen is a job reserved for people with a high threshold for pain, stress and self-sacrifice. I would consider myself a failure as a father if I don't pass down that wisdom to my sweet children.

If they're anything like me, they won't hear a word of it until it's too late. My father bestowed plenty of wisdom on me, most of which I ignored. When my adult life started, I was so entrenched in the restaurant business that it became like a father to me. It's teaching me, often the hard way, the following life lessons that I'd be lost without.

**1. You get more bees with honey, and that goes great in tea when you're not feeling well. But you work through it, you suck it up and give it all you've got.**

There's a machismo exchange every time someone calls out of work. When the phone rings and the manager is called to answer it, and he

comes back with a look of frustrated disappointment, and the early shift cooks are re-stocking for the night rush, they all know. Inevitably one of them is asked to stay, and the rest of them compare how many times they've called out in however many years they've been working.

The fact is, everyone does get sick. Everyone has to call out at some point or another. Not everyone remembers; I've only called out four times in my life. For professional cooks, the reason is never the common cold, but rather DUIs, fights, childbirth, court custody battle, etc.

I learned that you get more bees with honey, and bee stings are not a valid excuse to call out of work. I learned to be tough – to be stupidly tough.

**2. If you want something, ask for it. Ask nicely, please.**

"I haven't had a raise in three years," a cook once told me. He went on to say that when he started working, he wasn't getting paid the agreed sum from his hire.

"You asked for a raise?" I questioned.

"I'm going to now, this is getting ridiculous."

He allowed himself to fall through the crack of a small restaurant. In larger restaurants, and institutional settings, there are few owners and managers who just offer raises unsolicited. If you want a raise, a day off for your pal's wedding, or if your paycheck bounces, ask.

If you need a bag of spinach, say, "Will you please get me a bag of spinach from the walk-in?" Don't say, "Get me spinach, you imbecile!" You'll get spinach either way, but the former will probably mean the cook will still be there in three years, getting you spinach.

see LESSONS page B6

### BOOK REVIEW

## The Origins of College Indian Mascots

By JEFF SINGLETON

Jennifer Guiliano's study of the origins of Indian mascots, *Indian Spectacle: College Mascots and the Anxiety of Modern America* (Rutgers University Press, 2015), features an account of the introduction of Chief Illiniwek, the University of Illinois mascot, to fans at a Illinois-Pennsylvania football game in 1926.

Illiniwek, in a full Plains Indian headdress, led the college's band on to the field at halftime. The band played "Hail Pennsylvania" while Illiniwek, actually a white U of Illinois student named Lester Leutwiler, saluted the UPenn fans in a show of sportsmanship.

Following performances by both schools' bands – and a "frenzied" war dance by Illiniwek – Leutwiler and another Illinois student playing Pennsylvania's 17th century founder William Penn shared a catlinite "peace pipe." They then "left the field arm in arm."

Guiliano suggests that the University of Illinois was "ground zero," in



the words of Indian cultural historian Philip Deloria, in the development of college Indian mascots. She traces the origins of Illiniwek and other mascots to a movement among Progressive reformers at the turn of the century to train young white boys in the rituals, dances, and skills of Indians. The goal, she argues, was to "remind young men that the roots of American life were not in modern cities but instead in a more natural preindustrial world."

The author stresses the role of Thomas Seton Hall's Woodcraft Indians, a national organization formed in 1903 to reform delinquent youth by teaching them Indian song, skills and rituals. She also describes the activities of Ralph Hubbard, who taught Indian dance to young white youth at his camp in Colorado.

Both Hall and Hubbard strongly see GIULIANO page B4



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

## WEST ALONG THE RIVER

### Good-Bye, Old Paint

By DAVID BRULE

**ERVINGSIDE** – Some of you are old enough to remember that western song of generations ago about a cowboy leaving Cheyenne. That refrain popped into my head last month. I wasn't thinking about a horse named Old Paint, and I wasn't leaving Cheyenne, but I was saying good-bye to a faithful old automobile and, in a way, to a part of our youth, back when times were simpler.

Last month the moment came to sell a powerful and beautiful, even iconic, automobile that served as our magic carpet, which carried us through a land of once-upon-a-time and far away: *La Belle France*.

Starting in the '70s, we spent school vacations in Paris and Brittany, visiting family. Back then, a fabled French automobile called the DS 20, built by Citroën, came into our lives. The model name, DS, is pronounced *day-ess*, exactly like the French word for goddess (*déesse*). Clever marketing, *hein?*

My father-in-law, a retired French businessman, owned this car, which was the luxury vehicle of choice for the upper bourgeoisie in the post-war era of Charles de Gaulle.

An aerodynamic, tear-drop shaped auto, it represented the top

of the line in French engineering and sophistication of the time. It wasn't blunt, long, wide and loaded with fins like the American Cadillac. The Citroën DS had wind-swept lines, broad in front and smaller behind, its shape designed to glide through the air rather than plow through it.

It had an avant-garde look, and fascinating hydraulics: once you turned the key, you had to pause while the DS literally rose up from a low-slung resting position. First the front lifted up on seeming air suspension, then the rear quarters rose in turn to give the privileged riders inside a lighter-than-air sensation. The plush interior, with thick foam seats covered in what seemed like red velvet, added to comfort enveloping the passengers.

All French cars of the time were stick-shift, but this one was an innovative semi-automatic: one shifted from park to drive, using a lever on the steering post, then just stepped on the mushroom-shaped accelerator to sally forth.

When we pulled out from the curb, it felt like the stately Queen Mary leaving the quay, moving gracefully and majestically out into traffic.

My father-in-law, a dapper and dignified gentleman of the *vieille France* style, had served in World see WEST ALONG page B3



The author's DS 20, on its farewell tour.



# Pet of the Week

Hi I'm Razz! I have had a rough life so far. I broke my leg in my wilder days so now I am more restful than zestful. I love being brushed! I am FIV+ which stands for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus. FIV is not contagious to humans, so you have nothing to worry about, but Razz would prefer a quiet home. He has soft, luscious fur. He has a big sweet purr and is litter box trained. He may

hiss, but he would never intentionally hurt you. He loves food.

He is a very, very calm cat who loves to nap and be petted. He just needs a home to blossom into his sweet loving self. Consider welcoming this gentle giant into your home and heart.

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



**"RAZZ"**

## Senior Center Activities JANUARY 30 to FEBRUARY 3

### GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center will be closed 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](mailto:COA@montague-ma.gov). Please feel free to call if you have any questions.

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday exercise classes (aerobics 10 a.m. and chair 10:45 a.m.) will be held at the Montague Elks. 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](mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us).

Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free).

Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

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

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

### Monday 1/30

9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones

### Tuesday 1/31

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Knitting

### Wednesday 2/1

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs  
1 p.m. Veteran's Guide

### Thursday 2/2

8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
11:30 p.m. Brown Bag

### Friday 2/3

9 a.m. Quilting Workshop  
9:30 a.m. Bowling  
12:30 p.m. New Program (call)

### 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.



Police, firefighters, teachers, students and community members all braved the buzzer to raise funds for the challenge.

### By RICHARD WIDMER

**TURNERS FALLS** – Much self-conscious laughter and excitement filled Sheffield Elementary School's auditorium last week as students, parents and faculty joined together in support of the One Mission Buzz-Off for Cancer project. In a show of solidarity for kids with cancer who do not have a choice but to lose their hair, fifty students bravely took the auditorium stage and had their heads buzzed bald!

Sheffield students, joined by several students from Turners Falls High School, exceeded their \$10,000 fundraising goal, to date raising \$13,769, to bring help, hope and comfort to

kids fighting cancer during their treatment and hospitalization.

Sheffield's number one fundraiser, Jack Trombi, said that he was nervous because it was a really big audience. He explained his motivation: "I just wanted to do it because it is a rough time for these children and their families."

The Buzz-Off for Cancer event at Sheffield brought the community together in a very unique way. Sheffield second-grader Dimitri Conway, whose leukemia is in remission, was on hand to cheer on participants. Jordan Carboneau and Electra Manley were joined by two cosmetology students from Franklin County Tech to shave each head bare.

Firefighters from both Turners Falls and Greenfield showed up to have their already closely-cropped heads shorn clean. After-school activity coordinator Christine Bates said goodbye to hair ties and her long silver-blond mane. TFHS Principal Annie Leonard and teacher Jessica Vachula-Curtis have committed to docking their locks later this week to show their support.

Rumor has it that if Sheffield wins this Buzz-Off challenge, the school will be visited by New England Patriot Rob Gronkowski. Donations to this worthy cause can be received until February 5, by visiting [www.onemissionbuzzoff.org/sheffieldpride](http://www.onemissionbuzzoff.org/sheffieldpride).

## Sign Up to Send Love

**TURNERS FALLS** – Help alleviate feelings of loneliness and isolation experienced by elderly community members this February! Help make Valentine's Day cards for LifePath clients in Franklin County and the North Quabbin region as part of the annual Love Letters for Elders campaign.

According to research from the University of California San Francisco, 18 percent of elders live alone, and 43 percent feel lonely on a regular basis. The winter months can be an especially difficult time, with problems like freezing temperatures, limited transportation, and a lack of regular social interactions leaving many individuals feeling isolated.

LifePath (formerly Franklin County Home Care) is seeking to partner with local schools, after school programs, youth groups, and nursing homes to create these valentines for their clients. LifePath hopes to match the number of valentines that were donated during last year's campaign. They received over 1,000 valentines in 2016, which were distributed to Meals on Wheels clients and residents at the Farren Care Center in Turners Falls.

Contributing to the Love Letters campaign is a way of showing care and appreciation to LifePath clients throughout the Franklin County and the North Quabbin region. Valentine's Day cards can be mailed to: Marcus Chiaretto, LifePath, Inc., 330 Montague City Road, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

The deadline for submitting Valentine's Day cards to LifePath is Friday, February 3.

If you know of a group that would like to partici-



Lillian Drozdowski of Wendell was one of many LifePath clients to receive a handmade valentine during the Love Letters campaign in 2016.

pate in the 2017 Love Letters for Elders campaign, or if you would like more information about the campaign, please contact Marcus Chiaretto by phone at (413) 773-5555 x 2304, or email [mchiaretto@LifePathMA.org](mailto:mchiaretto@LifePathMA.org).

For those who are unable to contribute valentines but would still like to offer support to elders, people with disabilities and their caregivers, please contact Lisa Middents, development manager at LifePath, at (413) 773-5555 x 2225 or [lmiddents@LifePathMA.org](mailto:lmiddents@LifePathMA.org).

As an added bonus, young people who sign up at [dosomething.org/loveletters](http://dosomething.org/loveletters) and include proof of their participation in the campaign will be eligible to win a \$3,000 scholarship!

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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

# Library Assault; Ice Balls; Stuck Truck; And... What's With That Final Entry?

**Tuesday, 1/10**  
1:10 p.m. Caller from James Avenue reports that a blue pickup truck pulled up outside of their house; a man got out, went to the back of the house, and started taking pictures. Vehicle has since left, but residents would like an officer to respond. Investigated.

**Wednesday, 1/11**  
4:29 a.m. Burglar alarm near flume area doors at Silvio O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center. Dispatch advised alarm company that MPD has no access to property, so a keyholder will have to respond. No keyholder responding. Investigated.

4:12 p.m. Caller observed two subjects inside the fenced-in area on Power Street taking photographs and standing on a pile of rubble throwing bricks. Responding officer spoke with parties, who were photography students looking to find places to take pictures in the area. Parties moved along.

4:29 p.m. Caller states that she found a needle in the community garden but took it upon herself to pick it up, seal it in a bottle, and throw it in a trash can on Fourth Street. Officer advised.

10:09 p.m. Caller from Central Street states that a man dressed in all black is standing across the street with his dog; when she went outside, he was staring at her, and it made her feel uncomfortable. Male did not speak to her or touch her; only stared from a distance. Officer advised.

10:41 p.m. Caller states that her 65 year old mother called her and stated that she could hear footsteps in her home. Officer responded; house clear; nothing found.

**Thursday, 1/12**  
9:20 a.m. Abandoned 911 call from Great Falls Middle School behavioral room. Officer spoke with guidance counselor; accidental activation.

2:21 p.m. Call received on behalf of a patron at Carnegie Library who wants to report that she was pushed down by a known female. Caller did not have any further information due to a communication barrier with the victim. No apparent injuries requiring medical attention. Officer spoke with victim, who will contact MPD tomorrow if she wants to pursue charges. Report taken.

3:32 p.m. Caller from Greenfield Road states that people have been speeding in the area; requests extra patrols.

**Monday, 1/16**  
9:26 a.m. Caller from G

Street would like to speak with an officer about ice balls that were thrown at her house last night. Officer left message.

9:54 a.m. FirstLight employee discovered that somebody had been inside one of their bays last night in an area that can only be accessed by walking on the ice on the river. Highly dangerous. Some damage found; fixed already. Investigated.

6:51 p.m. Report of a runaway out of Gill. Child picked up.  
7:47 p.m. Gill PD requesting assistance serving a harassment prevention order. Services rendered.

**Tuesday, 1/17**  
9:11 p.m. Multiple calls about an 18 wheeler that appears to be stuck on a hill on Millers Falls Road. Tractor trailer was able to continue on; officers canceled en route.

wouldn't get a ticket.  
7:26 a.m. Caller from Park Street reports that an intoxicated female entered her residence 10 minutes ago and began taking things. Prior to entering caller's home, female entered caller's roommate's vehicle. Caller is not home at this time but was alerted by roommate. Officers on scene. Female gave false ID, identified herself as her sister, and advised she was staying with her aunt who lives in town. Through databases and making contact with female's aunt, her real identity was determined.

██████████ was arrested on six default warrants and also charged with breaking and entering for misdemeanor; disorderly conduct; malicious destruction of property under \$250; larceny under \$250;

ond vehicle registered to same owner also revoked. Summons issued.

12:35 p.m. Caller reports that a customer came in advising of a possible rabid raccoon in a field at North Leverett Road and Federal Street. Animal control officer advised and en route.

4:03 p.m. Two 911 calls reporting vehicle into tree on Greenfield Road. First caller advised she witnessed erratic operation prior to accident. Second caller confirms injuries, reports that patient has blood on his face and is out of the vehicle. Officers and TFFD advised; second caller conferenced with MedCare. Immediate threat will be filed.

4:41 p.m. Report of subject on ice by the rocks and dam below the Gill-Montague Bridge. Subject did not appear to be in distress, but caller observed the ice to be broken in that area and did not believe that the ice was stable/safe. TFFD and officer advised. Confirmed subject was not in distress. Clear, no further action needed.

**Saturday, 1/21**  
9:51 a.m. High school coach wants to speak with officer re: threatening text messages. Report taken.

2:34 p.m. Report of hit and run accident on Avenue A. Report taken. State police notified to be on lookout.

4:17 p.m. Caller states that he is disabled and his neighbors keep throwing their cigarettes over the fence into his yard. Caller states that he has asked neighbors politely to pick up cigarettes, but they have yet to do so. Officer spoke to neighbors, who agreed to pick up cigarettes in yard tomorrow.

11:51 p.m. State police out with two-car collision at Avenue A and Third Street; requesting police, fire, and EMS. Occupants trapped; jaws being used to extricate. TFFD advises that FRTA's bus structure is severely damaged. Citation issued to one operator; one party transported by MedCare.

**Sunday, 1/22**  
2:18 p.m. Report of fight happening in hallway at Powertown Apartments; caller reports that it sounds like 3 or 4 people are yelling and punching each other. Gone on arrival; officers spoke with several witnesses who confirmed that parties had moved along.

7:55 p.m. Caller states that a vehicle was driving very slowly in the area and just pulled up to Scotty's and let a "large dark man" out of the vehicle; caller finds this suspicious. Officer advised.



*On Saturday, a two-car collision in downtown Turners Falls resulted in the destruction of this Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) bus stop. One party was transported by MedCare. We reached out to FRTA administrator Tina Cote to find out what would happen to the wrecked stop "We don't have more details than you," she told us. "We do know that it's going to take several months for it to be replaced, given that we have to wait for an insurance company to look into it - and also because just even ordering them brand new off the shelf, it takes them several months to get here."*

**Wednesday, 1/18**  
6:34 a.m. Report of single vehicle accident (car into tree) at the crossover; two occupants out of vehicle with injuries. Officers, MCFD, and MedCare en route.

9:24 a.m. Car into utility pole at First Street and Unity Street. No injuries. Officers, TFFD, and Eversource advised. DPW contacted for salt/sand for First Street.

**Thursday, 1/19**  
1:24 a.m. Officer checking on a vehicle parked parallel but not in a parking spot for several minutes at Avenue A and Second Street. Operator was trying to find a place to park for the night so he

larceny from building; obstruction of justice; and seven counts of breaking and entering into a motor vehicle for misdemeanor.  
7:30 a.m. Multiple reports and instances of motor vehicles being entered overnight on Unity Street and Davis Street; items taken. Investigated.

10:30 p.m. Caller from Ramblers Club reporting being stuck on a snowbank. Officers gave him numbers for tow companies. He will call back if he needs further assistance.

**Friday, 1/20**  
11:03 a.m. Motor vehicle stop at Griswold Street and Turners Falls Road; plate status shows revoked registration. Sec-

**WEST ALONG** from page B1  
War I as a courier and runner between the trenches in what the French call the "War of 14-18". He was at the battles of Verdun and the Argonne, and was lucky to have survived. When he was in the mood, he often told us tales of those times that made our blood run cold.

His father had been a friend of Gustave Eiffel, and as a child, father-in-law had actually visited the Eiffel Tower with Monsieur Eiffel. That certainly gave him special status in our eyes, as did his wonderful automobile.

The Citroën was garaged near his first-floor apartment in the quiet Paris suburb of Asnières, situated on a meander of the Seine, downstream from Paris, which was visible from his apartment window. Back in the days of the Impressionists, this suburb was still a village, its riverside cafés a favorite haunt of Van Gogh, his brother Théo, and other artists. It's not far from the Island of the Grande Jatte, depicted and made famous by Georges Seurat during his *pointilliste* period.

I was the designated chauffeur, with my father-in-law seated beside me to keep a close eye on my driving technique. With the rest of the family seated behind, and I'd gingerly back out of the garage, after waiting the proper amount of time for the front end and the rear end to rise up and be ready to proceed.

And we'd be off on our excursion for the day.

One memorable trip took us out from Paris, motoring down popular-lined routes along the Seine to Normandy and the home of Claude Monet at Giverny. That was in the early days of the recent restoration of Monet's home and gardens, when Giverny was still a village, and not yet a target of mass tourism. We had the place almost to ourselves.

The gardens of course were magnificent, as Monet had planted them, and the Japanese footbridge, freshly reconstructed, arched over the lily pond with the water lilies in full bloom. Our father-in-law, walking by then with the aid of a cane, sat quietly on the vintage park bench waiting for us to finish roaming the garden paths and visiting Monet's kitchen, all daffodil yellow and delft blues.

Other trips took us farther afield: more regularly, in the '80s and '90s, on a seven-hour drive out to the family homestead in central Brittany. By then, we were already something of an anomaly on the highway, the DS being bypassed by zippier and sportier Citroëns,

Renaults, or Fiats, as styles, tastes, and fuel economies evolved.

After my father-in-law passed away, the DS remained at the home in Brittany, better suited for country driving and touring than for city traffic in Paris. It was then that our classic automobile took us, free as the wind in summertime, to lovely places such as Croazon, Douarnenez, Quimper, St. Malo, and Cap Fréhel.

Parked on the edge of the dunes and *landes* full of purple heather and yellow broom-bush, where we could look out across the Channel to England, the DS looked like the subject of a postcard or travel photo from the 1950s. It was a wonderful feeling, after a day there at the beach, after making our way up through the dunes back to the hardtop, when we settled sunburned, sea-salted and sandy, into the plush interior of our coach, like pampered royalty.

Those were the days, but of course they had to end.

By early November of 2016, the DS had been resting inactive in our Breton garage for several years. Really too big and ill-adapted for even our country roads, it came time to sell.

Right up until 2010, it still was used to get to the village for the shopping, and when we parked there on the small square, it continued to attract a lot of attention and offers to buy it. The DS especially caught the eye of many a gypsy clan passing through.

As a note of contemporary culture, in France as elsewhere, one rarely uses the inappropriate term *gypsy* any longer. Most politically correct people in France use the name *gens du voyage* instead of *gitan* for these travelers. Regardless, these groups of travelers do love big cars, and they really wanted this one, as soon as they saw it.


But we didn't want to sell it to just anyone, to have it driven into the ground and then cannibalized for parts.

Finally, just last month, our goddess, the DS was sold to a collector of vintage automobiles who promised to house it and pamper it as a relic of a wonderful past.

Those of you who have loved a car know what it's like. When you have to part with it, you hate to see it go. Our DS represented the best of our summer carefree days, our magic carpet that took us back in time through marvelous landscapes, as we motored across the now-vanishing France that we once knew, already so long ago.



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**GIULIANO** from page B1

influenced the program of the Boy Scouts of America, which was founded in 1910. Leon Leutwiler had been a member of the Boy Scouts. His Chief Illiniwek costume had first been created in 1925, when he attended Hubbard's Colorado camp.

Yet Indian mascots, in Guiliano's were, were not simply a product of Progressive Era efforts to reform wayward white youth. She also sees them as a product of the evolution of big-time college football, with its large stadiums and "halftime spectacles" featuring complex marching band performances. Thus there are chapters on "King Football and Halftime Spectacle" and "And the Band Played Narratives of American Expansion" in this book. In the latter chapter, the author provides a fascinating description of the evolution of college marching bands from "militaristic drilling" to "entertainment" featuring creative musical scores and complex formations.

Why did this all happen in the 1920s and '30s? The author notes that this period saw a significant expansion in college attendance by the white middle class, creating the need to tap into alumnae loyalty to raise funds for both academics and sports. But her main argument, as the subtitle of her book implies, is that Indian mascots responded to the anxieties of the white middle and upper classes.

Presumably these anxieties were created by urbanization, industrialization and immigration:

*In creating the opportunity for physically aggressive gentlemen to prove masculinity through academic success, universities created*



University of Pennsylvania mascot William Penn and University of Illinois mascot Chief Illiniwek, during a 1927 halftime show.

*opportunities for the public to affirm their belief that the future of America was a white middle class future. Native American mascots were a key element of that articulation by providing a counterpoint to stories of progress and academic success. Faux Indian bodies were used a proof that white men would ultimately be successful in their endeavors... just as white men were successful in colonizing America.*

Putting aside this rather judgmental – and in my opinion, largely unsupported – academic rhetoric about "white middle class men" (it seems to appear on nearly every page), this book contains a wealth of fascinating historic detail on mascots.

For example, during the Second World War, Illinois briefly had a female mascot, Princess Illiniwek, played by a student named Edith Stith. "The petite Stith," writes Guiliano, "was dwarfed by the fifty-pound headdress that had become

part of the authorized costume..." But it turns out that Stith's name, which had been inscribed on the headdress along with the other Illiniwek performers, was eventually removed from the costume because she was considered "inauthentic."

Guiliano also describes the origins of Indian mascots at Miami University (Ohio), the University of North Dakota, Stanford, and Florida State. The Freshman handbook at Miami, whose team became the "Redskins" in 1930, featured a "scalp song" about a recent football game, which suggests the degree to which perceived Indian imagery was integrated into the student culture: *The tribes go forth to war / The scalp-songs ring afar / Bright the blood-red campfires gleaming / Mad with thirst the war-hawk screaming....*

The University of North Dakota changed its name from the rather unmanly Flickertails (a form of ground squirrel) to the Fighting Sioux in part because the football team had been defeated several years earlier by a team from an Indian boarding school, the Haskell Institute. "... [A]bout the only way of combating" these Indian football teams, wrote one student in the college newspaper, "is to turn Indian and cook up a little bad medicine for them."

Students at Stanford University in 1923 voted to reject an Indian mascot, and a proposed Indian statue by the influential sculptor Alexander Proctor. Guiliano writes that the vote reflected opposition to the Stanford "athletic board [which was] too commercially oriented and had diverted funds... [to] building the Stanford stadium and a dorm for football players."

Student attitudes toward football and Indian mascots changed when Stanford hired Glenn "Pop" Warner, the former coach of the Carlisle Indian School football team. Jim Thorpe, probably the best known Native American athlete of the era, had played for Warner at Carlisle.

Florida State University chose the "Seminole" mascot in 1947 as result of a student referendum. Seminole beat out the Rebels, the Tarpons, the Fighting Warriors and – receiving only 54 votes – the Crackers.

One former student quoted by the author recalled that male students were opposed to Tarpons in part because it had been the logo of the women's swim team: "A bunch of us got together and decided that it would be a whole lot better to have an Indian name than a fish. We got a group of girls to go around knocking on doors. And that thing was turned around..."

This stuff is not just colorful historical trivia, but gives one a strong sense of the white student culture that produced Indian mascots in the first half of the twentieth century. The author's research into the primary sources – the main tools historians use to describe the past – is solid.

Unfortunately, very little of this research seems to support the main thesis of the book: that Indian mascots somehow reflected the anxieties of the white middle class. One wonders what happened to the poor white men who decided to attend colleges with Badger, Bear and Wolverine mascots (not to mention Green Waves).


Furthermore, the book is filled with arcane academic jargon, which dominates current cultural studies:

*Studying college football with attention to Indian mascots is situated as a thoroughly post post-modern exercise that enriches our understanding of cultural history and the ways in which race, class, gender, and youth are enshrined within the expressions of American life.... Mascotry and Athletic identity are an integral way of mapping the meaning-making for these upper-middle-class men in their roles as bandleaders, coaches, alumni, athletes, fans, faculty and newsmen. This mapping challenges bifurcated elucidation of culture into highbrow versus lowbrow...*

This quote is not an example of cherry picking. The language pervades Guiliano's study. (By the way the last line is a bit of a slap at Laurence Levine's outstanding and influential book *Highbrow, Lowbrow*: I strongly recommend Levine's analysis of how Shakespeare was performed in the nineteenth century.)

Attacking the attitudes of the middle class in the first half of the twentieth century is a bit like shooting fish in a barrel. All historians have biases and opinions about their subjects; there is no such thing as "unbiased" historical writing.

But most members of the profession try to maintain a certain distance and empathy, and some try to avoid psychoanalyzing a whole class of people. This does not seem to be the case in the generally left-liberal cottage industry of academic cultural studies.

And is there really anything so terrible about students playing Chief Illiniwek and William Penn, smoking a catlinit pipe and walking off the field arm in arm? 

**TFHS SPORTS** from page B1

points. Ellis and Lexi Lacey helped out by hitting buckets.

The Lady Indians host Frontier on Wednesday, January 25, welcome first-place Greenfield on Thursday, and travel to North Adams on Monday the 30th to face the McCann Hornets.

**Boys Swimming**

Sci-Tech 46 – TFHS 42

TFHS 44 – Chicopee 40

The boys swim team lost a meet by 4 points, and two days later, won one by 4. The split gives the Turners Falls Swimming Indians a record of 3–4 and muddles the waters in the Constitution Class, placing Turners in a third place tie with Renaissance School, a half game ahead of fifth-place Sci-Tech.

Last Wednesday, January 18, Turners dropped a home meet against Sci-Tech 46-42. Cameron Bradley won the 200-yard freestyle in 2:08.26 and the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 1:03.49. Nikolas Martin won the 100-yard freestyle in 1:15.63, while Nick Taylor took the 500-yard freestyle in 7:15.97.

The relay team (Taylor/Chase Blair/Bradley/Martin) won the 200-yard medley relay in 2:23.50 and the 400-yard freestyle in 5:54.12.

Last Friday, Turners redeemed their previous loss by besting Chicopee by a score of 44-40. Bradley again won the 200-yard freestyle (2:09.74) and 100-yard butterfly (1:04.33), while Blair also took two individual events, the 100-yard freestyle (1:07.53) and 100-yard breaststroke (1:39.82).

Martin helped out by winning the 50-yard freestyle in 32.52, and the relay quartet iced the win by taking the 200-yard freestyle relay in 2:05.85.

**Girls Swimming**

TFHS 65 – Sci-Tech 7

Chicopee 50 – TFHS 44

The Turners Falls Lady Swimmers swamped the Sci-Tech Cybercats by 58 points. then dropped a 6-point meet against the Chicopee Pacers.

On January 18, Powertown took first place in every single event en route to a 65-7

victory over Sci-Tech.

Jade Tyler won the 200-yard freestyle in 2:16.70 and the 100-yard butterfly in 1:11.20. Olivia Whittier finished first in the 200-yard IM (2:40.16) and the 100-yard breaststroke (1:18.45). Abi Johnson took the 50-yard freestyle in 35.43, Allison Wheeler won the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 1:11.53, and Melissa Hersey finished first in the 100-yard backstroke (1:26.15).

In team events, Hersey, Whittier, Tyler and Wheeler won the 200-yard medley relay in 2:21.75 and the 400-yard freestyle relay in 4:44.28, while Johnson, Lillian Poirier, Peyton Emery and Jordyn Muniz took first in the 200-yard freestyle relay with a time of 2:31.23.

After sweeping the Cybercats on Wednesday, Turners was outpaced by the Chicopee Lady Swimmers last Friday by a score of 50-44. Whittier won two races in the meet, the 200-yard IM (2:40.31) and 100-yard butterfly (1:22.09). Tyler also finished first in two events, the 500-yard freestyle (5:56.52) and 100-yard breaststroke (1:21.65).

In the team races, Hersey, Whittier, Tyler and Wheeler won the 200-yard medley relay (2:19.30) and 200-yard freestyle relay (2:06.12).

**Ice Hockey**

Chicopee 7 – TFHS 1

St. Mary 8 – TFHS 4

On January 18, the Blue Tribe scored an early goal against fourth-ranked Chicopee, but were shut out for the rest of the game and dropped the contest, 7-1. Turners was outshot 45-24, with goalkeeper Michael McGoldrick making 38 saves and Bryce Jordan scoring the lone goal for Powertown.

Last Saturday, the Turners Falls Ice Hockey Indians outscored the Saint Mary Saints 3-1 in the opening period, but allowed five goals in the second and two more in the final period, losing the game by a score of 8-4.

Jordyn Lavallee made 27 saves for the Tribe. Offensively, four different Indians – Mason Whiteman, Ethan Lafleur, Doug Haneski, and Adam Coffin – scored goals for Turners, with Haneski adding an assist. Aurel



Rebound! Hailey Bogusz (left), Jess Scoville (center), and Dabney Rollins (right) compete for the rebound at Messer Gymnasium in Northfield. The Turners Falls Indians tamed the Pioneer Panthers, 49-41.

Pydych, Dalton DeForest, Cassidhe Wozniak, Camden Barnes, Bryan Baumann, and Chris Urgiel also helped out with assists.

**Boys Basketball**

TFHS 67 – Athol 37

TFHS 54 – Mohawk 27

Powertown went 2-0 this week, beating their opponents by an average of 28.5 points. These victories give Turners a record of 9–2. And although they have matched last year's win total, they face some pretty tough games in the near future, including revenge-minded Greenfield this Friday, and first place Hopkins on Tuesday the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Last Wednesday, January 18, the Turners Falls Basketball Indians defeated the Athol Red Raiders by 30 points, 67-37. The Tribe held Red to only 3 points in the opening period while putting up 19 of their own. They

increased the margin to 45-16 at the half, and finished with a 30 point victory.

Anthony Peterson scored 17 points for Blue, off eight field goals and a foul shot. Josh Obuchowski hit six baskets for 12 points, Tyler Lavin and Nick Croteau both put up 8, Ricky Craver and James Vaughn got 6 points apiece, Javonni Williams sunk two buckets for 4, and Tionne Brown, Kyle Bergmann and Ian Moriarty all scored 2 points.

The next day, Turners doubled up on Mohawk, 54-27. Powertown jumped out to a 20-6 first-quarter lead, led 30-11 at the half, increased the spread to 40-18 after three, and floated to a 27-point victory, 54-27.

Turners' scoring was incredibly even, with ten different Indians putting up points. Craver was Blue's high scorer, knocking in seven shots for 14 points. Obuchowski sunk five buckets for 10 points. Lavin and Nick Croteau each scored 6 points. Brown, Bergmann, Williams, Anthony Peterson, Moriarty, and James Vaughn also scored for the Tribe.


**All Stars**

In other sporting news, several students from Turners Falls and Franklin Tech were selected as Western Mass All Stars in four fall sports.

In golf, Kyle Kucienski from Turners Falls was named to the All-Western Mass. Division III Golf Second Team, while Travis Cutting of Franklin Tech was given Honorable Mention.

In football, Dylan Mailloux of Franklin Tech and Kyle Bergmann, Tionne Brown, Reilan Castine, Tahner Castine, Ricky Craver, Jack Darling, Quinn Doyle, and Owen Ortiz from Turners were selected to the All-Western Mass. Division IVA first team, while Nick Croteau and Ricky Smith of Turners and Dan Momaney and Spencer Telega of Franklin Tech were named to the Second Team.

Both Alysha Wozniak and Cassidhe Wozniak were selected for the All-Western Mass. Division II Field Hockey first team, and Nicole Thibeault was named to the Second Team.

Also, Sienna Dillensneider was selected to the All-Western Mass. D-III Girls Volleyball second team. 

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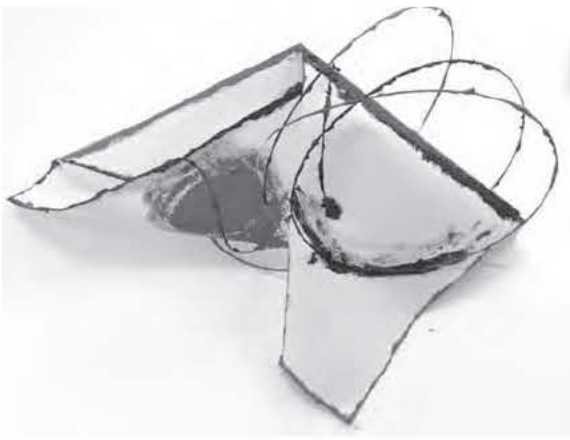
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



"Flag," by Samantha Wood, is one of the interpretations of our flag in the new exhibit at Nina's Nook, Turners Falls, beginning February 2.

## 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 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

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

The Alvah Stone, Montague Center: *Eli Catlin*. Country Blues.

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

### EXHIBITS:

Hosmer Gallery, Forbes Library, Northampton: Paintings by Turners Falls own, artist *Mirian Wells*, and two other artists *Patricia Dorr Parker and Janice Doppler*. Through January 30.

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

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

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: Beginning February 2, *What Does Your Flag Look Like?* Three-dimensional lines of paint, wire, cloth, wood, metal and more consider how the symbolic language of the flag can be used to communicate who we are in the year 2017. Until March 25.

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.

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

Shelburne Arts Co-operative, Shelburne Falls: *Art Attack*, group show. February 1 through the 27th.

### EVENTS:

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

Northfield Mt. Recreation, Northfield: *Snowshoeing for 55+ year olds*. Call for details; pre-register 1-800-859-2960. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Slate Memorial Library, Gill: *Fascinating Fortunetelling*. Fundraiser for the library. The history of tarot cards, get your fortune told for a donation! 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Hill & Friends*. Original Americana with Jen Spingla. 8 p.m.

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *David Fersh & Friends*. Folk, Blues. 7 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Karaoke*. 8 p.m. (after the Open Mic. - see ongoing events).

#### FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

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

*Groundhogs*. 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.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Electrio*, 6:30 p.m.; *The Family Funktion*, 9 p.m.

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Patty Carpenter with George Kaye and Draa Hobbs*. 8 p.m.

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

Arts Block, Greenfield: *DPR [Dirty Punk Reggae]*, and *Total Collision*. 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Deep Seize & friends*. 9:30 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

Arts Block, Greenfield: *New England Jazz Trio*, 5 p.m.; *Soul-tree Dub Night featuring Jeff Bujak*. 10 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Plywood Cowboys*. Americana. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Zydeco Connection and The Pangeans*. Dance Party. 8:30 p.m. \$

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

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Heavy on the Harsh/Sister Jawbone; Willie and the Poor Boys*. 9:30 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

Leverett Public Library, Leverett: *Neurofitness for the Mature Brain*, with *Neuromovement Educator Emily Hodos*. Please call to register. 2 p.m.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *FESTIBAL - DANSE CAFE* presents a music & dance party. Easy dances, potluck hors d'oeuvres. 2:30 p.m. Donations.

Rhodes Art Center, NMH, Gill: *Lovely and Lyrical, Music to Soothe and Inspire. Da Camera Singers* featuring Morton Lauridsen's "Midwinter Songs," settings of poems by Robert Graves with Marianne Lockwood on piano, and the world premiere of "Our Flawed Garden," a setting by Jessica Marlor of a poem by Sylvia Plath. 3 p.m. Donations.

Pushkin Gallery, Greenfield: *Exploded View*. Eight Pioneer Valley female artists and writers' performances. Followed by discussion. 4 p.m. Donations.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Same Old Blues*. Ragtime Country Blues of the '20s and '30s. These guys are the real deal. 8 p.m.

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

#### TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

Greenfield Public Library, Green-

field: *Steve Early* discusses his new book *Refinery Town: Big Oil, Big Money and the Remaking of an American City*. 6 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Collected Poets Series featuring Brad Crenshaw and Chard Niord*. Poetry reading. 7 p.m.

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

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Alex Preston*, 8 p.m. *Lexi Weege*, 10:30 p.m. \$

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



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**LESSONS** from page B1

Of course, there are times when it is better to drop the pleasantries. For instance, "Will you please get me a fire extinguisher from the wall behind the reach-in, kind sir?" would be better said as "Fire extinguisher! Hurry!"

I learned to ask nicely.

**3. Speaking of fire extinguishers, I can control fire. It's pretty neat.**

My name, Damkoeler, means Charcoal Burner by the Dam. If my ancestors knew how much I love cooking with gas, they'd disown me.

Whether it comes from charcoal or propane, I've learned that fire burns. I've also learned burns only hurt when I'm thinking about them. That is, when I'm forced to focus on service, on the business at hand, I don't feel the burns. The same goes with other pain, even emotional.

The lesson is if something bothers me, whether it's a burn, an unpaid bill or an argument with my wife about the bill, come service time, nothing hurts. If I can force those pains out of my mind during service, I can do so at other times, too.

When the burn blisters, though, it must be dealt with. By that point the pain is dull, and with a level head a bandage can be applied. Same goes with the bill, and the argument. Deal with it, but don't let it stop you from doing what needs to be done — the people must eat.

**4. I've learned why old chefs know so many tricks. I've also come up with a few of my own. And I'm not even that old.**

Mistakes happen. In the kitchen, probably more than at a construction site, but they happen there, too. When I worked part time as a contractor's apprentice, I was uneasy about cutting a certain piece of expensive wood. It occurred to me that if I cut a little too small, I would be wasting a \$60 section of plywood. I thought, if I screw up in the kitchen I know so many tricks to fix it, but if I screw up on that plywood, I'm through.

Nearly every trick I've ever learned was the result of a mistake. A

server forgot to ring in stuffed scrod, and they need it right away. Nuke the scrod for a minute to get it started, throw it in a steamer, then finish it in the broiler, all the while browning the stuffing in a pan. This trick will save 12 minutes of cooking time.

Or the mistake may have been time management, and suddenly you are getting slips and not set up: out come the prep tricks. The delivery guy didn't bring the right food: out come the substitution tricks. Or the mistake might have been trusting someone to properly season a soup: out come the seasoning tricks.

If you're the new cook who made a mistake, watching in awe of the chef's miracle fix, know it's because he made the same mistake himself, and it made him a better cook.

**5. Seriously, don't take yourself too seriously.**

Cooks who survive do so because they learn these lessons, and most of all this one: There's too much hands on, physical labor to be done to snub other people, because you think you're better than them, or because you're going places and they aren't.

When the pot is turned on, and the oil's in, the onions don't care if you graduated at the top of culinary class, or if you worked in a three-star Michelin restaurant — they need to be added before the oil burns. So get to it.

You'll enjoy the process a lot more if you have pals by your side to kid around with. The moment you start to take yourself too seriously, those pals will get their laughs at your expense.

I learned to have pride in hard work and to be proud of a job well done. But I mustn't have so much pride that cutting an onion is beneath me, or I won't jump in the middle of the buried dish pit.

There's a popular saying among veteran cooks, "This place was here before you, and it'll be here when you're gone." No single person is greater than the restaurant. Or, are they talking about life?



**LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK**

Here's the way it was January 25, 2007: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

**Montague Sixth Graders to Move to Middle School**

The Gill-Montague Regional School Committee voted in favor of two major initiatives at their January 23 meeting at the Turners Falls High School. By an 8-1 vote, the committee approved a motion by Valeria Smith to allow intra-district choice, to give parents the option to send their children to any of the elementary schools in the Gill-Montague district, regardless of which town they live in.

Intra-district choice students would be assigned to available classroom seats according to a policy still being fine-tuned by the committee. Terry Lapachinski cast the sole vote against the motion, which must now be approved by special town meetings in both Gill and Montague in order to come into effect.

Secondly, but a vote of 8-0, with Ted Castro-Santos abstaining, the committee approved a motion by Valeria Smith to move the sixth grades from Sheffield Elementary School and Montague Center School to the Great Falls Middle

School. The elementary schools in Montague will now be configured as K-5 schools, with Hillcrest Elementary, according to December vote of the school committee, to become an early childhood pre-K education center for the district.

**The Feral Cats of Turners Falls**

The feral cats of Turners Falls, who predominantly lurk on Fourth Street between Avenues A and L, have many friends and a few detractors. They own the block, so the good opinion of residents seems to affect that not a whit.

One accommodating friend, long-time resident Bonnie Magner, feeds the outdoors cats once or twice a day on Fourth Street. Her bowls of Kibbles usually finds shelter from the rain beneath a mailbox, or on the stoop of a friendly office building.

"Some of the cats are so desperate for affection. It's heartbreaking," said Magner. "Some of them you can't get near. But, I try very hard not to get too close to them personally. It breaks my heart if all of a sudden they're not there, and you don't know what happened to them," she said.

**Vandalized Sign in Free Speech Zone**

After a six-month delay while he waited for the town to devise a policy for free speech and the use of public space, Taylor Hill Road resident Eric Chester finally received a permit to place a sign on the Montague town common last week, protesting US foreign policy and calling for an end to the Iraq War. He put the sign up on Wednesday, but by mid-day on Thursday, January 18, someone had folded up the hinged A-Frame signboard calling for "U.S. Out of Iraq Now" and placed it flat on the ground behind a telephone pole.

Chester put it up again, but by Friday morning, the sign had been vandalized, hinges broken, signboard smashed.

"This is a clear attempt to violate my civil liberties," said Chester, who went to the police the same day to report the incident. He said the Montague police told him "they were pretty busy," and did not hold out much hope the vandal would be apprehended.

Chester said he spoke with town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, who said, according to Chester, "We have a lot of vandalism around town."

**MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS**

**This Week on MCTV**

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

This week marks a new U.S. presidency, as well as protests around the globe. On our TV channel, you can watch historical protests such as footage from the Women's Pentagon Action of 1980.

You can check out the Montague Community TV Schedule at [MontagueTV.org/p/55/TV-Schedule](http://MontagueTV.org/p/55/TV-Schedule). As usual, the Montague selectboard



meeting will air on Monday at 7 p.m., and the Gill selectboard meeting will air on Wednesday at 3 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 863-9200, [infomontagueTV@gmail.com](mailto:infomontagueTV@gmail.com), or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We'd love to work with you!

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