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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 31, 2013

Hearings Begin for Connecticut River Dam Relicensing

By DAVID DETMOLD

GREAT FALLS – Question: Why start hearings now when the federal licenses of the Turners Falls Dam and the Northfield Mountain Pumped Hydro Station aren't up for renewal for five more years?

Answer: Because it might take that long to get through the public comments.

Over 80 people showed up at the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center on Wednesday morning, to hear John Howard, of First Light Power Resources, Northfield Pumped Hydro, along with spokespersons for TransCanada, whose dams on the Connecticut River, including the hydro dam at Vernon, are also up for relicensing on April 1, 2018, lay out the particulars of their project proposals, and to question and critique the utilities' plans for continued power generation on the river.

The pumps suck water from the river at a rate of 20,000 gallons per second, a powerful enough force to cause the river to run backwards.

A team of about 10 representa-

tives from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) traveled to Turners Falls to take public testimony, and to begin the process of a National Energy Policy Act (NEPA) review, without which the relicensing of the massive hydro facilities cannot proceed.

Given the fact that hydro dam and pumped hydro utilities only face the hurdle of federal review and relicensing once every 30 to 50 years (the last time the Turners Falls Dam and the Northfield Project were licensed was in 1980), environmental groups and concerned citizens turned out in droves for the opportunity to weigh in on the projects' impacts to the river, to the fish that try to spawn and live in it, and the human beings who try to keep their farmland and property stable along its banks.

Ken Hogan, project supervisor for FERC for the First Light Power and TransCanada relicensing projects, led the meeting, which ran over five hours, with a resuscitating break for lunch at the Shady Glen and other local eateries. He welcomed ongoing public input in writing at www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp (include the proj-

ect numbers for the projects you are commenting about: Turners Falls Dam: FERC#1889-081 and Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage: FERC#2485-063; you may also e-subscribe for regular updates from FERC about the progress of relicensing on these projects). Hogan promised, "We don't make blind decisions. We're going to want to know the environmental effects of any proposal. My message to the licensees is, 'Get as specific as you can as soon as you can.'"

Howard, speaking for First Light Power (now owned by GFD/Suez, a French corporation that may be the largest utility company on the plan-

et), attempted to do just that in his brief opening remarks.

Howard said his company plans to explore the potential of more storage at the manmade upper reservoir at the 1,120 mega watt (MW) Northfield facility, which currently has the capacity to fill 286 acres atop Northfield Mountain with 5.6 billion gallons of water, pumped up a 2,500 foot intake tunnel from the Connecticut River below. The utility pumps during off peak hours, typically at night when electricity prices are low, and releases water back through the four giant reversible turbines when demand and energy prices are high, during the day. The pumps suck

water from the river at a rate of 20,000 gallons per second, a powerful enough force to cause the river to run backwards.

Howard said the Northfield Mountain project "consumes more energy than it produces" – requiring 1.3 million MW hours of power annually, to produce 1 million MW hours of power.

The pump and release cycle causes large daily fluctuations in river flow and height, which local landowners, organized under the aegis of the Landowners and Concerned Citizens for License Compliance and also the Connecticut River Streambank

see DAM page 5



The Turners Falls Dam was last relicensed in 1980.

SSS Exhibit Opens at Nina's Nook and the Powertown Pop-Up Shop



CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO PHOTO

Nook owner Rossi, with art bra

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

TURNERS FALLS – Feb. 2 may be Groundhog Day, but there are no groundhogs lurking in the second annual "Sensual Sexual Smut Erotic Art Show." The show premiers at 3 p.m. at Nina's

Nook at 125 Avenue A in downtown Turners Falls, and from 5 to 8 p.m. there will be a reception at the Powertown Pop-Up Shop, in the old Colle Opera House on the corner of Avenue A and Third St. Nina Rossi, owner of Nina's Nook and the curator and organizer of the show is

thrilled with both the quality and quantity of work submitted by more than 30 local artists. The work ranges from suggestive to explicit, with a high degree of playfulness exhibited in many of the art pieces. Among the local

see SSS page 6

Time to Retire



By LEE WICKS

"In the beginning, there was no retirement. There were no old people. In the Stone Age, everyone was fully employed until age 20, by which time nearly everyone was dead, usually of unnatural causes. Any early man who lived long enough to develop crow's-feet was either worshipped or eaten as a sign of respect."

– Mary-Lou Weisman, excerpt from an essay for *The New York Times*

Time has taken on two meanings since I stopped working. There's daily time that challenges me to manage the eight-hour stretch once consumed by work. This time seems abundant, but it is easily squandered like a twenty-dollar bill in your wallet that somehow disappears in a single afternoon. A cup of cof-

fee, a muffin, a newspaper, lip balm and some dog treats. Bye Bye Twenty, and good luck remembering where it went.

In retirement everything happens at a more leisurely pace. Breakfast followed by a long dog-walk, housework and laundry bring us (my husband is also retired) right up to lunchtime. If I go into Greenfield or Hadley to shop, or go to the gym, or visit with my grandchildren, the useful portion of the afternoon is gone. This type of schedule is perfect for the person who moves patiently from one activity to another, at peace with the day's small tasks, but despite an earlier essay about Yoga, I am attached to results. I don't like feeling that I haven't achieved anything in a day. By achievement I mean something tangible that will not have to be

Part 3

A Meditation on Time

redone the next day.

I'm afraid that if too many days fill with small chores, I will never get to the big projects I longed to do when I was working full time. These long projects range from painting all the trim in my house, to finishing my second novel, to learning to make paper mache masks of dog faces, to writing a memoir, to making a quilt for my granddaughter from her own outgrown clothing. I am frustrated when I can't find the time to get started on these, then I wonder if I'm giving these big projects too much importance.

If I am lucky enough to grow very old, what will matter most in hindsight? Any painting I manage to do will need to be redone. There's no guarantee that anyone will read what I've written, and

see TIME page 5

PET OF THE WEEK Hurricane Sandy Refugee



Black Toe

Hello there! I was named Black Toe because of my cute little piggies! The rest of me is pretty cute, too—don't you agree? I'm a "Hurricane Sandy Cat" — that means that I've traveled all the way from New Jersey to find a loving new home. I've been a bit overwhelmed by all the changes in my life lately, but I'm a loving, affectionate and gently playful girl at heart. I get along well with other cats, and I can hardly wait to get settled in with a new family.

For info contact Dakin at (413) 548-9898 or info@dpvhs.org.

CORRECTION

In last week's Jan. 24 issue, there were several mistakes printed in the article updating the status of the Cumby building located on land adjacent to the Discovery Center. The correct information is as follows: The Montague EDIC — 110MEDIC — took control of the building in 1996. The 2012 spring Town Meeting voted an appropriation of \$32,000 for repairs to that building. We regret the errors.

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Carnegie Library Music and Movement

The weekly Music and Movement series with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson will be held at the Carnegie Library on Thursdays at 10 a.m. through February. Young children of all ages and their parents or caregivers are invited to the free

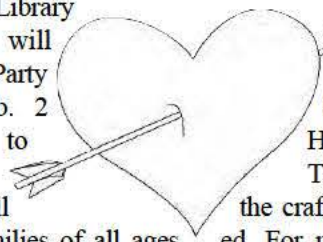
programs. Registration is not required.

The series is supported by the Town of Montague and the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement grant. For more information, call (413) 863-3214.

Valentine's Party

The Carnegie Library in Turners Falls will host a Valentine's Party on Saturday, Feb. 2 from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Children of all ages and their families of all ages can make fun valentine inspired



crafts, cards, and other heart themed projects with Ruth O'Mara and Linda Hickman.

This is a free program, and the craft materials will be provided. For more information, call the library (413) 863-3214.

Wendell Free Library Climate Expert Speaks

On Thursday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m. there will be a free talk at the Wendell Free Library entitled "Global Warming and Political Intimidation."

Raymond S. "Ray" Bradley is a UMass Distinguished Professor in the Department of Geosciences and also director of the department's Climate System Research Center. Bradley and his colleagues' research analyzed paleo-climatic

data to surmise temperatures over the last millennium. Their findings, published in *Nature* in 1998, included for the first time what is now known as the "hockey stick graph," showing the sudden rise in global temperatures over the past 100 years, corresponding with the industrial age.

Bradley's work indicates that the warming of Earth's climate system in the twentieth century is inexplic-



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

Q. What causes hiccups?

A hiccup is a sudden, involuntary spasm of the diaphragm, the muscle at the base of the lungs that helps you breathe. The exact cause of hiccups is an ancient mystery. Here are some possible causes:

Stomach expansion from a big meal; swallowing air by gobbling food quickly; drinking carbonated beverages; or chewing gum. The expanded stomach presses on the diaphragm.

Eating spicy food, which may irritate the nerves controlling diaphragm contractions.

Drinking alcohol, which can relax the diaphragm and vocal cords.

Stress or sudden excitement.

Smoking, which may irritate the nerves that control the diaphragm.

A sudden internal or external temperature change.

Noxious fumes.

GILL-MONTAGUE

Gill/Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m. Kerry Togneri is the Meal Site Manager. The Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted.

For more information, meal reservations, or to sign up for programs, call (413) 863-9357. Leave a voice message if the center is not open.

Monday 2/4

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday: 2/5

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

12:00 p.m. Lunch

Wednesday: 2/6

10:00 a.m. Aerobics

12:00 p.m. Lunch

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday: 2/7

9:00 NO Tai Chi

10:30 a.m. to NOON Brown Bag

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Pitch

Friday: 2/8

10:00 a.m. Aerobics

10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

1:00 p.m. Writing Group

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – February 4th - 8th

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregational meals. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at (413) 423-3308, for meal information and reservations. For information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call the Center to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out when is the next blood pressure clinic.

Flu Clinic – Call the Senior Center at (413) 423-3649 to find out when the next flu clinic will be held. This clinic is free to Erving residents, sponsored by the Erving Board of Health and available on a walk-in basis. The shot is recommended for those over 55, those who work with children or the elderly, and those with chronic illness. Pneumonia shots will also be available for those over 60 who have never been vaccinated.

Telephone Reassurance – Phone calls every morning for seniors who want someone to check in on them.

Shopping Trips – Thursday afternoon alternating from Turners Falls to Orange.

Quilting Classes Resume

A new series of 10 quilting class-



The Leverett Library welcome their new director, Ashley Blais, who began her position on Monday, Jan. 28. "I'm really looking forward to it!" said Blais.

The public is invited to a welcoming reception for the new director on Sunday, February 10th, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

cable via natural mechanisms, and must be affected by human activity.

Bradley and his colleagues gained further prominence when, in 2001, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) included the "hockey stick graph" in their report. Subsequently influential utility and energy interests, through politicians they supported, set out to destroy the reputations of the scientists who came up with the data.

In 2003 Bradley was one of 17 scientists indicted by Justice Department for using federal funds

to support their "hoax" research. Although numerous inquiries were launched, no wrongdoing on the part of the scientists were found.

In his talk, he will give a current assessment of global warming and speak about how influential utility and energy interests and politicians set out to make it appear that science is wrong. This is a rare opportunity to learn about these topics from a scientist in the forefront of climate change research and debate.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

Hiccups, Chemicals and Seizures

Q. What chemicals in the environment have a real impact upon our health?

There are way too many to cover. Here are a few important ones:

FLUORIDE – Almost half of all Americans drink water that is either naturally fluoridated or treated with fluorides. Drinking water containing fluoride has lowered the incidence of tooth cavities by as much as 65 percent.

LEAD – Paint chips, dust, fumes and water containing lead can get into your body. Even small amounts of lead in your system can impede learning and generate behavior changes. Large quantities of lead can be fatal. A simple blood test can alert you before lead poisoning causes significant problems.

MERCURY – Mercury is a poisonous metal that can get into your body from eating contaminated fish. This silvery metal can build up in the body and cause health problems.

CARBON MONOXIDE – A smoke detector is not enough to protect you in your home. A carbon monoxide (CO) detector, available in hardware stores, is needed as well. Carbon monoxide is a byproduct of

combustion produced by a home heating source. If a chimney or your furnace is blocked, carbon monoxide can collect in your home and kill you in your sleep. If you don't have one, get one.

RADON – Radon is an invisible, odorless radioactive gas that could be in your home. A naturally occurring gas that seeps out of rocks and soil, it comes from uranium buried in the earth. Radon poses a risk of lung cancer. Get your house tested.

Q. A friend of mine has been diagnosed with epilepsy and it occurred to me that I wouldn't know what to do if he had a seizure in front of me.

The following are some instructions if you see someone having a seizure:

First, call immediately for medical help.

Roll the person on their side to prevent choking on any fluids.

Cushion the person's head.

Loosen any tight clothing around the neck.

Keep the person's airway open. If necessary, grip the person's jaw gently and tilt their head back.

Do not put anything into the per-

son's mouth, especially your fingers. It's a myth that people are in danger of swallowing their tongues during a seizure.

Don't try to restrain or wake someone having a seizure.

If the person is moving, clear away dangerous objects.

Stay with the person until medical personnel arrive. If possible, observe the person closely so that you can provide detailed observations.

Look for a medical alert bracelet. The bracelet should have an emergency contact and names of medications the person uses.

Send your questions to fred@healthygeezers.com.

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Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga - Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$4 (first class free).

Senior Lunch - Fridays at 12. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.

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Local Briefs

JESSICA LARON ILLUSTRATION

Compiled By DON CLEGG

A **Winter Fare Farmers' Market** will be held on Saturday Feb. 2, from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Greenfield High School, 1 Lenox Ave. Informational displays, workshops, and a soup café will be included from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A local food Barter Fair will take place at 1 p.m. For more information and a complete listing of scheduled events, call (413) 522-5932, or visit www.winterfare.org.

Join in for a **Happy Groundhog's Day** event at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls on Saturday, Feb. 2, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Staff will educate children with stories, crafts, and activities highlighting the adventures of the noble groundhog during the winter. Will he see his shadow this year? Will you see yours? Where does he hang out all winter? How does he survive the cold? How do you? These are just a few of the many questions we will ponder as we contemplate winter and the transition to

spring. This event is intended for ages 3-6. Bundle up and bring your shadow!

Noah Rockland will be hosting a **glass studio grand opening** on Sunday, Feb. 3, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 17 N. Leverett Road in Montague. Items for sale include blown glass jewelry, marbles, sculpture, vases, miniatures, guitar picks, wine bottle stoppers, goblets, perfume bottles, and hearts for Valentine's Day. There will also be glassing demonstrations.

Free Soup and Games Night is a monthly benefit event held at Hope & Olive in Greenfield the first Monday of each month. People enjoy a free buffet of soups and breads, then grab a drink from the bar if they wish, and sit down with friends to play games or chat. Donation jars are placed on the tables. Free Soup & Games Night brings support to under-funded community organizations, and at the same time, to bring people together for a cheap and fun night out.

On Monday Feb. 4, from 5 to 7:30

p.m. the **Pet Food Bank** will be the beneficiary of the donations for the evening.

If you have a chronic disease and want to take control, remain active and improve your quality of life, this free workshop is for you. **"My Life, My Health - Living Well With Chronic Conditions"** will take place on Wednesdays, Feb. 6 to March 6, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at the Community Health Center of Franklin County, Cherry Rum Plaza, in Greenfield. Contact Lesley Kayan at FCHC for more information at (413) 773-5555 or (978) 544-2259 (Ext. 2297) or email to lkayan@fchcc.org.

The Sawmill River Arts Gallery in Montague Center is holding a **Valentine's Day card making workshop** on Saturday, Feb. 9, from 1 to 4 p.m. in conjunction with their "Heartwarming" art show on exhibit during the month of February. Featuring colors, collage and weaving techniques, master weaver Susan Loring-Wells will be your host. Materials will be provided and each participant will make a special card for that special person. Come and have some fun. Age ranges are 8 to 98 and families are welcome. To sign up, leave your name and phone number at sawmillriverarts@gmail.com or leave a message at (413) 367-2885.

Send local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.



Congratulations Jenna!

Jenna Lapachinski earned the Degree of Masters of Science in Historic Preservation from the University of Vermont in the December 2012 commencement exercises with a GPA of 3.9. She did her internship with Historic Windsor, Inc., a preservation non-profit.

A native of Turners Falls and a

2007 graduate of TFHS, Lapachinski is the daughter of Terry and Frank Lapachinski. Jenna is also the granddaughter of Jeanne O'Connor and the late Gerald O'Connor and the granddaughter of Anna Lapachinski and the late Frank Lapachinski; all of Turners Falls.

Pet Trusts and the Massachusetts Uniform Trust Code

By Attorney
PEGGY TORELLO

Creating a Pet Trust would ease any concerns of your pets ending up at a shelter when you can no longer care for them due to your incapacity or at death. In 2012, the Massachusetts legislature enacted the Massachusetts Uniform Trust Code (MUTC), and Pet Trusts are now valid in Massachusetts.

A Pet Trust can be created in a Will or during your lifetime. A problem with a Pet Trust created in a Will is that the person(s) named to care for the pets do not have authority to act or access funds until the Will is allowed by the court, which can take up to a month. If this wait is a concern, you can create a Pet Trust prior to any incapacity. An advantage to a Pet Trust created and funded during your lifetime is the immediate authority to act and the accessibility to amounts funded in the Trust. With such a Trust, if you become incapacitated and cannot care for your pets, the person(s) named in the Trust can access the funds right away to ensure the con-



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tinuing care of your pets.

Pet Trusts should include: provisions within the document for appointments of a caretaker, Trustee, and someone to monitor the jobs of both; names of your pets; a detailed plan of care; when the Trust will terminate; how remaining funds will be distributed after termination of the Trust. Individuals can be appointed to

more than one role, but naming different persons ensures accountability. Identify successors for all the roles just in case the named individuals are unable or unwilling to serve.

Your Durable Power of Attorney and Health Care Proxy should also have clauses that refer to any Pet Trust created during your lifetime. Your Power of Attorney would allow the release of any funds to the Pet Trust, and the mention of your pets in your Health Care Proxy alerts your health care agent to contact the named caretaker and trustee to see to the continuing care of your pets.

To address your particular and specific needs consult your own attorney or call the Franklin County Bar Association at (413) 773-9839. Call Community Legal Aid at (413) 774-3747 the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Franklin County Office is located at 55 Federal St, Suite 120 in Greenfield. Services are free to people age 60 and older.

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About Face Computing

Franklin County Rep Leads National Fight to Overturn Citizens United

Franklin County's new congressman, U.S. Rep. James McGovern has proposed two constitutional amendments to overturn the Supreme Court's decision that unleashed a flood of corporate and special interest money into the American political system.

Many towns in Franklin County and across the state have supported this same approach, including Montague, Gill, Wendell and Leverett. And multiple Massachusetts political leaders are joining their voices with his.

According to a press release from his office, McGovern introduced the two amendments on the floor of the House of Representatives on Jan. 22.

McGovern's first amendment, HJ Res 20, advances the fundamental principle of political equality for all by empowering Congress and the States to regulate political spending. It will allow Congress to pass campaign finance reform legislation that will withstand Constitutional challenges.

The second amendment, HJ Res 21, would overturn *Citizens United* and put a stop to the growing trend of corporations claiming first amendment rights. This "People's Rights Amendment" not only addresses corporate rights as they pertain to campaign finance, but is broader in scope to clarify that corporations are not people with Constitutional rights. Importantly, the amendment clearly protects the people's rights of freedom of speech, freedom of the press, free exercise of religion, freedom of association, and all other such rights of the people.

"Our election system is broken, awash in special interest money," said McGovern. "As any high school civics student knows, the first three words of the preamble to the Constitution are 'We the People.' Corporations are not people. They do not breathe. They do not have children. They do not die in war. They are artificial entities which we the people create and, as such, we govern them, not the other way around. The Supreme Court's *Citizens United* ruling marks the most extreme extension of a corporate rights doctrine which has eroded our First Amendment and our Constitution, and we must work through every grassroots and legislative avenue to overturn it."

McGovern was joined by elected state officials and national advocates for campaign finance reform, including Attorney General Martha Coakley, State Senator Jamie Eldridge, State Representative Marty Walz, State Representative Cory Atkins, State Representative Jim O'Day, Harvard Law Professor John Coates, American Sustainable Business Council CEO David

Levine, and Free Speech for People co-founders John Bonifaz and Jeff Clements.

In 2011, Coakley became the first sitting state Attorney General in the United States to support a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* ruling. "It's clear that the Supreme Court's decision to uphold *Citizens United* has allowed seemingly unlimited amounts of undisclosed dollars into our election system," Attorney General Martha Coakley said. "This amendment will make clear that corporations are not people, and ensure that the interests of a wealthy few cannot shout down the voices of everyone else. I urge people to send a strong message that we will not allow special interests to commandeer our electoral process and support Congressman McGovern's amendment."

In 2011, State Senator Eldridge and State Representative Cory Atkins introduced a successful state resolution supporting a constitutional amendment to overturn *Citizens United*. "When dollars influence politics, the American people don't have a place at the table to express their principles and voice," said State Senator Eldridge. "The new legislation proposed by Congressman McGovern emphasizes the role of government, and restores faith in its role in protecting the constitutional rights of the American people, not special interests."

Free Speech for People co-founders John Bonifaz and Jeff Clements are two of the most prominent national critics of the *Citizens United* decision. Bonifaz has been on the forefront of key voting rights battles in the country for nearly two decades; Clements, a former assistant Attorney General, is the author of "Corporations are Not People."

"We thank Congressman McGovern for his leadership on this critical question of our time. These two constitutional amendment bills reflect the growing calls across America that Congress must act to reclaim our democracy. Eleven states have already urged Congress to send them an amendment to overturn *Citizens United* and restore democracy to the people. A national movement supporting these amendments is on the rise," said Bonifaz.

The *Montague Reporter* applauds Congressman McGovern's efforts to overturn this decision. As the local newspaper of four Franklin County towns opposed to *Citizens United*, we will continue to keep our readers abreast of the efforts made by McGovern and others to overturn this drastic decision.



You want me to predict the weather with my shadow?
We'll have to wait for the fog to clear!

cs-2

LETTERS TO



THE EDITOR

Dry Hill Cemetery – Such a Long, Long Way from Here

As I am approaching the twilight of my years, it passed my mind that I might consider purchasing a burial plot in the Dry Hill Cemetery. With this in mind I would need six able bodied men to

haul me up the right of way to the cemetery from Wendell Road, and would need assistance for my elderly relatives who be attempting the climb.

Maybe I will forget the whole

idea and wait to see what happens for the future Dry Hill Cemetery plans.

— Art Gilmore
Millers Falls

Twisted Logic

At the Jan. 16 Montague Board of Health meeting, I addressed the Montague Board concerning a recent issue. A tenant of mine contacted the Director to seek a housing inspection. Ms. McNeeley dutifully inspected the apartment and issued to me an "Order to Correct" several housing maintenance issues.

I immediately assigned a maintenance man to make the repairs but he was denied entrance into the apartment to make the corrections by the same tenant.

I contacted the Montague Health Director and informed her of the situation and she advised me to seek a court injunction for access

into the apartment, which my attorney promptly proceeded to ascertain.

In the meantime, a "Criminal Complaint" by the Town of Montague was filled against me for not obeying the "Order to Correct".

I addressed the Montague Board of Health and explained the above matter and fulfilled all the matters in the "Order to Correct."

The final issue was a charge assessed to me for the Court filing fee in the amount of \$150 which I requested to be "waived" due to fact that it was the tenant that denied access to make the repairs. He obstructed the "Order to Correct". Since I was not culpable

of any wrongdoing, it is only right that I would not be assessed a fee. It is the tenant that denied access to the apartment.

Simple logic in this matter should dictate the outcome of the event, but for some unknown reason, logic does not exist with Mr.'s Michael Nelson, Jay DiPucchio and Christopher Boutwell, your elected Montague Board of Health.

I presently pay in excess of \$20,000 annually in Real Estate Taxes and fees to the Town of Montague. My logic suggests, "The fee has already been paid in full" many times over.

— Paul Desilets
Gill, Massachusetts

Get Updates on Break-In Prevention: Montague Business Association to Host Meeting with Chief Dodge

The Montague Business Association invites businesses and community members to attend a special meeting with Montague's police chief, Charles 'Chip' Dodge, Tuesday, February 12, from 8 to 9 a.m. in the community room of the Montague Public Safety Complex, 180 Turnpike Road, Turners Falls.

Chief Dodge will brief businesses on the recent spate of break-ins in Montague, and provide suggestions on how to better keep businesses and residences from being victimized.

In addition, Montague Business Association Steering Committee member Stephan Smith from A. H. Rist Insurance will speak about crime prevention and safeguards

from an insurance perspective. Both speakers will also be available for questions.

All Montague area businesses and community members are welcome and encouraged to attend this free Montague Business Association event. Montague Business Association Steering Committee member Lynne Rudié said, "By working together, business owners and citizens can protect ourselves and our neighbors more effectively, and can better safeguard the well-being of our town."

For more information, visit the Montague Business Association Web site: www.montaguebusinessassociation.com.

Montague Nomination Papers Available

Nomination papers for the Annual Town Election, Monday, May 20 are now available at the Town Clerk's Office until Thursday, March 28. They must be returned no later than Monday, April 1 by 5 p.m.

Seats are as follows:

Selectman, Town Clerk, Treasurer/Tax Collector, Assessor, Board of Health, and Parks & Recreation and Tree Warden, each for a 3 year term.

Library Trustees has 3 seats, each for a 3 year term.

Montague Housing Authority has one seat for a 5 year term.

Soldier's Memorial Trustees has a Veteran's seat for a 3 year term.

Nomination papers are also available for Town Meeting Members for each precinct.

The annual town election will be held on Monday, May 20, 2013. The deadline to register to vote is, Tuesday, April 30.

Nomination papers regarding school committee seats are provided by the Gill-Montague Superintendent of Schools at 35 Crocker Avenue.

The Town Clerk's office is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8:30a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Wednesday 8:30a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Town Hall is closed on Fridays.

For more information call the office at (413) 863-3200 (Ext 203).

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The Montague Reporter

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U.S. Casualties in Afghanistan as of 1/29/13

Wounded: 17,674 Deaths: 2,177



WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS!

Montague Reporter

58 4th St Turners, 01376

editor@montaguereporter.org

DAM from page 1

Erosion Committee, contend has caused decades of riverbank erosion along the 20 mile stretch of river between the Vernon and Turners Falls dams.

Asked by Riverside resident Peter Conway if additional capacity in the upper reservoir would cause additional fluctuations in river height and flow, Howard said he "would not equate" one with the other.

Howard also said the company was considering closing Station #1, the 6 MW hydro plant built to tap the hydro potential channeled by the Turners Falls power canal, which

originally ended just below the Railroad Salvage building (the former Griswold Cotton Mill) on Power Street, where that plant is located. If the company chooses to close Station #1, Howard said, it may also use the opportunity provided by the relicensing review to expand the power capacity of Cabot Station, built when the power canal was widened and extended in 1916. Cabot Station currently utilizes a 40

foot drop from the canal to the river to produce 61.8 MW of power, but Howard would not comment publicly about the extent of the power upgrade First Light is contemplating for Cabot Station.

Some in the audience objected, saying it was difficult to comment on the environmental impacts of plans that were not being clearly specified about the future of these

two power stations at either end of the two and a half mile long power canal, which, considering the minimum main-stream flows required by the current federal license, provides the largest diversion of the

Connecticut River from its entire natural 407 mile channel. Fish passage has been notoriously perilous for migratory species like shad, sturgeon, and Atlantic salmon, and critics have taken to calling the stretch of the Connecticut River between the Turners Falls dam and the confluence of the Deerfield the "dead zone."

Jeff Suprenant, also of
see DAM page 6

Concerns about recreational access were overshadowed by comments about fish passage and riverbank erosion.

TIME from page 1

the baby quilt might have long ago faded. It is possible that I'll only regret that I didn't go to the gym more often or spend more time with the dogs. I might be stooped over with arthritis, missing the days when I could fold warm laundry fresh from the dryer. Truth is, I cannot know, and asking these questions undermines my resolve to get started on something — anything. I'm perfecting procrastination, but feeling guilty about it.

When I meet new people, the first question, after where do you live, is what do you do? "Well, I'm retired," I say. The new friend looks envious, rightly so, but the question nags at me. What should I do all day, all year, for the rest of my life? That's a lot of time to fill without a job description.

Labor leader Walter Reuther once said, "Retirement is the time when you are too old to work and too young to die." That's not uplifting, but it was interesting to learn that retirement is a relatively new social invention, enacted in 1935 during the Depression to encourage older workers (age 65 and not expected to live much longer) to leave and make their jobs available to unemployed younger people. It turned out that workers were not

eager to do this unless they were paid; hence the Social Security Act. Even with Social Security, people were adrift until Charles Webb started developing retirement communities, replete with golf courses, pools, bike trails and clubhouses, at which point play became the work of retirees.

For me, play is fine in moderation. Making twenty Ninja headbands for my grandson's birthday party consumed an afternoon, but I gave the time gladly. It is nice to have so much time that you can give some away. I know that volunteer opportunities abound. But before I commit myself to people or animals that will count on me, and require my presence at a certain time and place, I have to revisit my project list, tinker with the daily schedule, and figure out what matters most. In a perfect world, I would advise people to do this before they retire. In a perfect world we'd all find a still point between intention and action and then pause, like a dancer before we leap. In the best of all possible worlds people who liked their jobs might make the transition to retirement more gently, cutting back to three days a week and then two until they were weaned from the work world.

Though retirement is presented as an end, a reward for years of

work, I'm now thinking of it as a quest. Quests can be frightening. The hero usually faces monsters (self doubt), obstacles (failing health or lack of resources), charlatans (people selling quick answers), and wise teachers (found everywhere in unexpected places). Quests take time and can be filled with surprises, and the hero always emerges triumphant, though I'd settle for a victory over time management. This realization has allowed me to give myself time to learn to retire. I'm working on it every day, with varying degrees of success, and I'm curious about how others are managing. Anyone willing to share the story of your own quest should contact me at wickswords@yahoo.com. I'll make the time to listen to your story and write about it if you let me.



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG**Fire and Ice**

Monday, 1/7

5:25 p.m. Assisted Amherst P.B. by blocking off the north end of Amherst Road while the Amherst Fire Department dealt with a house fire on their side of the line.

Thursday, 1/10

7:55 p.m. Dakin Animal Shelter reported an abandoned snow-mobile behind the building. Officer checked vin num-

ber; snow mobile stolen out of Sunderland. Notified Sunderland police and snow mobile returned to owner. Under investigation.

9:33 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Shutesbury Road.

lost control of his 1999 Chevy pickup on an ice covered corner and struck two cement guardrails

and a utility pole. Vehicle towed back onto roadway and operator able to drive it away. WMECo notified to check condition of pole. No citation issued.

Saturday, 1/13

3:49 a.m. involved in an accident on Hemenway Road. Operator lost control of her 1999 Volkswagen Jetta on the ice and collided with a tree on the westbound side of the road. Operator uninjured.

Vehicle totaled.

Monday, 1/14

4:52 p.m. Reported burglar alarm at a Cave Hill Road residence. Home secured; alarm reset by owner.

Saturday, 1/26

12:30 a.m. Accident on Shutesbury Road.

lost control of a 2003 Honda Civic, spun around in the road and struck a rock and a guardrail. Vehicle towed by Amherst Towing. No injuries.

Black History Month at GCC

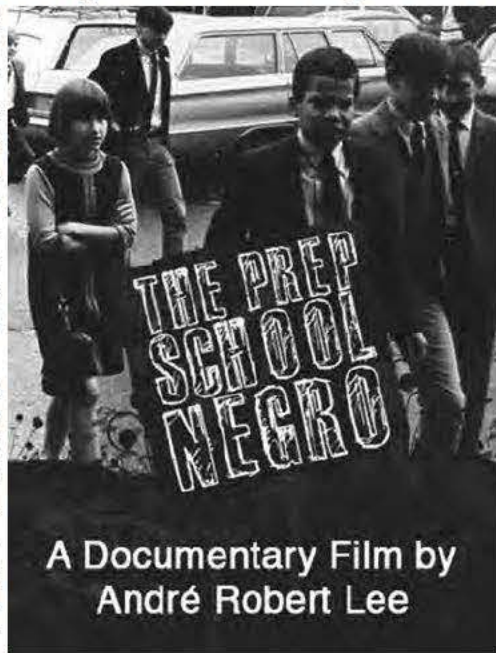
Documentary: *The Prep School Negro*

There will be a viewing of the documentary *The Prep School Negro* at Greenfield Community College on Thursday, Feb. 7 in the Stinchfield Lecture Hall starting at 2 p.m. A reception and Question and Answer session following the viewing will be in the Nahman-Watson Library with Director André Robert Lee. The viewing and reception is free and open to the public.

Lee and his sister grew up in the ghettos of Philadelphia while their mother struggled to support them by putting strings in the waistbands of track pants and swimsuits in a local factory. When Lee was 14 years old, he received what his family believed to be a golden ticket — a full scholarship to attend one of the most prestigious prep schools in the country.

Elite education was André's way up and out, but at what price? Yes, the exorbitant tuition was covered, but this new world cost him and his family more than anyone could have anticipated.

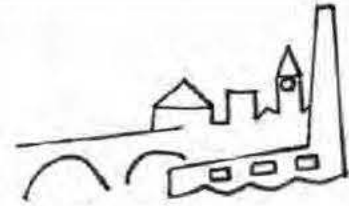
In *The Prep School Negro*, Lee takes a journey back in time to revis-



A Documentary Film by
André Robert Lee

it the events of his adolescence while also spending time with current-day prep school students of color and their classmates to see how much has really changed inside the ivory tower. What he discovers along the way is the poignant and unapologetic truth about who really pays the consequences of yesterday's accelerated desegregation and today's racial naiveté.

To learn more about the film visit www.theprepschoolnegro.org. The program is a sponsored by the GCC Standing Diversity Committee and the Nahman-Watson Library. Contact Shannon Cocksran at cocksrans@gcc.mass.edu or (413) 775-1336 for further information.



Turners Falls DOWNTOWN Livability Plan

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Tuesday, Feb 5th 2013

6:00-9:00 PM

**Great Falls Discovery Center
Great Hall Meeting Room**

Be a part of the future of Turners Falls!

All persons are invited and strongly encouraged to attend

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DAM from page 5

Riverside, said, "I've lived by the river for 60 years, and I've seen significant changes in the river since I've lived here. The banks are eroding and washing away. All along Riverview Drive," up to four feet of the river's embankment had washed away, he said.

Asked if the recent installation of a 2 MW solar farm on Northfield Mountain's property had not reduced the need for expanding power production at the pumped hydro facility, Howard replied with a characteristic flair, "The only thing the solar farm has reduced is the amount of golfing going on across the road."

First Light's commitment to recreational amenities for boaters, hikers, canoeists, bird watchers, anglers, cross country skiers and others was praised and occasionally criticized as inadequate.

Thomas Christopher, of New England Flow, called for an economic analysis of recreational activity based on increasing flows below the Turners Falls dam, for canoeists and kayakers, and for mitigation funding to replace the lost revenue of whitewater enthusiasts to local communities south of the Vernon Dam.

Bob Nasdor, of American



Turners Falls Dam, just upstream of the Turners Falls - Gill Bridge

Whitewater, said, "Here in Turners Falls, we're sitting in the cradle of two whitewater resources," with Class 2 and Class 4 rapids on the Millers River, and equally popular rapids along the Deerfield, now more easily accessed with agreements worked out during the last FERC licensing of Deerfield River dams.

"This 2.7 miles stretch [below the Turners Falls dam] with only minimum flows could be an important resource. We're optimistic we

can open up this boating opportunity to canoeists and kayakers throughout the region," said Nasdor.

Howard said employees of First Light, if contacted in advance, transport by truck canoeists who seek portage around the Turners Falls Dam to the access point below Cabot Station off Poplar Avenue. Although, he said this kind of transport, from Barton Cove to Montague City, took place at most two dozen times a year.

But Norman Sims, of the Appalachian Mountain Club, said, "I don't consider there is a portage way at the Turners Falls Dam, because there is no pathway. I'm not going to call a First Light truck to pick up my wood and canvas canoe. That's not going to happen."

Montague River Residents Association spokesperson Leena Newcomb, called for improved river access, portage points, and more camping and sanitary facilities along the 20 mile stretch below the Vernon Dam, on what has recently been named the first U.S. National Blueway - the Connecticut River. Newcomb complained about the \$22 fee at the Barton Cove campground for overnight camping, and Sims said portage ways and island camping for through canoeists was inadequate south of Vernon, especially as compared to the amenities along the river in Vermont and New Hampshire.

But concerns about recreational access were overshadowed by comments about fish passage and riverbank erosion, with Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Council's Ken Sprinkle speaking of "the cumulative effects," on fish passage of multiple manmade obstacles to the spawning cycle of anadromous species.

Sprinkle, who has been involved

Jeff Suprenant of Riverside said, "I've lived by the river for 60 years, and I've seen significant changes in the river since I've lived here. The banks are eroding and washing away."

in sophisticated radio monitoring of shad in recent years, said preliminary data shows, "Fish generally proceed fairly rapidly from one barrier to the next," but "there are delays associated with each dam. Particularly with shad, they don't actively feed on their spawning run migration. So the concern is they won't have enough energy to get back to the ocean."

Michael Bathory, of the Streambank Erosion Committee, showed a series of photos of instances where the Connecticut River's banks have been undermined by fluctuating flows, which the landowners are convinced are due to the impact of Northfield Mountain.

Montague town planner Walter Ramsey called on FERC to ensure that First Light make good on longstanding commitments to maintain pedestrian access across the power canal to the island where the town owned Strathmore Mill is located, by upgrading the two bridges owned by the GFD/Suez to that island.

And town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said, "I'd like the projects to look at the potential impacts on Native American cultural heritage." The town (in conjunction with the towns of Greenfield, Deerfield and Gill) has recently submitted a Battlefield Grant to the National Parks Service, in hopes of mapping the site of the May 19th, 1676 massacre led by Captain William Turner on a Native refugee camp on the Gill side of the river, and attracting historic tourism to the area known for its King Phillip's War battle sites.

"We want to expand the concept of the Native American cultural district to include the area downstream of the dam" to the Great Falls Discovery Center itself, where the hearings to mitigate the impact of international utilities on the 20-mile stretch of the Connecticut River south of Vernon - which they consider "the lower reservoir" of the Northfield Mountain project - will continue Thursday, Jan. 31, at 6 p.m.

SSS from page 1

artists featured in the show are Jackie Lucchesi, Edite Cunha, Peter Monroe, Nancy Lautenbach, Melissa Kulig, Lois Brown, Sharon Waschler and Rossi, herself. Almost all of the work is for sale with prices ranging from \$12 to \$2400.

Rossi said her life partner, Caleb Wetherbee, originally suggested the idea to her for last February's exhibit. Rossi was immediately enthused and began to organize the show. Due to its overwhelming success last year, she knew it was worth repeating. She said that this year she had more time to plan and acquire work. It was not difficult to attract interest among local artists. Even in the summer, she noted, artists were beginning to inquire about submitting for this year's exhibition. She was also contacted early on by Northampton erotica writer, Jeremy Edwards, who suggested that a fine accompaniment to the art would be a reading of erotic writing. Nina quickly agreed. Due to the very limited space in her tiny gallery, she arranged for the Pop-Up Shop to host the reception and reading. Some of the larger sculptures will also be on view there.

Among the delights awaiting viewers are Jackie Lucchesi's corsets, constructed in part from

materials purchased at Turners' Loot; Lois Brown's soft sculptures "Adam and Eve," "Adam and Steve" and "Ava and Eve;" a stunning nude photograph by Peter Monroe and Rossi's wire assemblage sculptures "Kittycat Angel" and "Erection Angel."

After the reception at 8:30 p.m. downstairs in the Pop-Up Shop, Jeremy Edwards will host "Sexy Scribes Speaking" with Michelle Augello-Page, Sally Bellerose, Elizabeth Black, Lana Fox, Sacchi Green, I.J. Miller, Teresa Noelle Roberts, Robin Elizabeth Sampson and Jeremy Edwards. Books will be available for purchase, and door prizes will include copies of major new erotica anthologies.

Due to the nature of the exhibition and the reading, the events are for adults only. Also, due to the very limited size of Nina's Nook, only four viewers can be admitted at one time. The show runs through March 31. Nina's Nook is open Wednesday and Thursday from 4 to 6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 1 to 6 p.m.



"Sex Pot" By Leslie DeGraffe

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Winter Fare Farmers' Market & Week of Winter Fare Events Beyond Vegetables

We can all enjoy locally grown food in February. That's the theme of Greenfield's Week of Winter Fare – a series of events from Saturday, Feb. 2 through Saturday, Feb. 10 with workshops, displays, Soup Café, and Barter Fair at the Greenfield Winter Farmers' Market, and continuing with community events.

Pack your shopping bags and head to the Greenfield Winter Fare Farmers' Market on Saturday, Feb. 2 at the Greenfield High School, 1 Lenox Avenue. The Market will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The market will have baked goods, cheese, cider, eggs, greens, honey, maple products, meat, preserves, pickles, root vegetables, squash, and more. Shop, attend a workshop, enjoy a cup of soup, and participate in the Barter Fair at 1 p.m.

The Farmers' Market Soup Café, from 11 a.m. until the soup runs out, will have soups made from locally grown food. Local restaurants serving soup include: Brass Buckle Café, Green Fields Market, Hope and Olive, Kitchen Garden Farm, and the Wagon Wheel.

The Winter Farmers' Market accepts credit cards and EBT/SNAP benefits. Double your money! The Greenfield Winter Fare organizers will match the first \$10 spent by SNAP users, so \$10 SNAP gets you \$20 of produce.

Attend community events during the week. Cook up some tasty Winter Fare. Winter is a great season to savor local foods. Enjoy!

For information visit www.winterfare.org or contact (413) 522-5932 or mmclinto@yahoo.com.

Workshops:

10 to 10:45 a.m.: "Simple Cheesemaking" (and other yummy dairy products) led by Margaret Christie

10 to 10:45 a.m.: "Canning 101" led by Mark Lattanzi

11 to 11:45 a.m.: "Keeping Food Alive - A Winter Gardening Primer" led by Danny Botkin

11 to 11:45 a.m.: "Planning Your Garden to Extend the Season" led by Pat Leuchtman.

Noon to 12:45 p.m.: "Backyard Sugaring" led by Cindy Tarail & Mark Lattanzi

Noon to 12:45 p.m.: "Composting with Worms" led by Ben Goldberg

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Market display area will have information about locally grown food and local agriculture.

1 p.m. Barter Fair:

Too much winter squash and not enough dried peaches in your life? Bring your surplus home-grown/home-made food stuffs to the Annual Winter Fare Barter Fair and trade them for someone else's home-grown goods. Last year was a big hit with participants trading everything from frozen pesto, healing salve and homemade vanilla extract to herbal tea, chestnuts, and of course, pickles.

How does it work? Anyone with home-made items to barter will gather and take part in informal trading during the last hour of the Winter Fare Farmers' Market. A great chance to meet home-growing neighbors, practice the art of barter-

ing, and get delicious food and goods without exchanging money. Open to gardeners, gleaners, foragers, canners, dryers and even professional farmers!

2013 Week of Winter Fare Events

What's in your food? Film screening of: "Genetic Roulette: The Gamble of Our Lives" Sunday, Feb. 3, 2 p.m., Upstairs at Green Fields Market. Learn how to protect your family from the dangers of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs). Post-film discussion with Jack Kittredge, Policy Director, NOFA/Mass (Northeast Organic Farming Association). Join together with other consumers and take action to create a healthy food system. Suggested Donation: \$5.

Greenfield Local Food Potluck, Sunday, Feb. 3, 1 p.m., Greenfield. Bring a dish to share prepared with locally grown ingredients. For directions, call Marsha at (413) 773-0201.

"Permaculture: The Growing Edge": Film Showing and Discussion, Wednesday, Feb. 6, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Sunderland Library, 20 School St., Sunderland. A 45-minute documentary by Donna Read and Starhawk, the film is an antidote to environmental despair, a hopeful and practical look at a path to a viable, flourishing future. The film introduces us to inspiring examples of projects and includes interviews with key figures in the Permaculture movement, including David Holmgren, Penny Livingston-Stark, James Stark, Paul Stamets, Mark Lakeman, Dr. Elaine Ingham, Maddy Harland, and others. Free and open to all. For information, call (413) 665-2642.

Eating for Energy Workshop, Saturday, Feb. 9, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Green Fields Market. What would your life be like with an abundance of energy and vitality? Learn how locally grown foods can help build energy and easy ways to incorporate local foods into your daily diet, even in the winter! This workshop will explore many avenues towards vitality in your life, including foods and practical lifestyle changes. Free. For information, contact Katherine Golub at info@greenfieldfamilywellness.com or (413) 362-9122, or visit www.greenfieldfamilywellness.com.

6th Annual Cabin Fever Seed Swap, Sunday, Feb. 10, 1 to 4 p.m., Green Fields Market meeting room. Attention horticultural thrill seekers! Come to a wild and wonderful seed swap! This informal and fun event brings together novices, experts, and everyone in between. Bring your seeds of all kinds, questions, and excitement for growing. Find out first-hand why seed swapping is radical; the curious are especially encouraged! Resources and information for new gardeners will be provided. For information, contact Melinda McCreven at melindamccreven@hotmail.com or visit: facebook.com/greenfieldsunflowers.

Rise Up Community Service Project Franklin County Sheriff's Office Regional Animal Shelter



FAITH KAEMMERLIN PHOTO

Leslee Colucci, Deputy Director of the Regional Dog Control and Adoption Center; Back row: Alicia Peters, Riley Smith, Mike Conant, Garrett Reipold and Stephen Palso. L-R Front row: Katelyn Dodge, Molly Hillman, Kelsey Yalish, Emilee Felton, and on the floor with Zen is Nick Fisher.

The Rise Up students chose the animal shelter as their class community service project and they completed their project last week.

As a class the students identified the need for fun and community building, promotion and funding for the shelter as well as beds for the dogs. The kids created the

four part project that included a dodge ball fundraiser, a commercial broadcasted on MCTV, sewing dog beds and volunteering at the shelter.

The class raised approximately \$700 for the shelter, donated 8 beds and volunteered five times at the shelter where they cleaned the

kennels, and walked and played with the dogs.

"We loved working with the folks at the Sheriff's shelter. They were supportive of including youth and we greatly appreciated them," enthused Rise Up Coordinator Faith Kaemmerlin.

Flu Report for Montague

By LEE WICKS

With cities such as Boston and New York declaring public health emergencies, I set out to see how we are doing closer to home. According to Carolyn Merriam, Public Health Nurse for the Town of Montague, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has reported a dozen, confirmed cases of influenza in Montague. This does not mean that these are the only cases of the flu, just those that have been reported.

Most of these patients were seen at Franklin Medical Center, she said, adding, "The state has sentinel sites that test people with influenza-like illness to confirm the flu and what strain is circulating. This information is used to project the incidence of flu in the community."

Merriam said that she stays in touch with school nurses, and they have not noticed an increase in absenteeism due to the flu, but that doesn't mean we should not take the threat seriously. Echoing the case for vaccination articulated in this paper last week by Emily Monosson, Merriam said, "When looking at flu statistics, it is also important to bear in mind that on average 36,000 people die in the

United States annually from the flu and complications of the flu. These deaths usually occur in the elderly, the very young and individuals with compromised immune systems."

The Montague Health Department held clinics in conjunction with the GCC Nursing Department at the Pumpkin Fest and Montague Senior Center in October. People were also vaccinated at the Town Hall on a walk-in basis. No future flu clinics have been planned for Montague because the Department of Public Health no longer has doses to distribute to local boards of health. Merriam said people can still be vaccinated at local pharmacies and at their primary care providers.

Those who have been vaccinated and those who have not, should also be sure to observe basic preventative health practices; There's a handy guide to prevention and care online at www.mass.gov under the Health and Human Services section.

Here are the basics:

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have one, cough into your inner elbow.

Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Use a household cleaner to clean things that are touched often like door and refrigerator handles, computer keyboards and mouse, phones, kids' toys.

Wash your hands often with soap and warm water, or use an alcohol-based hand gel. Keep about three to six feet between yourself and other people.

If you are sick, stay home. You can spread the flu even if you feel better. Adults can spread the flu for about five days. Kids can spread the flu for seven days. If you are breastfeeding your baby and have the flu, you might want to wear a face mask so your baby doesn't get sick.

To that you might add getting plenty of rest and eating well and trying not to become too stressed by national reports of a deadly pandemic.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

Selected Shorts

By PATRICIA PRUITT

Monday's meeting of the Montague selectboard may have set a record for brevity, lasting only 15 minutes. Frank Abbondanzio was not present, so the town administrator's report was given by his secretary, Wendy Bogusz.

The board set a date for a special town meeting on Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. in the high school theater. Any items for

the warrant must be filed with the administrative secretary by Feb. 6, at 4 p.m.

The board approved the hiring of part-timer Tina Sulda as an assistant in the town accountant's office to cover the duties of bill paying and payroll when accountant Carolyn Olsen is away.

Selectboard Chair Chris Boutwell requested an update on the Railroad Salvage

property from the building inspector at the next selectboard meeting. Selectman Mark Fairbrother said the discussion should be held in executive session considering all that needed to be discussed.

Boutwell spent the final minutes signing seven various documents pertaining to the Community Development Block Grant application.

Gill Management Study

Members of the Gill selectboard interviewed candidates on Monday, October 19th hoping to be hired to consult with the town on a management study, to review the operation of town departments to see if they are running efficiently, or whether cost sav-

ings can be located without sacrificing services to residents.

Four consulting firms have applied for the job, which will be paid for with \$10,000 from the payments in lieu of taxes given to the town annually by Northfield Mount Hermon, to

help pay for emergency services, police and fire protection.

Selectboard chair Ann Banash said the consultant hired will help the town by "looking at our police, fire and highway departments, to provide us an objective opinion of what Gill really needs."

NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

G-M School Budget Ask 4.4% Increase

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

Mark Prince, Interim Superintendent for the Gill Montague Regional School District, presented his preliminary budget for fiscal year 2014 (FY14) to the school committee on Tuesday, Jan. 22, for their approval. However, because the proposed budget failed to garner the required two-thirds majority of school committee votes, it did not pass initially. After certain budget tweaks, the committee was able to agree upon a budget a week later at a special meeting.

Prince developed the budget with the assistance of Andrew Paquette, whose company, The Management Solution, is in charge of the

tee decided to go ahead with it this week.

The budget was supported by most of the school committee members. Michael Langknecht said he felt inclined to vote for the budget because it was early in the process and there was opportunity to reduce it as they learned more.

Sandra Brown of Gill expressed her concern over the budget increase, saying fiscal sustainability of the district is very important. Brown stated she would vote 'no' on the budget. Marjorie Levenson of Montague said she had doubts, but could be persuaded. Levenson asked some questions, but in the end could not vote in favor.

Education (DESE). State education department officials have given a positive review of the Gill-Montague Regional School District's progress on its turnaround plan from the district's Level 4 "underperforming" status.

Plan monitor Joan Connolly presented her quarterly report stating the district has "continued to work diligently and consistently to achieve the goals of the accelerated improvement plan." She reported that "2012 MCAS results indicate that the percentage of GMRSD students scoring proficient in English, math, and science is close to statewide averages." Connolly said she recognizes the impact to the district of



Michael Langknecht, left, listens to Joan Connolly, plan manager from the DESE, center, presenting her quarterly report to the G-M school committee on January 22, in Turners Falls. Right, Lynda Foisy, Assistant Commissioner of Education.

business department for the district. Paquette developed an all funds budget with line item details of all money that comes into the school district including grants and other forms of income, and all expenditures, whether they are supported by state revenues, grants or other sources. Using this method the overall operating budget for the school district is \$19,155,043. Yet, this is not the budget presented for approval.

The official FY14 budget, which chair Joyce Phillips described as a level services budget, is merely \$17,257,629 and reflects only state revenues and town contributions. This budget is a 4.6% increase over last year's. Phillips reminded the committee that this is only a preliminary budget developed without hard numbers from the state.

The governor's budget was due to be released the next day and there was a discussion of putting off the vote on this until after the state numbers were released, but the commit-

tee had only seven members present and two voting against, the measure failed to meet the six votes required for passage. Thus, the school committee would have to return on Jan. 29 for a final vote. Under the regional agreement, the district is required to approve a tentative budget on or before Feb. 1.

On Tuesday, Jan. 29 the school committee met again and voted in favor of a district budget of \$17,292,956 in an 8-1 vote with Brown voting no. The committee had a brief discussion prior to the vote, and Levenson read a statement explaining that she would vote for the preliminary budget but would need more information before she could support it in the future. The difference in the current budget numbers are due to additional information that became available since the last meeting. The vote was taken, and the meeting was promptly adjourned.

On Jan. 22, there was good news from the Department of Elementary and Secondary

significant turnover in staff.

Senior Associate Commissioner Lynda Foisy, who joined Connolly while she made her report, discussed the letter from Commissioner Mitchell Chester to interim superintendent Prince informing the district of his decision to consider removing Gill-Montague from Level 4 status. The district has argued for some time that the Level 4 status is hurting its reputation. Foisy said before this can take place, the district must hire a permanent superintendent and demonstrate that they have a plan in place for staying the course and maintaining the progress made in implementing the Accelerated Improvement Program. Once a plan is in place, Foisy said, Chester would expect some written verification of this and added that he hopes the district will be able to sustain the good work that has been done. There was little commentary from the school committee, and few questions, but certainly this was happy news.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Vandalism and Property Destruction

Thursday 1/17

10:13 a.m. Medical Emergency at █ G Street, Turners Falls. Removed to hospital.

10:47 a.m. Larceny at Franklin County Technical School, 82 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls.

3:30 p.m. Police investigate malicious case of vandalism with over \$250 of property destruction at █ Central Street, Turners Falls.

5:13 p.m. Trespassing at █ Central Street, Turners Falls.

9:32 p.m. Medical Emergency at █ 4th Street, Turners Falls. Removed to hospital.

Friday 1/18

7:04 a.m. Motor Vehicle Theft at Rau's Sunoco & Towing on 531 Turners Falls Road.

8:46 a.m. Suspicious incident at Rau's Sunoco &

Towing.

9:20 a.m. Threatening harassment at █ Grove Street, Turners Falls.

4:55 p.m. Medical Emergency, █ Federal Street. Removed to hospital.

8:46 p.m. Suspicious incident at █ Davis Street, Turners Falls.

Saturday 1/19

1:14 a.m. Disorderly conduct, 3rd Street. Peace restored.

1:34 a.m. Suspicious person near █ Avenue A.

2:08 a.m. Suspicious vehicle behind Montague Elks.

3:02 a.m. Medical emergency at █ Park Village. Removed to hospital.

11:57 a.m. Environmental incident, █ L Street.

1:30 p.m. Medical emergency at Franklin County Technical School. Removed to hospital.

3:19 p.m. Accidental per-

sonal injury near the Lake Pleasant turn off in Montague.

7:10 p.m. Suspicious auto at Railroad Salvage, Power Street, Turners Falls.

7:11 p.m. Medical emergency at █ Coolidge Avenue. Removed to hospital.

Sunday 1/20

2:04 a.m. Suspicious person at L Street and Spring Street, Turners Falls.

4:15 Medical emergency at █ 5th Street, Turners Falls. Removed to hospital.

8:33 p.m. Suspicious incident at Cumberland Farms in Turners Falls.

9:36 p.m. Medical emergency at █ Sunrise Terrace, Turners Falls. Removed to hospital.

Monday 1/21

1:27 a.m. Suspicious auto at Unity Park parking lot.

1:32 a.m. Investigated

suspicious auto at the pier on Unity Street, Turners Falls.

2:16 a.m. Suspicious person on Spring Street, Turners Falls.

12:23 p.m.

█ arrested at Rau's Sunoco for operating an unlicensed motor vehicle.

4:27 p.m.

█ in █ George Avenue in Turners Falls for attaching plates and operating an unregistered vehicle.

Tuesday 1/22

1:53 a.m. Motor vehicle impounded for motor vehicle violation at Between the Uprights in Turners Falls.

11:55 p.m. Breaking entering and burglary at █ 11th Street, Turners Falls.

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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD MEETING

Regionalization Consultants Report

By DAVID DETMOLD

Selectboard member Julie Shively, who also serves on the regional school planning district board, made up of three representatives each from the towns of Amherst, Pelham, Shutesbury and Leverett, gave the selectboard a cautiously optimistic report from the educational and financial consultants the committee hired to study the pros and cons of four town pre-K – 12 regionalization on Tuesday night – and urged interested members of the public to attend a public hearing on Saturday, Feb. 2, at 1 p.m. at the Amherst middle school to hear the findings from the consultants themselves.

Shively said the consultants backed the concept of regionalizing the elementary schools of the four towns, which already share a regional upper school for grades 7 – 12 in Amherst.

The educational consultant found such a unified district would provide for “smoother curriculum flow to the middle school,” for elementary students from Shutesbury and Leverett, who are now part of Union-28, a century-old five town superintendency union with the elementary schools of Erving, Wendell and New Salem.

And, according to Shively, the financial consultant found that four town pre-K – 12 regionalization could reap a one-time cash benefit for the towns of \$600,000, if promised state financial incentives come through, along with a regional transportation aid windfall estimated at \$262,000. Shively said the anticipated increases in teacher salaries for the smaller towns, who would have to bring their teachers’ pay up to the same levels as the teachers in Amherst as a result of regionalization, would be offset by the zeroing out of U-28 administrative salaries. Shively claimed Amherst-Pelham superintendent Maria Geryk has maintained that A-R district has sufficient administrative staff to handle the needs of a four town pre-K – 12 region,

without additional hires.

Shively admitted the planning committee had not broached the difficult subject of how governance of a four town region would be structured, but she called that aspect of negotiations, “pretty tricky.” She added, “The only way I see it is weighted by population – not good.”

If the committee decides to move forward with four town regionalization, a decision Shively said would come to a vote in March, then they would hire a lawyer to help them iron out a proposal for regional school district governance before putting the entire proposal to a vote of the four town meetings in November.

“I am greatly concerned on the governance part,” said Shively, who added she wanted the proposal to succeed.

She said such a compact would probably include a prohibition on closing elementary schools in the smaller towns for five years, although it was possible Amherst could close one of its elementary schools before then.

Selectboard chair Rich Brazeau speculated whether the underutilized Amherst Middle School would not attract more students if it were reconfigured as an in district magnet school for science and technology, but that is not a proposal currently on the table.

Shively said questions about how repairs of elementary schools would be paid for – by individual towns or by the taxpayers of the new region as a whole – were yet to be addressed.

In other news, the selectboard heard budget reports from the library board of trustees and from fire chief John Moruzzi.

Other than an anticipated 2 percent cost of living adjustment for salaries in both departments, the fire chief’s presentation included no increases, other than a \$50 hike for postage. “I got tired of paying for postage out of my pocket,” said Moruzzi.

The issue of Moruzzi’s anticipated retirement in the upcoming years hovered

around his budget presentation, as when Brazeau asked, “You’re still 62, right?”

More recruits for the department are sought, and residents are urged to see a fire department recruitment video on the town’s website for more details.

Selectboard member Peter d’Errico asked how the town’s new fire truck was functioning, and Moruzzi, with characteristic understatement, said, “Pretty good. I went to Amherst with it.”

By this, Moruzzi was referring to the supporting role Leverett’s department and new \$325,000 fire truck played in the 5 a.m., Monday, Jan. 21st fire that left one UMass student dead, and dozens homeless, in the fast moving blaze that wrecked half a dozen apartments at the Rolling Green apartment complex on Route 9.

Chris Condit, speaking for the library trustees, said this year’s library budget would reflect a roughly \$3,000 decrease in the salary line item for the library director, to reflect the difference between the salary paid to the former director, Linda Wentworth, who left last October for a job at the Jones Library in Amherst, and newly hired Ashley Blais, who left the Jones last week to take the director’s job in Leverett.

The selectboard is back to square one in seeking a representative to upcoming contract negotiations with Leverett Elementary School teachers, after finance committee member Tom Powers, who had held this portfolio during last year’s negotiations, declined the honor this time around. Powers cited “too many projects,” and an unwillingness to sit around “twiddling my thumbs” until 10 p.m. after the school committee had finished conducting all other business, to participate in negotiating sessions.

D’Errico said he would seek a schedule of negotiating sessions, and urge an earlier start time for same, before contacting other potential selectboard representatives to those sessions, which may start next week.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD MEETING

Town of Erving Marks 175th Anniversary This Year

By KATIE NOLAN

Becky Hubbard, a member of Friends of the Erving Public Library, told the selectboard on Monday night, Jan. 28, that the library and Erving Elementary School (EES) are planning activities throughout 2013 to recognize Erving’s 175th anniversary. Hubbard said that the activities include classroom town history projects and possibly a school play.

On Feb. 12, the EES library will host Natalie Kinsey-Warnock, an author of historical novels for children. Kinsey-Warnock states on her website, “The focus of my school presentations is to show how many of my stories are based on my life and my true family stories and to encourage students to explore the stories in their families.”

Hubbard also shared some further ideas for celebrating the town’s history, including a walking or bus tour of historic sites in town this summer.

The selectboard asked town administrator Tom Sharp to set up a joint meeting of the friends of the library, the recreation commission and the historical society to discuss ways to cooperate on commemorating the town’s founding.

In other news, the board approved payment of \$409,465 to J.R. Vinagro Inc., the cleanup contractor working at the former Usher Plant on Arch Street. Sharp estimated that the cleanup work was 70-75 percent complete and would be finished on schedule.

Interim animal control officer (ACO) Arthur Johnson informed the board that the state’s Act Further Regulating Animal Control, signed by Governor Deval Patrick in August, expands the responsibility of ACOs and increases the required training for ACOs. According to Johnson, the Act also states that, if towns don’t appoint an ACO, the attorney general is authorized to make the appointment. The board asked Sharp to develop an ACO job description, and then set up a meeting between police chief Chris Blair and Johnson to discuss ways the police and ACO would interact. The town will advertise for applicants for the ACO position and appoint a permanent ACO, most likely in March.

Sharp informed the board that moderator Rich Peabody has appointed Jacob Smith of High Street to one of the vacant positions on the finance committee. With this appointment, the FinCom

now has three members (Smith, Daniel Hammock, and Johnson) and two vacancies. Sharp reported that Peabody is talking with other prospective volunteers and hopes to fill all of the FinCom slots in time to work on the fiscal year 2014 (FY’14) budget.

The FinCom and school committee will meet Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. at town hall to discuss the initial school FY’14 budget.

The board considered a request from Union 28 for revisions to the annual fund established in 2008 for replacing and updating EES computers as they age. The current request incorporated purchasing iPads, which were not considered in the 2008 plan. The board tabled the discussion until after it receives a formal, detailed plan for EES computer purchases over the next 10 years.

The selectboard will have its second annual goal-setting meeting Jan. 30 at 6 p.m. at the senior community center. The meeting is characterized as a brainstorming meeting, not a decision-making meeting. Although it is an open meeting that the public is allowed to attend, no questions or input from the public will be accepted.

Stay tuned!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Roadway and “Huffing” Incidents

Monday, 1/21

11:20 a.m. Walnut Street residence reported for disturbance.

12:10 p.m. Tractor trailer unit stuck on the Gill Montague Bridge; tow requested to assist same.

Tuesday, 1/22

1 p.m. Motor vehicle complaint of a tree removal crew creating traffic hazard on Boyle Road.

Wednesday, 1/23

9:35 a.m. Motor vehicle Accident Route 2 at Barton Cove Road; no injuries.

10 p.m. Resident from Main Road taken for hospital for evaluation after “huffing” incident.

Friday, 1/25

5:10 p.m. Reported tractor trailer unit lost the trailer on Main Road at Mountain Road; assisted same.

11 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Dole Road; no injuries.

Sunday, 1/27

10 a.m. Alarm sounding at West Gill Road business; checked out OK.

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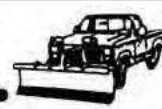
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The Poetry Pages

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

Winter Died Beneath the Snow

For Joe

The sun is fully on the world
Wizened as it is with cold
And not-enoughs of every stripe
The blue turns an alluring but blind
eye above Red Rose of love
nonetheless thrives among its thorns
Into this strife each and every one is born

— Patricia Pruitt

Turners Falls

Valentine

For P

If offshore
it gathers
as it will,
comes thundering in
or moving like a great gray whale,
then let it come.

Let it shatter the sun
scatter it in shards
across the horizon
twist dawn
into a long dark shadow.

Let it come
pummeling the breakwater
drowning the jetty
become for us
a strange dark force shared.

— Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno
Turners Falls

The Private Life Of A Courtesan

Becoming everyone's fantasy for the night
I am unseen, save for the mirror's blank gaze.
There I stand revealed—
only a woman: skin, hair, teeth.

The artistry begins here:
stroking oil on my skin till it glistens
like ivory. Attar of gulab or moti
a close perfume to ignite heated dreams,
bring the closure of fantasy made flesh.

Early errors of crude ambition
were compensated by my smooth white skin.
These days I am surer—the quick
or delayed sight of me astutely exposed
causes lavish streams of coins to flow
into my copper bowl lined with red silk.

It is the sun that finds me simple:
drying my long black hair on the roof top terrace,
sipping tea, engaged, for my own pleasure,
in writing poetry.

Not romantic Ghazals of reproach
for a feckless lover, but the simpler loves
of a woman for her mother, children,
the precious, undisturbed night.

(Attar of Gulab and moti: rose and jasmine perfumes)

— Ilina Singh

Wendell



In My Corner of the Wendell Free Library

Out lays a meadow where the wind blows
leaves back front on the trees like a dance
Hearing only that sound I catch the thought of
what it must have been like years ago

In lays a wood floor in beautiful yellow and a
bit light brown lines

These all my sense in just one moment leave
behind

— Elizabeth Freeman
Montague Center

The Connecticut

This broad river
has formed potholes, mud balls,
Lake Hitchcock, whitewater falls
and now has bridges spanning views
I once wanted no part of.
The dirty trough of my youth,
with hidden currents not feared enough.
It might lure an
innocent to its sandy shore
on a sweltering noon
or tip a canoe
as if slurping a spoon.
Its shape shift whirlpools
slip downstream
in dervish choreography.
The river's edge drops swift
to snatch the unsuspecting,
small or strong,
to be churned up
when their breath is gone.
Looking down
from the railway span,
I scan a shoal
that runs the spine
and glimpse
a ghostly shadow
slip back to its roily flow.
I shiver in the humid heat
to contemplate the lowly beast
who has no lids
for troubled sleep.

— Gini Brown
Berkeley, CA

Contributors' Notes:

Elizabeth Freeman is a Montague Center native. The motto of her business is "Everybody needs an ELF."

Ilina Singh is a poet living in Wendell. **Patricia Pruitt** is the assistant editor of The Montague Reporter and edits the Poetry Page. **Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno's** new book of poems *Mussoorie-Montague Miscellany* will be published by Talisman Books in April.

Gini Brown, formerly of Montague, is an artist and poet now living in Berkeley. This poem was inspired by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno's poem "Rivers" that appeared in last month's poetry page.


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EVERY SUNDAY

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Celtic session, 10:30 a.m.

EVERY TUESDAY

The Millers Falls Library Club: Free after school program. 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Free Texas Hold 'em Poker tournament, with cash prizes.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library: Children and their families are invited to come enjoy stories, crafts, music, activities and snacks. 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Winterland, Greenfield: TNT Karaoke, 9 p.m.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: Karaoke with Dirty Johnny. 9 p.m. to midnight. Free.

EVERY THURSDAY

Carnegie Library: Music and Movement with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson. Children and their caregivers are invited. 10 to 11 a.m. Free.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: Open Mic with Dan, Kip, and Schultzy from Curly Fingers Dupree Band. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Free.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Open Mic Night, 9:30 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

Montague Inn: TNT Karaoke, 8:30 p.m.

ART SHOWS:

Great Falls Discovery Center, open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2 through MARCH 31

Nina's Nook, Avenue A, Turners Falls: Sensual>Sexual>Smut.

LOCAL EVENTS:

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: Blue Pearl, blues/jazz, 8 to 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Kris Delmhurst, indie folk pop, and Dan Charness, singer-songwriter. Benefit for the venue. 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: The Equalites, reggae fantastico!, 9:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Drew Paton's 1940s Hit Parade. 7 p.m., free.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: Valentine's Party. Children of all ages are invited to make Valentine-themed crafts. Chocolate fondue fountain. 10:30 a.m. to noon. Free.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Happy Groundhog's Day. Stories, crafts and discussion of groundhogs and winter. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Ages 3 to 6, free.

Powertown Pop-Up Shop, Turners

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: Dedicated to Delilah, '80s pop rock and ballads. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Afterglo, current and classic hits. 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Nina's Nook's SSS Art Opening Afterparty. 10 p.m., free.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Augusta Savage Gallery, New Africa House, UMass-Amherst: Dr. Paola Zamperini, Costume-made: The Invention of National Dress in 21st Century China. 7 to 8 p.m., free and open to the public.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: The Collected Poets Series featuring Cindy Snow and Betsy Wheeler, 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Falltown String Band. 8 p.m., free.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Friends Coffeehouse with Mark and Beverly Davis, String Plucked Duo. Folk, classical, rock and jazz-informed plucked string instrumentation. 7 to 9 p.m., suggested donation.

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Never Cry Wolf (1983). PG, 105 minutes. 7:30 p.m. Music before the movie: Whistlestop, old-time music. 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: The Peachy's, americana blues, 8 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: Dan Kennedy, new age piano. 8 p.m., \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Village Hill, jazz/fusion. 9:30 p.m., free.

CALL for PHOTO SUBMISSIONS

Four Seasons on the Leverett Trails. March and April exhibit at the Leverett Library. Sponsored by the Leverett Trails Committee. See www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org/trail-s/photo-exhibit/ for more information. Deadline February 15.

CALL for POETRY SUBMISSIONS

Slate Roof Press, Greenfield: 1st Annual Poetry Chapbook Contest. Winner will become an active member and have a limited-edition, art-quality chapbook published by Slate Roof, a member-run non-profit collaborative. \$20 reading fee. Deadline has been extended to February 15. Visit slateroofpress.com for more info.



Local indie/folk artist Kris Delmhurst will appear this Friday, Feb. 1 at Mocha Maya's in Shelburne Falls, with singer-songwriter Dan Charness. The show is a benefit for the venue. 7:30 p.m.

Falls: Artist Reception for SSS exhibit at Nina's Nook. 5 to 8 p.m.

Montague Grange: Square Dance to old-time music. 7 to 10 p.m. \$

Powertown Pop-Up Shop, downstairs, Turners Falls: Nine Steamy Stories: a "Sexy Scribes Speaking" reading will be hosted by local author Jeremy Edwards. The event features the kind of lineup you'd usually have to travel to New York to see: Michelle Augello-Page, Sally Bellerose, Elizabeth Black, Lana Fox, Sacchi Green, I.J. Miller, Teresa Noelle Roberts, Robin Elizabeth Sampson, and host Jeremy Edwards. Books will be available for purchase, and door prizes will include copies of major erotica anthologies that are hot off the presses! Don't miss this unique opportunity to let the unparalleled sexual power of language get you in the Valentine's Month mood. 18+. 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.



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Property Gift Furthers Land Trust's Goals

By JONATHON Von RANSON

The film, "Wild Things of North Quabbin," made by Hank Cramer, comes out of one man's passion for wildlife. It was filmed over many years' time, mostly near Cramer's home in South New Salem and has been screened locally to benefit land conservation, most recently at the Athol Town Hall last week.

A local force on behalf of nature is the painter Bob Ellis of Wendell. Ellis recently willed his home for wildlife conservation purposes.

The gift, figurative and literal, came together in the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. Mount Grace is the organization to which Ellis' rustic, hand-made dwelling and three acres will be going, and was a sponsor of last Saturday's film showing. (The second is the Athol Council on Aging).

Ellis explained that, with the help of an attorney, he'd recently written a will that specifies that his house and lot "are to go to Mount Grace when I'm gone. They will try to sell or rent it," he said, "and that money will go toward conservation purposes."

Mount Grace is the North Quabbin's premiere private land conservator. Ellis' donation, and "non-conservation" property of all types, are the sort of gift that

Leigh Youngblood, its executive director, said are needed "for the Trust's current organizational sustainability. Bob's little house is on a non-conservation lot," she explained. "There's a lot of economic value in non-conservation real estate. We'd like to encourage those non-conservation, bargain sale gifts." They don't necessarily have to wait until the donor's death, either. There are second homes that are no longer practical for their owner, or other problem properties that people would like to have resolved. "We'll take on the hassle," she said, "they can feel good about the results."

In the case of Ellis, the gift furthers one of his main objectives – to give all he can to nurture and preserve the living, non-human realm. His life has largely revolved around his love of that world, with countless hours spent walking, sitting, canoeing in the wilderness. His field of general knowledge is uncommonly broad, but that of local wildlife is encyclopedic. Now 79, humble and blunt, he's an elder in the Wendell community in the wisdom-related sense that indigenous cultures use the term. He's just finished writing an autobiography that includes a section on his stint as an Army specialist in Albuquerque doing development and maintenance on the first generation of atomic



Bob Ellis at home.

bombs.

As a painter, Ellis evokes the quiet dramas of wild nature most visible to a passionate observer. His paintings are detailed and realistic yet with a sense of the abstract as well. "The way Bob puts color on paper," Parker Cleveland wrote in a promotional

for his friend, "moves you into those quiet, special experiences that come as you explore our wild woodlands and waterways."

"Bob is this icon of wildlife protection," Youngblood said. "It's an honor for Mount Grace to

help him deal with his problem property. By helping Bob it helps our mission, and he loves our mission."

"Oh, yes," Ellis confirmed, "I'm feeling very good about this outcome."

"Beat the Heat" Cat Spaying Program

LEVERETT - Warmer weather may be months away, but the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society is trying to encourage pet

owners to "beat the heat" by spaying all female cats in advance of their reproductive cycles.

To do this, Dakin is offering a deal to fix female cats for only \$20 throughout the month of February.

Dakin is hoping to prevent unwanted litters from being born this spring, commonly referred to as "kitten

season."

Their website states: "Spaying your cat—especially before she has babies—keeps her healthier. It also means that your cat and her babies won't contribute to the population of homeless and abandoned cats in our community."

Availability is limited. Call (413) 781-4019 for an appointment.



Figgero, who is waiting to get adopted from Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society

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