



Little  
Technical  
School... of  
Horrors

Page 7



See John  
Sheldon at  
Deja Brew,  
Arts Block

Page 11



“Nature  
Seems To  
Take A  
Pause”

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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 11 – NO. 23

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

75¢

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 21, 2013



ELLEN BLANCHETTE PHOTO

Music teacher Melinda Swanson leads students in song in the vocal portion of the district-wide concert that brought together elementary, middle school and high school students in a presentation under the theme, “Cover the World With Love.”

## Wendell Gets a Big Green Check

JOSH HEINEMANN PHOTO



Nan Riebschlaeger presented the Wendell selectboard members Dan Keller, Jeffrey Pooser and Christine Heard with a novelty sized check for becoming a Green Community on March 13.

By JOSH HEINEMANN

said Patrick.

Nan Riebschlaeger, Energy Committee chair, opened the March 13 Wendell selectboard meeting by presenting to the board and the town a check that was large, both physically and monetarily. The check for \$138,125 was written to the town by the state for becoming a Green Community by following the state guidelines for that designation. It represents grant money that Wendell may receive for environmental improvements in town.

Along with the check, Riebschlaeger brought signs to be posted at road entrances to the town, and a plaque signed by Governor Deval Patrick, all proclaiming Wendell a green community.

The award is part of the Green Community initiative throughout the commonwealth to encourage investment in renewable energy and reduce waste. “Community by community, we are protecting our environment, reducing municipal costs and making Massachusetts a clean energy leader,”

The energy committee has already chosen projects for the first two of those grants and has sent in two applications: one for a thermal imager to find leaks in town buildings and in private homes, the second for an ASHRAE (American society of heating, refrigeration and air conditioning engineers) audit of town buildings.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said that the state now says that a dog officer is no longer enough for towns; instead towns must have an animal control officer, able and willing to deal with other problem animals, except for wildlife. Wendell’s dog officer, Maggie Houghton, said she is not eager to deal with non-dog domestic animals, such as cats. Trying to imagine other domestic animals, board members were silent a minute until Keller suggested ferrets, which can be a problem especially if they get out in an apartment building. Locally, when farm animals have escaped,

see **GREEN** page 5

## Union 28 Teachers Talk Shop: Investigations in Numbers, Data, Space and Everyday Math

By KATIE NOLAN

Common core state standards, curriculum frameworks, deconstruction, job-alikes, IXL, Math Boxes, spiraling: This is elementary school teacher tech-talk.

Union 28 hosted a professional development day titled “Pedagogical Shifts Prompted by the Common Core State Standards” for Irving, Leverett, Shutesbury, and Swift River Elementary school teachers and staff on March 15, where the participants used these words and phrases freely and everyone understood what they meant.

The *pedagogical shifts* — pedagogy being the art and science of teaching — are the changes teachers have leeway to make in order to give their students a lasting foundation in arithmetic procedures and mathematical understanding, while still meeting national and state standards for content.

The common core state standards developed by the National Governor’s Council list the expectations for what students should know at every grade level. The Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics, contained in a ¾-inch thick 8 ½ by 11 blue-paper handbook, merges the core curriculum with Massachusetts state standards. Many of the teachers carried their framework books with them into the workshop, and referred to them throughout the day. The Massachusetts framework has overarching standards for all grades, including: “Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them”; “Attend to precision”; and “Look for and make use of structure.” It also includes specific

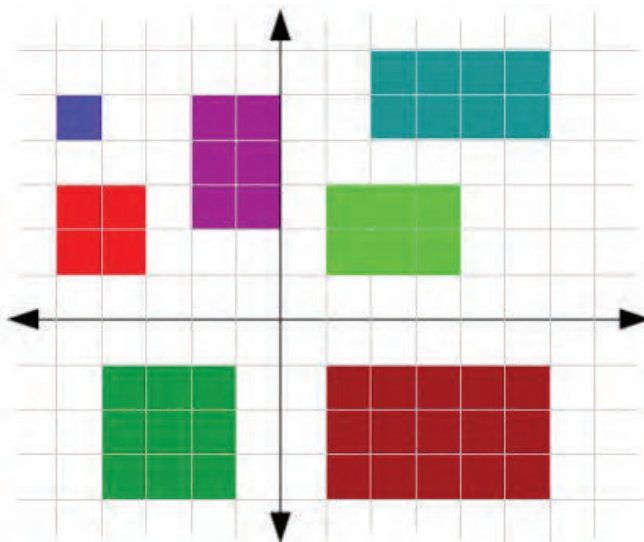
goals, such as “develop fluency and accuracy with addition and subtraction with numbers within 100” for second graders.

Mike Flynn, award-winning teacher and associate director of Mount Holyoke’s Mathematical Leadership Program, led the workshop, alternating short lectures and teacher discussions. Some of the pedagogical shifts he highlighted (*focus, coherence, application, fluency, deep understanding*) are general terms, but he and the teachers made them specific by developing solutions to math problems illustrating the shifts and by discussing how these shifts work in actual classrooms.

At the workshop, participants were divided into tables of “job-alikes.” The second grade job-alike group (second grade teachers and para-professionals spread out over the four elementary schools) included a teacher with over 30 years of elementary school experience, and one in her third year of teaching. These job-alikes meet four times a year, outside of workshops, to discuss issues and share strategies specific to their grade.

Initially, the teachers from the various schools described their structure for teaching math, from breaking math time up into numerous small sessions

throughout the day, to starting with math first thing in the morning and focusing on the number of the day, to scheduling math games



see **MATH** page 5

## According to Pew, Local News Coverage is Getting Worse

By SHIRA HILLEL

Every year, the Pew Research Center’s Project for Excellence in Journalism releases a huge report called “The State of the News Media.” Their 2013 report came out this week.

According to the report, almost half of Americans say they watch local news “regularly” and that it is their main source of news. Yet, local TV news is getting substantively flimsier; it used to consist mostly of crime, traffic, sports and weather. Now it’s almost only those things. From the report:

“When sports, traffic and weather are combined, the airtime time devoted to these subjects rose from 32 percent of local TV newscast studied to 40 percent of local TV newscasts studied — a 25 percent increase. Indeed, Pew Research’s examination of 48 evening and morning newscasts in late 2012 and early 2013 found

that 20 of them (or 42 percent) led with a weather report or story.”

Weather is useful information that people want to know about. A local news outlet should offer

**Only three percent of local news airtime is about what local and state governments are doing.**

accurate and helpful weather forecasts, especially in today’s volatile climate times. But is more weather being reported at the expense of other less “sexy” information? Again, from the report:

“The same basic trend was seen in coverage of politics and government. In 2005, those topics accounted for 7 percent of the airtime studied. By 2012/2013,

that coverage had been more than halved — to 3 percent of the airtime.”

Only three percent of local news airtime is about what local and state governments are doing. Pew says the “accidents/bizarre events/disasters” topic made up 13 percent of local newscasts.

With the declining print newspaper industry, it’s hard for people to learn about what is going on with their local governments.

While it is still easy to keep up with national issues — for instance, *The New York Times* has a good website that gets a lot of traffic — very few are reading reporting from the statehouse anymore.

What will happen if substantially fewer people hear about what state legislatures are doing? If the local news is unwilling to shine a light on local politics, local politicians will operate nearly unchecked.



## Pet of the Week Melts In Your Lap



### “Sassy”

Call me Sassy, but Butter may have been a better name for me. I melt to your petting and then purr oh so softly. I'm a four year old girl with a pretty white chest and feet. Cream colored marking around my eyes look like eyeliner. How fun! I like to play but I also like sitting in your lap and being loved.

For more information on adopting me, contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or info@dvphs.org.

## Leverett Library News Bruce Watson & Jon Stewart: Moments of Zen



One is the most popular man on TV. The other isn't. One is "a major cultural force in America." The other just published an e-book about him.

Join us at the Leverett Library on Wednesday, March 27 at 7 p.m. as local author Bruce Watson discusses his new e-biography of "Daily Show" star Jon Stewart. His talk will include insight on how Stewart rose from Jersey comic to "most trusted man on TV;" personal details on how Stewart proposed to his wife in a *Times* crossword;

clips of Stewart's best segments from "The Daily Show," ranging from the 2000 Election re-count to the 2012 campaign; rants on how Stewart made satire matter and why that matters.

Watson is the author of four actual books on American history and of countless columns for the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* and *Amherst Bulletin*. His books include *Freedom Summer*, *Sacco and Vanzetti*, and *Bread and Roses*. The *Washington Post* named *Sacco and Vanzetti* one of its Top 10 Non-fiction Books of 2007.

His work has also appeared in *Smithsonian*, the *Boston Globe*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *American Heritage*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Washington Post*, *Yankee*, *Reader's Digest*, and *Best American Science and Nature Writing* 2003.

## Wendell Free Library Film *Got the Facts on Milk*

On Friday, March 29, the Wendell Agricultural Commission will sponsor the showing of the movie *Got the Facts on Milk: The Milk Documentary* at the Wendell Free Library at 7 p.m.

Got the facts on Milk? (also known as "The Milk Documentary") is an entertaining, award win-

ning feature documentary that dares to question the conventional wisdom of the much publicized health benefits of milk and dairy products. Addressing myth, truth and all in-between, the film is a humorous yet shocking exposition that provokes serious thought about this everyday staple.



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

*Q. How important is exercise when you are a senior? Is it worth the risks of hurting yourself?*

All the current scientific evidence shows that geezers should exercise, even though many older people think it could harm them. Study after study demonstrates that seniors hurt their health a lot more by being sedentary.

If you're inactive, you deteriorate. Physical activity can help restore your capability. Most older adults, regardless of age or condition, benefit from increasing physical activity to a moderate level.

Four types of exercise are important for your health: exercises for strength, balance, stretching and

endurance.

Strength exercises build muscle, raise metabolism and help to keep weight down.

Balance exercises help prevent falls and, therefore, will keep you from breaking yourself and losing your independence. U.S. hospitals admit 300,000 people for broken hips every year; many of them are the result of falls.

Stretching exercises give more freedom of movement. And endurance exercises raise pulse and breathing.

Warning: If you want to begin a new exercise program, you should consult your physician and request a list of exercises that are best for your age and physical condition.

Here are 10 tips to make any exercise program safer:

- 1.) Don't hold your breath during strength exercises. This could affect your blood pressure.
- 2.) Breathe out as you lift or push a weight, and breathe in as you relax.
- 3.) You should be able to talk during endurance exercises.

## THE HEALTHY GEEZER Senior Exercise

4.) When lifting weights, use smooth, steady movements. Avoid jerking or thrusting movements.

5.) Avoid locking arm and leg joints into a strained position.

6.) Some soreness and slight fatigue are normal after muscle-building exercises. Exhaustion, sore joints, and painful muscle pulls are not.

7.) Always warm up before stretching exercises.

8.) Stretching should never cause pain, especially joint pain.

9.) Never bounce into a stretch; make slow steady movements instead.

10.) To prevent injuries, use safety equipment such as helmets for biking.

Measuring your progress can motivate you. Test yourself before starting to exercise to get a baseline score. Test and record your scores each month. The following are some tests you can use, if your doctor approves.

- For endurance, see how far you can walk in exactly six minutes.
- For lower-body strength, time

yourself as you walk up a flight of stairs as fast as you can safely.

- For upper-body strength, record how much weight you lift and how many times you lift that weight.

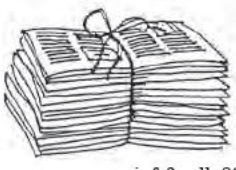
- For balance, time yourself as you stand on one foot, without support, for as long as possible. Have someone stand near you in case you lose your balance. Repeat the test while standing on the other foot.

Remember, above all, exercise should make you feel better.

Send your questions to fred@healthygeezers.com.

## RECYCLE PAPER

Week of March 18th  
in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054

## Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Grade 6

Jayden Chapin

Grade 7

Alora DeForge

Hadyn Patenaude

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**Turners Falls, MA 01376**

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Call us or contact

subscriptions@montaguereporter.org

with any questions.

## GILL MONTAGUE SENIOR CENTER

Gill/Montague Senior Center,

62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls,

is open Monday through Friday

from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Congregate meals are served

Tuesday through Thursday at

Noon. Meal reservations must

be made one day in advance

by 11:00 A.M. The Meal Site

Manager is Kerry Togneri. All

fitness classes are supported

by a grant from the Executive

Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary

donations are accepted. Council

on Aging Director is Roberta

Potter. For more information,

to make meal reservations, or to

sign up for programs call 863-

9357. Messages can be left on

our machine when the center is not

open.

**Monday 3/25**

10:10 a.m. Aerobics

10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

**Tuesday: 3/26**

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

12 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Painting Class

**Wednesday: 3/27**

10 a.m. Aerobics

12 p.m. Lunch

12:45 p.m. Bingo

NO Monthly Health Screening

**Thursday: 3/28**

9 a.m. Tai Chi

12 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Pitch

**Friday: 3/29**

10 a.m. Aerobics

10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

1 p.m. Writing Group

## 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 congregating 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 reser-

vations. 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.

**Monday, 3/25**

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Osteo Exercise

12 p.m. Quilting

**Tuesday, 3/26**

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

12:30 p.m. Painting

**Wednesday, 3/27**

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

12 p.m. Bingo

**Thursday, 3/28**

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Posture Perfect

12 p.m. Cards

**Friday, 3/29**

9 a.m. Bowling

9:30 a.m. Sit and Knit

## LEVERETT

For information, contact the Lever-

ett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5,

or coa@leverett.ma.us.

Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednes-

days at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall.

Drop-in \$4 (first class free).

Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon.

Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday

for a reservation.

## WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes

Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle,

(978) 544-6760, for hours and up-

coming programs. Call the Center

for a ride.

## FACES & PLACES



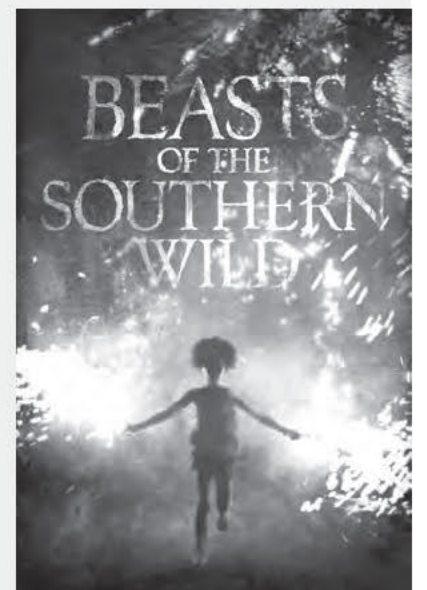
Lanie Bowse of Montague has a hair raising experience during a Hands-On Science for Homeschoolers session at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls.

## Showing *Beasts of the Southern Wild*

Nominated for four Academy Awards in 2012, *Beasts of the Southern Wild* (PG, 93 minutes) is a fantastical drama that follows Hushpuppy, a little girl who lives in a dilapidated pocket of homes in the Mississippi Delta. When her hot-tempered father falls ill and melting ice-caps flood her ramshackle bayou community and unleash ancient beasts, Hushpuppy sets off to find her long-lost mother.

Join us on Sunday, Mar. 27, at 7 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library. Sponsored by the COA.

For more information, contact Douglas Dawson at (978) 544-7762 or ddawson@post.harvard.edu.







## LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled By **DON CLEGG**

**The Friends of Gill** will hold a fundraising Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, Mar. 23rd from 8 to 10:30 a.m. in the Gill Congregational Church. The cost is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, and \$3 for children age 10 and over, and free for children under age 10. Proceeds support college scholarships for Gill students.

**Temple Israel**, located at 27 Pierce Street in Greenfield, will host a fundraising concert starring Don White on Saturday, Mar. 23rd, starting at 8 p.m. White is a unique performer who combines equal parts comedian, author, and songwriter in his act. Tickets can be purchased in advance at The World Eye Bookshop, or at the door on the night of the concert. The doors open at 7:30 p.m., at the Myrtle Street entrance. Refreshments will be available for sale on location.

**Local coin and antique dealer**, Gary Konvelski, is bringing some of his treasures which will be on display at GSB in Turners Falls on Saturday, Mar. 23, from 10 a.m. to noon for the community to view and admire. Konvelski has been a

collector for decades and has memorabilia from the wild, wild West thru the turn of the century including some currency from the Crocker Banks with their roots right on the Avenue in Turners Falls. Think you have some valuables, then bring them along and Konvelski will be glad to take a look and discuss with you.

Greening Greenfield is sponsoring the film **“Fixing the Future”** on Wednesday, March 27, at 7 p.m. at the Second Congregational Church in Greenfield on the Town Common. Refreshments will be served.

The Montague Art Movement is **seeking artists** to display and sell their work at the community Annual May Day Fine Art Show and Sale at the Montague Center town hall. Montague residents may submit fine art in any medium to the May Day Fine Art Show and Sale. There is a registration fee of \$20. The show date is on Sunday, May 5.

Send an email expressing interest to Montague.Art.Movement@gmail.com by **April 1** if you want to join the 5th Annual May Day Art Show.

**Books are needed** for the

Annual Book Swap in the Leverett School Public Library Contact Susan Wells at wells@leverettsschool.org or (413) 548-9144 (ext. 7). The swap will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 9 and 10, with every student taking home at least 1 new – to you – book.

Community Network for Children is partnering with Community Action to offer the **Good Cents Budget Basics workshop** to those who would like to work on getting a hold of the financial aspects of their life. Learn to: “Develop & Manage a Budget; Tame Your Debt; Increase Your Savings.”

The workshop will be held on Thursday, March 28 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Erving Elementary School. Registration is required and a free pizza dinner at 5:30 p.m. and child care will be available to those who register by Tuesday, March 26. Call (978) 544-5157 to sign up. For more information visit [www.communityaction.us](http://www.communityaction.us).

**The Franklin County Spring Parade**, which will take place Saturday, April 20 “on the hill” in Turners Falls is **seeking parade entries**. The parade will make

a three mile loop, beginning at 1 p.m. at Sheffield School on Crocker Avenue. It will take a left onto Montague Street, travel to the end, and turn left onto Turnpike Road. The parade will go past the Turners Falls High School, and take a left onto Millers Falls Road. At Scotty’s Convenience Store, the parade will turn left onto High Street and end back at Sheffield School.

Michael Nelson, Chairman of the parade, said “April is the time of the year when residents are fed up with being stuck inside after a long cold winter. The melting snow and springtime air give people a great feeling of rejuvenation. This parade helps shake off the winter blues and get people energized.”

Nelson encourages residents who live along the route to invite friends and family over to watch the parade right in their front yards. Parade-goers can watch anywhere along the route, but Nelson recommends the Turners Falls High School since there is ample parking.

Nelson is looking for organizations interested in participating in the parade. “We have an array of businesses, organizations, clubs, and bands coming, but we want more! We want to include everyone who wants to join us in this refreshing spring walk.” Organizations interested in being a part of the parade can contact Nelson at (413) 522-0712 or email [michaelnelsonmba@gmail.com](mailto:michaelnelsonmba@gmail.com)

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

## Planting for Pollinators

Local gardeners are finally learning that “Bees are not optional.” Tom Sullivan, M.A.L.D., graduate of the Conway School of Ecological Landscape Design and resident of the Patch in Turners Falls, will give an informal talk this Thursday, Mar. 21, at 7 p.m., at the Greenfield Garden Club at 339 Main St. in Greenfield.

Sullivan’s presentation will include stunning slides that help humans understand why we need to learn to attract native bees (not just honey bees, which are not native). He will also describe practical, easy tips for how to create a more pollinator-friendly yard and garden.

Sullivan will cover the main elements of native bee habitat design, including nesting requirements and flower types. He is passionate about the keystone role pollinating insects play with the plants in our world, and focuses on building popular support for habitat conservation.

For more information, see [www.pollinatorswelcome.com](http://www.pollinatorswelcome.com).

## Leverett Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held at the Leverett Library on Tuesday April 2, 2013 at 7:00PM to discuss proposed changes to the “Code of Leverett” as follows: To add a section to Chapter 78, which would address the outdoor confinement of dogs. These proposed changes would prohibit the tethering of a dog to a stationary object for more than 3 consecutive hours and prohibit tethering with a cable run for more than 8 consecutive hours daily. No tethering would be allowed between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m..

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

#### Repo Man and Hazardous Youths

**Sunday, 3/10**

4:00 p.m. Repo company reclaiming motor vehicle at West Gill Road residence.  
4:30 p.m. Walnut Street resident requested assistance with harassment prevention order on his spouse.

**Tuesday, 3/12**

3:43 p.m. 911 mis-dial reported on the Northfield Mount Hermon Campus; checked out OK.  
8:50 p.m. Verbal domestic dispute at Main Road residence; officers assisted in resolving issue for tonight.

**Wednesday, 3/13**

11:40 a.m. Medical reported at residence on West Gill Road; party transported by Baystate hospital ambulance.  
1:25 p.m. Assisted Main Road resident regarding a domestic situation from the previous evening.  
2:20 p.m. Assisted Greenfield police department with armed robbery investigation in their community.  
4:35 p.m. Assisted child services with domestic dispute investigation on Main Road.  
**Thursday, 3/14**  
1:00 p.m. Firearms

complaint from Dole Road area; no hunters located.  
1:35 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle in the area of River Road and Grist Mill Road; checked out OK.  
2:25 p.m. Tractor trailer unit stuck attempting to turn onto the Gill Montague Bridge.  
5:55 p.m. Medical at South Cross Road.  
**Friday, 3/15**  
6:00 a.m. Past motor vehicle accident reported at the Main Road/Route 2 intersection; traffic light was knocked down.  
12:10 p.m. North Cross

Road resident, arrest situation for District Attorneys office completed.

**Saturday, 3/16**

2:35 p.m. Assisted Erving police with party at French King Bridge with numerous out of state warrants for arrest.  
9:47 p.m. Youths from residence on Main Road reported running in the roadway creating a hazard; Three youths and parent spoken to.  
**Sunday, 3/17**  
2:45 p.m. Firearms assist to resident on North Cross Road.  
9:45 p.m. Responded to French King Bridge for subject reportedly headed to jump. No one arrived.

## Turners Falls RiverCulture Call to Producers: “Blossom Project”

Do you have an interesting project you would like to get exposure, funding and collaborators for? Consider tying it in to RiverCulture’s May downtown event with the theme of Blossom.

Proposals are being accepted for an event/exhibit/performance to take place in downtown Turners Falls on Thursday, May 16 from 6 to 9 p.m., during the downtown Thursday night out, which will cap off the two-week long Crabapple Blossom Festival. Area businesses will be open late and will tie in to the theme.

The submission deadline is April 10. Winners will be awarded \$1,750 to produce the project. Winners will be announced April 17. RiverCulture will provide promotion.

The project should be free of charge, invite broad community participation, and tie to the theme “Blossom.” Preference will be given to proposals that use a downtown feature or location in a new, reimaged, or creative way.

For more detailed criteria and submission instructions, visit [www.turnersfallsriverculture.org](http://www.turnersfallsriverculture.org).

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or (413) 863-8666  
for more information.

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GUEST OP-ED

## Participate in Democracy: An Open Letter to Montague Voters

BY CHRISTOPHER  
SAWYER-LAUCANNO

In 1993, a year or so after my wife, Patricia Pruitt, and I moved to Turners Falls, we received a letter in the mail from a gentleman we did not know. His name was Woody Brown, a town meeting member from precinct 6. The letter was something of a mass mailing in that Woody had apparently sent his missive to a number of households in Montague. His message was clear: Montague needs you. Yes you! Each and every one of you. It needs you to participate in the present and the future of the place you call home by running for town meeting and/or joining a town committee. Woody's words resonated with us.

We had lived most of our lives in big cities where a mayor or city council called the shots. Now, suddenly, we were presented with the opportunity to be involved in a real and meaningful way in making decisions for our own community. We walked down to town hall, got nomination papers, and went door to door collecting ten signatures from our neighbors who were registered voters so that we could qualify for a place on the ballot. In May we got elected, and have served ever since.

Woody's message of 20 years ago is even more timely today. Sadly, he's not here to deliver it, so in his honor, I'm doing it. Montague, frankly, is in danger of losing an extraordinary right and privilege, as old as New England itself: town meeting.

Citizen participation has been declining steadily. Not all that long ago, Montague had an open town meeting where every registered voter could participate. That was then changed to representative town meeting where 126 representatives decide the issues facing our town. And now, even representative town meeting is in danger. Not only are there unfilled seats in several precincts, a good number of elected members are not even showing up.

On Feb. 28 a special town

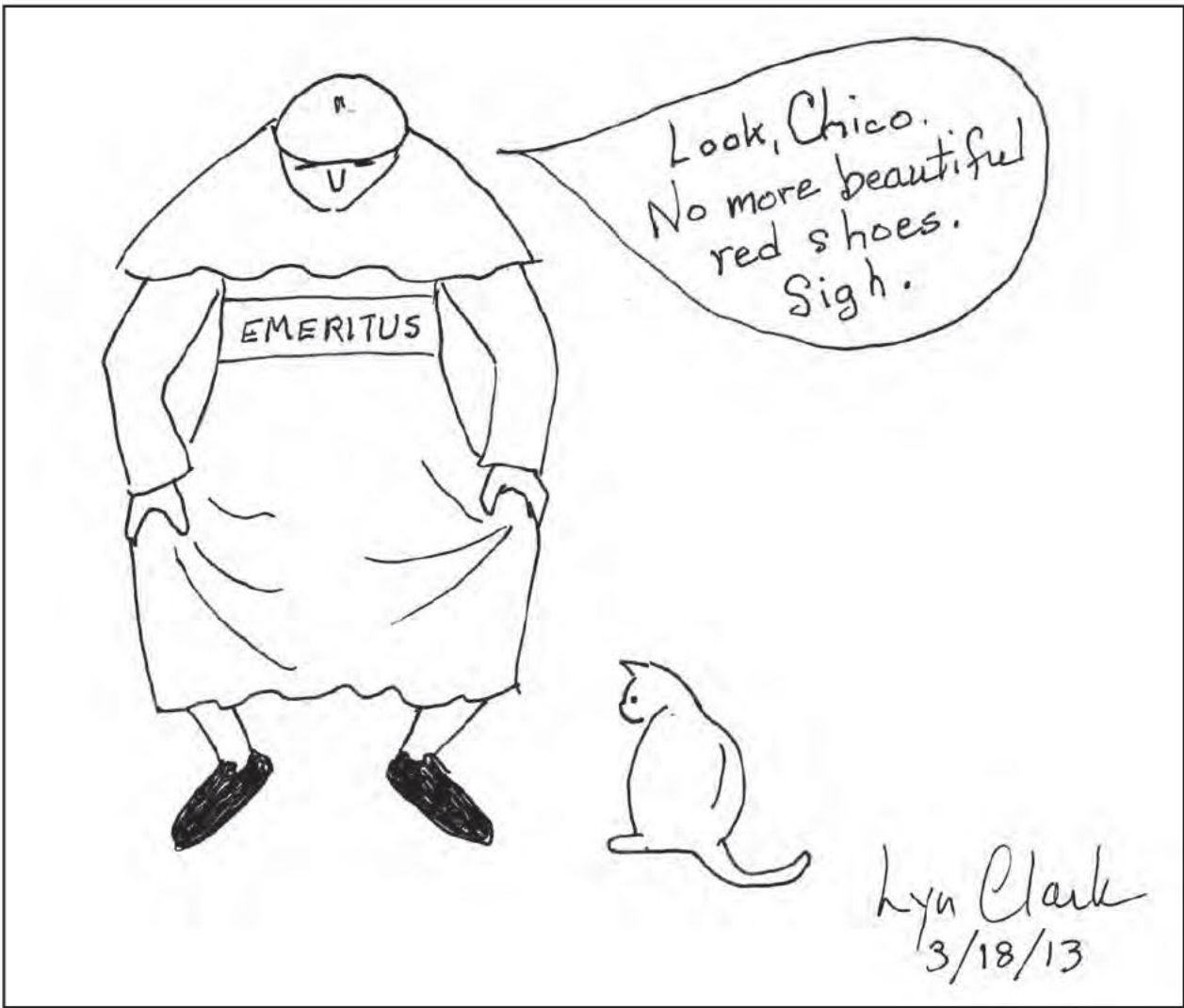
meeting could not go forward because not even half the elected members were present; the second try, on March 13, was successful but by the skimpiest of margins required for a quorum. Even two members of the selectboard didn't manage to show up, leaving it up to Mark Fairbrother to represent the board.

Committees, too, need members. Among the issues decided at the town meeting on March 13 was whether or not to approve a reduction in the number of members required to serve on the finance committee, since it was becoming increasingly difficult to obtain a quorum. (The finance committee chair wanted a minimum of three members; ultimately town meeting decided on a minimum of five.) Other committees, too, are in need of members. But town meeting needs you most.

So here's what you can do to re-energize yourself and your town: 1) Go to town hall by March 28 and get nomination papers for town meeting. 2) Obtain the signatures of at least 10 registered voters in your precinct (more is better) and return them by April 1. 3) Vote, and get your friends to vote, in the town election on May 20.

Want to skip the nomination process? OK, it's not recommended, but you can still become a town meeting member: organize your friends to write your name in on the ballot on May 20. Unfortunately, there are occasionally empty slots, so you could get elected with only a few votes. Once you are elected, show up. And if you have been elected and have not been showing up, remove yourself from town meeting and let someone else who wants to participate in the democratic process step up.

We should not give away our right to town meeting. Apathy should not drive Montague to governance by a small town council and a mayor. The town meeting evolved in New England, and we are still among the few places that give authority to the people to make decisions



LYN CLARK ILLUSTRATION

## Letters to the Editor Editorial Query

I am writing as a subscriber, supporter of the newspaper, a resident of Leverett and a locally elected public official, regarding the *Reporter's* position on editorials. Whether it is a legitimate assumption is unclear, I believe that most folks assume that there is a certain location on the editorial page of most newspapers that the reader can read as the opinion of the editors.

A recent OpEd piece by Ray DiDonato in the *Reporter* gave me pause as it was clearly an OpEd piece — or was it? It was printed in the space that is usually reserved for formal editorials. Given the

content, tone, and substance of Mr. DiDonato's piece, I found myself particularly upset, and thought that I should seek clarification as to the position of the editors of the *Reporter* on a matter that is of significant consequence and importance to many people in your readership area.

I understand that the paper is traveling through some uncertain times. However, it strikes me that clarification of its editorial priorities would be uppermost in the minds of those calling the shots. I look forward to hearing from you regarding the editors' position on DiDonato's piece,

as well as the paper's editorial philosophy in general.

Thank you,

— Kip Fonsh  
Leverett

*The Montague Reporter welcomes all readers' responses and comments. The OpEd page is a sounding board for the communities we serve.*

*When the opinion piece is written by an editorial staff member; we run it with no byline. The heading "Guest OpEd" signifies that the opinion piece was written by a community member.*

## Envisioning a Neighborhood

It was distressing to read the article "Montague Center Residents Pack Zoning Hearing" in the Feb. 28 issue of the *Montague Reporter*.

I think that my various good neighbors who were quoted hold

the vision of a happy and healthy neighborhood, as do I. But I don't see that the only, or even the best, way to achieve that is by keeping Montague Center as homogeneous as possible.

Let's not confuse the square

footage of someone's home with their worth as a person or their ability to contribute positively to a neighborhood.

— Susan Conger  
Montague

## A Very Generous Community on International Women's Day

Turners Falls Women's Resource Center celebrated International Women's Day on Friday, March 8, with a potluck luncheon and raffle drawing for 41 prizes donated by local businesses and restaurants. The raffle, organized and run by members of the TFWRC's Women's Advisory Group, raised \$1,700 in support of the Women's Resource Center program.

We are grateful to all the local businesses who made this fundraiser possible: Dean's Beans Organic Fair Trade, Greenfield Farmer's Cooperative Exchange, Bicycles/Skis Unlimited, Food City, Gary's Coins & Antiques, Ed's Barber Shop, Denny's Pantry, Foster's Supermarket, Hillside Pizza, Hope & Olive, Jake's Tavern, Kharmia Salon, Ristorante DiPaolo, Scotty's Convenience Store, Trail Head Outdoor Gear & Gifts, 2nd Street Baking Co., LOOT found & made, The Rendezvous, The Wagon Wheel, All About Beads, Turners Falls Pizza, About Face Computer Solutions, The People's Pint, Greenfield Savings Bank's

Turners Falls branch, Lisa's Handcrafted Soap, The Cookie Factory, RMP Hair & Co/Forevertan, Roberto's Pizza, Sofia's Pizza, World Eye Bookshop, Richardson's Candy Kitchen, Black Cow Burger Bar, Crestview Liquors, Absolutely Fabulous Hair, and Nina's Nook!

The money raised will help support the work of TFWRC: to provide a safe and welcoming place for women to build community, support each other and empower and heal themselves. TFWRC, established at Montague Catholic Social Ministries in 2001, has grown to directly serve up to 75 women each month with Open Hours Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Vecina a Vecina program and the Reiki Collective twice each month, and healing arts, creative arts, and leadership/empowerment building programs as funds allow.

— MCSM Staff and Board,  
TFWRC Women's  
Advisory Group,  
and TFWRC participants

for themselves.

Thomas Jefferson, in his famous 1816 letter to Joseph C. Cabell, laid out participatory democracy this way: "Where every man is a sharer in the direction of his ward-republic, or of some of the higher ones, and feels that he is a participator in the government of affairs, not merely at an election one day in the year, but every day; when there shall not be a man in the State who will not be a member of some one of its councils, great or small, he will let the heart be torn out of his body sooner than his power be wrested from him by a Caesar or a Bonaparte."

Jefferson's words are as true now as they were 200 years ago. Woody Brown's words are, too.

### U.S. Casualties in Afghanistan as of 3/13/13

Wounded 17,674	Deaths 2,187
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## The Montague Reporter

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**MATH** from page 1

right after recess. One teacher talked about the challenge of having a class with a wide range of mathematical abilities and no extra adult in the classroom to allow her to work individually both with students who function below grade level and with advanced students. “I can’t be everywhere,” she said. Another teacher, managing the classroom with the help of an aide and some parent volunteers, said that having children of different abilities working together in teams was an asset.

To demonstrate *focus* (going deeper into mathematical concepts, focusing on concepts prioritized in the common core standards), Flynn began by showing a worksheet made up of a series of rectangles, all drawn the same size, with different lengths and widths (2 inches by 4 inches, 1 mile by 3 miles) noted on the sides of the rectangles. For each rectangle, there were blank spaces for the student to write in the area and perimeter of the figures. In contrast to the “apply the formula of base times height” worksheet in which inches were as large as miles, Flynn showed a series of

dot matrixes creating boxes four units wide and long, covering an area of 16 square units. He then drew straight lines between the dots, creating varied rectangular and triangular shapes and asked the teachers to find the areas of the new shapes. The worksheet focused on punching numbers into the formula.

The matrix provided the deeper concept that any shape has a surface area and that the areas can be determined by reasoning from what is known, and that, if one of the 16 square units is divided by a diagonal from dot to dot, it forms two triangles of equal area.

Discussing *coherence* (connecting the learning within and across grades), Flynn called up his own experience at Hampshire Regional School District, where four elementary schools feed into one middle school and high school. When he taught there, all of the elementary schools used *Investigations in Numbers, Data and Space* as their curriculum program; however, there was a wide range in the amount of training teachers had in this program, little oversight, no teacher support, and no consistent data collection, so the teaching was not coherent across

classrooms and across schools.

Flynn said that principals and administrators need to know the math curriculum and programs so they can support teachers’ efforts and assess how well teachers are doing. Union 28’s support for this idea was underlined by the participation of its superintendent Joan Wickman and school principals at the workshop.

To illustrate *application of strategies* to new problems, Flynn asked the educators to solve the problem  $34 + 28 =$  mentally and explain how they did it. Some deconstructed the numbers and changed the question to  $30 + 20 + 4 + 8 =$  and got the correct answer, 62. Some rearranged and created a simpler addition problem:  $(34 - 2) + (28 + 2)$ , or  $32 + 30 = 62$ . One person used a mental variant of written carrying,  $8 + 4 = 1$  ten and 2 ones;  $3$  tens +  $2$  tens +  $1$  ten =  $6$  tens or 60, plus the 2 ones = 62. Flynn and the teachers emphasized that use of varying strategies doesn’t take the place of knowing basic number facts.

*Investigations in Numbers, Data and Space* is used in some Union 28 schools. Another curriculum program used in Union 28 schools is *Everyday Math*. These programs use spiraling, or

include in the current study unit problems a review of past work and give partial introductions to future work. *Everyday Math* includes *Math Boxes*, pages of problems that students work on independently. The 30-year teacher who teaches with *Everyday Math* said, “All of the programs have holes. You have to supplement.” She likes using *IXL*, an online system of timed math-fact games, saying that teachers can get a weekly report on how much the student is using the program and how well they are doing with it. Some teachers supplement the curriculum programs with their own worksheets.

*Fluency* (accuracy with calculations, automaticity with basic facts and flexibility in computation strategies) is necessary for deep understanding of math. If you search on the terms “Investigations” or “Everyday Math,” you’ll find some critics deride them as “fuzzy math” programs that shortchange number facts and computation.

But it’s clear from the teacher’s discussions that the deeper understanding and problem solving strategies used in Union 28 rest on a foundation of knowledge of the basic facts. You can’t use

the de-construction strategy for the addition problem if you don’t know that  $20 + 30 = 50$  or that  $8 + 4 = 12$ . You can’t answer that the area of half of the dot matrix is 8 unless you know that  $16 / 2 = 8$ .

Several of the teachers at the second grade table mentioned time as an issue: there is never enough time for the deep hands-on exploration of concepts by the students. And there, it seems, is where the teachers need to be artful in their pedagogy, to maintain what Flynn called “dual intensity” (balancing mathematical understanding and practice).

Teachers had varying responses to Flynn’s presentation. One long-experienced teacher, who seemed very comfortable with math concepts and strategies, said that a curriculum day doesn’t give her that much new information. “At this stage of my career, I’m passing on what I’ve learned over the years to new teachers.”

A newer teacher said, “It’s hard to be honest and tell more experienced teachers where I’m having problems. A workshop like this is inspiring; you do need to get out of the everyday...”



**GREEN** from page 1

usually the police, the owners, and neighbors have cooperated to get them back where they belong. Escaped livestock would be a responsibility of the animal control officer only if they become a threat to neighbors.

Keller suggested that Houghton might accept the title of animal control officer, if offered backup for non-dog animals. Selectboard chair Christine Heard said that backup is needed more often for the people involved than for the animals.

Moving on to the warrant for the next annual town meeting, the board considered expenses for buildings and grounds. Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser spoke first to mention the cost of connecting town buildings to the MBI (Massachusetts Broadband Initiative) fiber optic line that will run through the town center.

One price mentioned is \$2,000 per connection, and the town has five buildings slated to be connected: the police station, town office building, library, senior center, and highway garage, which is also the emergency operations center.

That cost is uncertain, but on top of that will be a cost for an internet service provider (ISP), and the monthly ISP bill. Wired West will not be ready to begin work in June, and so the advice is for Wendell to renew its contract with Crocker one year at a time.

Keller mentioned a list of the continuing work on the town hall including clapboards, replacing the ancient mat in the entryway, a

new cellar door and the drainage work that would keep that new door from rotting as the old door is rotting. The drainage is not a simple issue, because the former tight tank is still in place and in the way of changing the grade to direct water away from the door.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich brought up the building inspector’s suggestion for a new door to the outside, level with the main floor and with a ramp so that it is wheelchair accessible. Heard suggested adding money for kitchen improvements, and Aldrich suggested a separate article for that.

Keller thought the kitchen improvements could be spread out over some years, beginning with the relatively inexpensive cost of protecting the water supply to the kitchen from freezing year round and replacing the old refrigerators with new energy star refrigerators.

Aldrich suggested that the Massachusetts Historic Commission might give money for clapboards, if there is imminent danger that failure to replace them will cause serious damage. The deadline for grant applications to the Historic Commission is in March, making an application this year a crunch, but she said that the clapboards in the worst shape, on the police station side of the building were just replaced. Keller suggested that green community grant money might be used if the clapboards are part of the project of insulating the walls.

The annual town meeting date is tentatively set for Monday, June

3. Finance committee chair Michael Idoine suggested at a prior meeting that the meeting date be changed to a Saturday, as was the custom before 1980 when the meetings had a lunch break at noon. He thought a Saturday meeting might attract more people, especially young people.

Moderator Kathy Becker liked the idea; town clerk Gretchen Smith did not like it as much. Heard said, “I don’t like Saturdays. I’d rather be gardening.”

Wendell’s dog officer, Maggie Houghton, said she is not eager to deal with non-dog domestic animals, such as cats.

Aldrich said that town clerks throughout the county are split on the issue, but the consensus is that what really brings in people is a “hot issue.” She suggested a questionnaire about town meeting day preferences in the town newsletter. Heard suggested bringing the issue up at this year’s town meeting, but that might bring a bias towards people who can attend Monday evening but not Saturday. Evening baby sitters can be easier to find than all day Saturday sitters.

Aldrich said that two essays came in for the contest that will award the one campership that Massachusetts Audubon is offering the town in the summer of 2013. As a nonprofit organization, Mass Audubon does not pay property taxes on the land they own in town, but instead they offered

three years of camperships to the Wildwood, and 2013 is the third year of that offer. Aldrich said she will give the essays to the conservation commission and invite them to the next selectboard meeting to choose the winner of this year’s campership.

Heard said the planning board reconsidered their initial answer and decided that a class III automobile salvage permit stayed with the property not with the person. Bill Landry bought the Mormon Hollow salvage yard, and has kept a license to store up to 100 cars on the site current ever since. At the December 5, 2012 selectboard meeting, he asked if a second business could run on the same property out of the building that is already there.

The selectboard referred the matter to the planning board. Because the planning board said the class III license belonged with the property, a second business may be allowed with a site plan review and a public hearing.

Aldrich sent a survey out to town departments to find out which ones need a clerk and do not have one, and how much they need one. The energy committee responded that they might need 6 to 8 hours a month; the assessors could use a clerk; and the zoning board of appeals, which meets only when requested, could use someone to check for mail. The planning board has a clerk, Alia Kusmaul. Board members thought she could be offered more hours with 10 hours a month guaranteed, and any further hours paid as required.

A complaint was filed under

the ethics law that police chief Ed Chase supervises a family member, his son-in-law. The law applies only to a supervisor and his or her direct son, not to a son-in-law, but Chase is writing a letter making public the relationship between himself and officer Chris Maselli. Town treasurer Carolyn Manley wrote a similar letter describing her relationship with her daughter, Ashley, who is helping in the treasurer’s office while she is in town.

Board members signed a letter written by FinCom member Jim Slavas in Support of Union 28 and its superintendent, Joan Wickman. Pooser suggested a letter thanking Morgan Mead for his art donation to the town.

Smith gave the selectboard a list of candidates running for re-election and people who have taken out nomination papers for town offices. Nan Riebschlaeger has taken out nomination papers for the selectboard, Jessalyn Zaykoski for the school committee, and Geoffrey Richardson and Richard Mackey for the road commission.

Candidates running for re-election are Christine Heard, selectboard; Stephen Broll, assessor; Jennifer Christian, board of health; Kathy Becker, moderator; Anne Diemand, constable; Richard Mackey, cemetery commissioner; Harry Williston, road commission; John Fitzgerald, school committee; Peter Zera, tree warden; Laurel Brenneman and Phyllis Lawrence, library trustee.

The deadline for filing nomination papers was March 14.



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# Dear Clio,

I work for a speech therapy practice that treats mostly children. I have noticed striking changes in waiting room behavior over the last few years. While it seems that a mere four years ago, children were content to read a kids magazine or draw and color, more and more children have use of a digital device while waiting for their appointment (or for their sibling to get out of their appointment). They often play a loud game on their iPhones or iPads, and the electronic noise is quite irritating!

Some other adult parents have asked me to interfere and ask a child to turn down the volume. I totally agree with them, but I don't think that kids know why this is annoying to other people in the room. I have had similar experiences with kids texting near me in movie theaters. It doesn't seem to occur to them that the light and key clicking noise might bother a fellow movie watcher near them.

In many ways, Generation Y is one big experiment in human development. They are the first generation to grow up

with so many advanced technological devices as part of their daily lives. We have yet to see how many things will change, but I wonder if we are already experiencing a turning point in social norms surrounding the use of technology in public spaces.

Is this behavior becoming completely appropriate for the next generation? Am I just a stodgy old fogey who cannot roll with the times, or should we as a society be doing more to offer guidelines concerning considerate behavior in the world of advanced technology?

It seems that etiquette boundaries are evolving; the question is whether the definition of annoying will change too.

Do you have any thoughts?

Sincerely,  
Technologically Exasperated

Dear T.E.,

I agree that there is something a little creepy about watching kids with their hand-held devices. I have seen hyperactive kids, who can't sit still for five minutes, enter a nearly comatose state the instant they lock their eyes on a screen, and then stay that way for hours.

At birth children begin the lifelong process of learning to navigate the physical world. Babies conduct gravity experiments, dropping objects from their high chairs and watching them fall. No one has to teach them the steps of the scientific method.

Social learning also begins at birth. Babies master the basic rules of conversation — eye contact, taking turns, tone of voice — before they learn their first words. Social skills are essential to having a successful marriage, meaningful friendships, and enduring, supportive relationships with our families. Good social skills are necessary for getting and keeping a job. In a nutshell, kids will need social skills in order to have any of the things that we associate with a happy life. In the short run, they are also critical to a child's success in school.

Gazing into a screen distracts children from learning about the physical and social world, taking valuable time away from real-world friendships and family relationships. These are the situations in which we practice and hone our social skills. "Social" media, such as Facebook, do not take the place of these missing relationships. In conversation with others we practice eye

contact, taking turns, modulating our tone of voice, thinking on our feet, listening, and empathy. Most of what happens on Facebook is not a conversation at all.

I recently read that an average 18 year old will have spent three solid years in front of a screen. T.E., I think you and I agree that we would rather see kids being creative and interacting with the world around them. The question is, what is our role, and what can you do about the kids in your waiting room?

I think that it is appropriate for you to speak to those children and ask them politely to turn down the volume. You wonder whether the definition of "annoying" is changing as technology leaves the desktop and makes its way into our public spaces.

Children learn the definition of annoying from adults. Sure, their own families have the largest impact, but every time an adult tells a child, or doesn't tell a child, what appropriate behavior looks and sounds like, that interaction contributes to the child's world view. As you said, this is something we need to do as a society.

Nonsmokers used to politely tolerate second-hand smoke. When they started speaking up,

smokers moved outside. When something is noxious, I think it is reasonable for us to object, provided we are polite about it.

As you pointed out in your letter, allowing children to spend so much time absorbed in a screen is an experiment. We adults are making up the rules as we go along. We owe it to the children in our lives to take some time to think about what is right, and what is annoying, and to pass that wisdom along in a gentle, respectful way.

T.E., I don't think that you are a stodgy old fogey. I hope that your letter will inspire readers to think about the role that each of us has in this experiment. We adults know how precious our time is. We have barely enough of it to appreciate our beautiful, puzzling, and intricate world or to be with the people we love.

Children need to see that we value the time we have, as well as the sights and sounds of the real world. If we can model reverence and respect, even if we do this in small ways, we are serving the children in our lives.

Yours, Clio

Email your letters to Clio at  
editor@montagureporter.org.

## "Sight"

Central to true Christians around the world is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. No other has truly risen from the dead and is alive today. The risen Christ has appeared to many just days after. Christ also appeared to 500 at one time.

The apostles, while preaching the good news of salvation through Christ, included the resurrection as fact. His resurrection assures us of eternal life in Him. Christ conquered death with life.

Man will believe what man wishes.

The Bible says: "But the angel answered and said to the women, Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell his disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold I have told you."

(Matthew 28:5-7)

Down through the ages, true Christians have given testimony to the power of Christ's resurrection in their lives.

Ask Jesus Christ to be your personal Savior and witness first-hand the Power of Christ's resurrection in your life.

This is as written.

We are Calvary Baptist Church in Turners Falls.

## MASSCreative's Regional Campaign: How Do We Grow a Creative Community?

BY SHIRA HILLEL

We all love and appreciate the arts. They inspire us, they delight us, they entertain us, and they help create the communities that we want to live in.

Massachusetts has embraced the paradigm shift in thinking that has occurred. Some locales are not relying on great weather and beautiful beaches to lure the worker who asks first: *where do I want to live?* Then: *how do I want to build my career?* They are taking specific actions — both at the governmental level and involving private industry — to nurture an environment that draws and retains the "creative class." Various communities in Western Mass, several of them in Franklin County, have already felt the upsurge of the shift to arts.

A new state agency in Boston, MASSCreative, has been established to help promote the

arts. On Jan. 30, MASSCreative's director, Matt Wilson, came from Boston to the monthly Creative Buzz meeting in Greenfield, a networking event series, organized by Turners Falls RiverCulture and the county-wide creative economy initiative Fostering Arts and Culture, to present on their regional campaign. The campaign aims to increase resources for arts and culture in Franklin County and throughout the Commonwealth.

Wilson's talk focused on how Franklin County can increase resources for arts and culture in our communities.

MASSCreative aims to highlight ways in which communities, organizations and individuals are having an impact and inspiring positive change in Massachusetts. MASSCreative's Action Network turns passion and support for creativity into a unified statewide voice — one that can influence federal, state and

municipal policies and funding. The Action Network provides and promotes a platform that brings the creative community together in a collective effort to get things done.

According to Wilson, the idea for MASSCreative came up three years ago, when leaders of arts and cultural communities across the state realized a lot of arts activity was happening, but it wasn't unified and it needed an advocacy group.

Wilson visited 12 cities across the state to introduce his agency, and Greenfield was one of them. In each place, he posed the question: *How do we tell the story of the creative community?*

"A lot of people think the creative community is nice, but not necessary," Wilson continued, "but the spirit of an economic community is an economic driver, and helps shape youth culture and

see CREATIVE page 7

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# Horrors Cast Gears Up for Tech's First-Ever Musical



Back row, L-R: Sam Kimberley (Colrain), Lydia Dodge (Buckland), Rhamsses Diaz-Santiago (Greenfield), Eric Paige (Deerfield), Mosha Eisenberg (Deerfield), Adam McConchie (Bernardston), Hailey Perkins-McCraw (Ashfield). Front row, L-R: Ashton Morse (Rowe), Amelia Kendrick (Greenfield), Alexis Plante (Greenfield), Lindsey Mailloux (Erving).

**TURNERS FALLS** – For the first time in its 35-year history, the Franklin County Technical School is staging a musical, which will be performed over two days this weekend.

The popular musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*, directed by Daniel Prasol, with musical direction by David Maloney, will be performed on Friday and Saturday,

March 22 and 23, at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls. Performance times are 7 p.m. on Friday and 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Prasol, who is a science teacher at FCTS, said he and Maloney, the school's music teacher, have been discussing putting on a musical for "a couple of years."

This is the first musical Prasol, who performed in theater produc-

tions when he was a student at Turners Falls High School, has directed.

"We thought this would be a venture we would want to undertake," he said. "We have a great group of kids who are doing a terrific job. They're putting 100 percent of their effort into it."

The nine-member cast is headed by Mosha Eisenberg, a junior,

in the role of Seymour, and Ashton Morse, a senior, as Audrey. The cast includes three seniors and one junior, with the rest made up of sophomores and freshmen.

Prasol said he chose to stage *Little Shop of Horrors* because it is a less complicated production and therefore would be a great introduction to musical theater at FCTS.

"We started without a budget, so it seemed like a logical choice," he said. "You don't need a large cast and it's not expensive to run. But, it's a fun musical that everyone is familiar with."

Tickets for *Little Shop of Horrors* are on sale now by calling (413) 863-9561, ext. 233. Tickets will also be available at the door on the day of the performances.

## CREATIVE from page 6

give them something positive to do."

Wilson believes that communities need more public investment in the arts and support for arts education for the overall benefit. He sees this as a priority.

An attendee asked: "How do we build up political momentum to get what the creative community needs?" Wilson responded, "Organize audiences. People of communities are inspired by great art – that's what makes a place special." Wilson wants to harness

community voices to send a clear strong message to political leaders to get them to support the arts.

"Even though a lot of money flows through the Mass Arts Cultural Council state agency, their budget is still half as big as it was ten years ago in 2002," said Wilson.

Wilson described several goals his agency is trying to tackle. MASSCreative is pushing to bump up the Mass Cultural Council budget by \$3 million to restore it to what it once was. This money could, for instance, help pay the

operating expenses needed to keep Turners Falls RiverCulture in business. Currently, RiverCulture depends on grants from year to year, and can never rely on long term support.

Wilson said that at the end of January, MASSCreative submitted a petition with over 5,000 signatures to Governor Deval Patrick to show the broad based support for increasing the Mass Cultural Council budget.

Going From "STEM" to "STEAM": Another MASSCreative effort aimed at the Department of Higher Education is to increase requirements that encourage innovation and creativity.

Several commentators have focused on the critical need to educate our young people not just in STEM subjects (Science+Technology+Engineering+Math) but to add the Arts in order to make

STEAM. Wilson argued that "the humanities, and arts in particular, stimulate, exercise, and train the innovative side of our brains."

Science Tech Engineering Math (STEM) is a mantra that's driven into education policy. "If we added the arts (STEAM) then that would allow for innovation," said Wilson.

His agency would like to add at least one year of arts education to the list of college requirement courses, so that students would be more well-rounded and have key skills. MASSCreative has been in talks with business managers and college professors to lobby for this added requirement.

The third main push of MASSCreative is to increase the funding and grants that build and maintain cultural facilities.

In our area, Double Edge Theater, Historic Deerfield and the Eric Carle Museum have

all received grants to keep their facilities running at top level.

With this upcoming weekend's Creative Economy Summit in Turners Falls, these are very timely ideas for our community. Visit the Creative Economy Summit website, [www.creativeeconomysummit.com](http://www.creativeeconomysummit.com), for a list of events.

Information on MASSCreative can be found at [www.mass-creative.org](http://www.mass-creative.org) or by contacting MASSCreative's Executive Director, Matthew Wilson at [mwilson@mass-creative.org](mailto:mwilson@mass-creative.org) or (617) 350-7610.

More information on Fostering Art & Culture Project can be found at [www.fosteringartandculture.org](http://www.fosteringartandculture.org), or by calling RiverCulture director Lisa Davol at (413) 230-9910.



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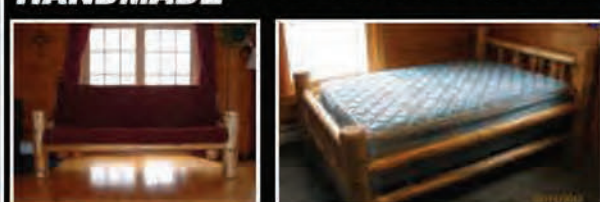
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## NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Police Officers Earn Commendation

By PATRICIA PRUITT

At its unusually dated Thursday, March 14 meeting, the selectboard welcomed Police Chief Chip Dodge, who was there to recognize three officers on the force for outstanding conduct resulting in the arrest of a violent man. Officers James Deery, Mike Sevene, and John Dempsey responded to a call of domestic assault on a woman by a man threatening to stab her as well as himself.

As Dodge described the events, Deery took charge, and all three men intervened without injury to themselves, despite facing a man with a knife in each hand. The perpetrator ultimately jumped out of a third-story window and was arrested and treated for cuts sustained in the jump, before being taken to the police station.

Town administrator

Frank Abbondanzio guided the selectboard through a list seeking the board's approval, including: a renewal, for three years, of a memo of agreement for emergency communication services between the town as a user of the Emergency Communication System, FRCOG, and the Franklin County Emergency System Oversight Committee, which is due to expire in July 2013; a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) extension, until May 2013, for a painting contract, better completed in warmer weather; and a disbursement of payment request #2, for \$2,600 for design work on the Unity Park improvement project.

Abbondanzio also announced that Phase Two of the Unity Park project would be going out to bid next week, and construction work should begin very soon.

Finally, work undertaken with Siemens Industry Inc. has reached the stage of final completion, and he asked the board to sign the Certificate of Final Completion, saying he was assured that all items would in fact be completed finally by next week. Warranties would come after the work was closed out.

The board voted in favor of all of the above items.

Selectboard member Mark Fairbrother asked that hard copies of all installation manuals, as-builts, operation, and maintenance be given to the town by Siemens Industry.

The board agreed to have a brief selectboard meeting on Wednesday, March 20, at 5:45 p.m. for one item.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, March 25 in the upstairs meeting room in town hall.

## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Rules for Employee Breaks and Library Space Issues

By KATIE NOLAN

At the March 18 Erving selectboard meeting, the board laid out town employee break time rules, and asked town administrator Tom Sharp to write the rules into a draft town policy. At the previous week's meeting, Box Car restaurant owners protested that town employees had been told to stay away from their restaurant, after complaints that employees lingered at the establishment for too long during their breaks from work.

The selectboard decided the town policy should state that eight-hour per day employees are entitled to two 15-minute paid breaks, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, and one half-hour, unpaid lunch break. The morning break should be taken two hours after the start of the employee's shift, the lunch break at mid-day, and the afternoon break two hours and 15 minutes after the start of lunch.

Six-hour per day employees are allowed one paid break and an unpaid lunch break. Breaks must be taken at the specified time and not added together to create one longer break. The time taken for breaks must be documented.

The selectboard will consider approval of the draft town policy at its March 25 meeting.

Highway, water, and wastewater director Paul Prest presented the case for a new Ford Freightliner F-550 truck for the highway department. A mechanic's evaluation of the old F-550 concluded that it could cost \$11,000 to \$12,000 in repairs, and would not last much longer.

Selectboard chair Eugene Klepadlo, saying he was speaking as a "devil's advocate," asked, "Why don't you replace the freightliner with two smaller pickup trucks?"

Prest said he needed the F-550 for plowing. Klepadlo replied, "You're running a 550 all year when you don't need to." Highway foreman Glenn McCory said, "I don't think a 350 would hold up," but said he would contact other towns that use F-350 pickups to see how long they last and report to the next selectboard meeting.

The board agreed that an agreed-upon wage increase for McCory, starting October 2012, had not been implemented and re-approved it retroactively. The water operator position, currently held by Pete Sanders, was set at N7F level (\$24.26 per hour), effective for FY'13.

The selectboard considered the draft warrant for annual town meeting in May, and asked Sharp to reduce the number of articles by grouping expenditure requests into fewer articles. For instance, selectboard member Andrew Goodwin recommended moving the town hall office computer purchase from a separate article into the general government budget. Saying that computers generally have a functional life of four years, he told Sharp to include computer replacement as a part of the base office budget.

The selectboard deleted a draft article proposing \$25,000 for a feasibility study for the library to determine space needs and consider potential use of the former Pleasant Street School building by the library. Selectboard member Margaret Sullivan commented, "Are we ready to build a new library? I

don't think so."

Goodwin suggested that addressing library space issues would be a good item for a straw poll at town meeting, or as a non-binding survey question to be handed out to people who attend town meeting.

Interim animal control officer (ACO) Art Johnson and Sharp presented a draft ACO job description. Johnson said that the new state law on animal control spells out the guidelines for the job. The draft they presented was based on the version used in Montague.

Johnson said one change from Montague was having the ACO report to the selectboard rather than to the police chief. Noting the statement in the draft that the ACO "operates department-issued firearms," Goodwin said that, at least for firearms use and training, the ACO should answer to the chief. The board set a stipend for the ACO at \$2,400 and asked for a FY'14 budget request under \$5,000. A final draft of the job description will be presented to the board on April 8.

The board discussed creation of a five-person fire chief selection committee. Selectboard chair Eugene Klepadlo recommended that the committee include one selectboard member, the police chief, a retired fire department officer, and two citizens unaffiliated with the fire department.

Fire chief Almon "Bud" Meatey, who was scheduled to discuss the purchase of a new \$490,000 pumper/rescue truck with the selectboard, did not appear at the meeting.

## NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE PLANNING BOARD

## Next Steps for the Town, MCCI, and the Planning Board

By PATRICIA PRUITT

In a meeting with the planning board this week, it was decided that two articles will appear on the annual town meeting warrant in May.

The first concerns the use of money appropriated for the former "Cumby's" building, near the Great Falls Discovery Center, and the other has to do with changing the minimum size

of residential units in town.

The Montague Economic Development Industrial Corporation (MEDIC) sponsored an article that concerns its holding the vacant "Cumby's" building at 62 Avenue A and 2nd Street. In agreement with MCCI, MEDIC will ask town meeting to expand the scope of its previous funding support for work on the building, to include the appropriation of \$31,000 originally intended for roof repair.

The new article will request that if the condition of a mutually agreed-upon plan between MCCI and MEDIC is not worked out, and the building proves to be degraded further than expected, then the appropriation may be used to demolish said building.

If a mutually agreed-upon plan is worked out, then the money would be

used toward façade work on the building. Both MEDIC and MCCI have accepted this condition.

The second article to be accepted by the selectboard for inclusion on the May town meeting warrant is sponsored by the planning board, which held a hearing on the contentious question of decreasing the minimum square footage acceptable in multi-unit residential buildings.

The planning board listened to residents, many of whom spoke out against any reduction, and offered a lesser reduction than to 400 square feet, as they had initially considered.

The board will seek approval from town meeting for a reduction from 700 square feet to 500. For spaces less than 500 square feet, a special permit would be required from the planning board.

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NOTES FROM MONTAGUE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Special Town Meeting Waits, Then Gets A Quorum

Finance Committee Requests Change in the Number of Residents Required by Town Bylaw

BY PATRICIA PRUITT

MONTAGUE – On March 13, during the second attempt at holding a special town meeting, town meeting members waited more-or-less patiently to achieve a quorum in order to do the town’s business. A cheer and applause sounded when moderator Ray Godin announced that one or two more meeting members had arrived and the meeting had the necessary quorum to consider the 19 articles on the town warrant.

It was a meeting to decide relatively small money matters, due mainly to shortfalls in budgets, unforeseen expenses, or bills left over from the previous fiscal year. The exception was Article 7, brought by the joint efforts of the finance committee and the selectboard to transfer from available funds the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose of increasing the town Stabilization Fund. This

article passed unanimously. Most articles passed either unanimously or by majority. In two instances, town meeting members were asked to vote No on requests that were no longer needed.

Two articles occasioned some discussion: Article 8 and Article 12. Article 8 sought town meeting’s approval for an annual \$3,000 stipend for each of the four retirement board members. The purpose stated was that members must complete annual continuing education requirements to remain on the board in addition to their duties as overseers of the \$27 million pension fund.

This request follows the provisions in Mass. General Law, Chapter 32, Section 20 (6), which allows the payment of stipends for retirement board members. In the end, town meeting passed this request by a majority vote.

Article 12 raised the

interest of many members present; discussion continued for upwards of 45 minutes before a call “to move the question” was made. Article 12 sought a vote to amend the Town Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, concerning membership of the finance committee by replacing the original bylaw phrase, “consisting of nine residents,” with new wording: “consisting of not less than three, but not more than seven residents.”

The change was sought to allow the finance committee to function with fewer than five members present to make a quorum. In effect, it meant that the minimum number for a quorum could be two.

Selectman Mark Fairbrother proposed a ratio of members to be a minimum of five, and not more than seven. This would mean a quorum of three. Fairbrother’s was the motion that won the day, passing by majority vote.

NOTES FROM THE GMRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

G-M Lowers FY’14 School Budget

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

A revised FY’14 budget was presented at the Gill-Montague school committee meeting on Tuesday, March 12, showing a reduction in the school district budget that would be presented at town meeting in May.

The FY’14 all-funds budget remains at \$19,122,495.

The all-funds budget represents everything estimated to be spent by the district in the FY’14 school year based on funding from all sources.

This is presented as a starting point, and includes charts of line-by-line expenditures and income.

Mark Chapulis of The Management Solution has been working with interim superintendent Mark Prince to improve estimates of revenues, as well as adjusting numbers to reflect new information coming from the state.

As of March 5, the total FY’14 budget that would be presented for approval at town meeting would be \$16,934,332.

A final vote on the school district FY’14 budget will be held at the next regular school committee meeting on Wednesday, March 27.

Jim Loynd, food services manager for the G-M school district, told the school committee that an audit of the school district financials revealed a mistake in the accounting of funds in the food services

account, which presented a surplus at the beginning of the school year.

When the mistake was found, Loynd had already used some of that money to upgrade equipment and for other improvements.

Chapulis assured the school committee that this was not the fault of anyone in food services but was an accounting error that coded income incorrectly, depositing a Medicaid payment by mistake into the food services account.

Loynd said as a result of the adjustment, the shortfall will leave the food services budget \$70,000 in the red at the end of the school year.

He plans to take measures to reduce food costs by using surplus food on hand, which Loynd said is not unusual, “turning cans and boxes into cash.”

In addition, there are two open positions that he has not filled, instead choosing to do the work himself.

Committee member Marge Levenson of Montague, expressed concern over his ability to continue to perform the other duties for the rest of the school year, but Loynd said he felt he could handle it.

He said once the budget is back in balance he will restore the positions and hire additional workers.

He asked the school committee to approve a line item transfer that would move \$24,000 into their account to cover additional

food costs.

A motion was made and approved unanimously.

The superintendent search process is moving forward. The screening committee is due to report their list of finalist candidate choices for superintendent to the Gill-Montague school committee at their meeting on March 21 at which time the screening committee will be discharged.

This meeting will be held at 6 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School in the TV studio.

Once the names are presented, the school committee will proceed with their site visits in preparation for the final interviews, to be held at a public meeting in April.

According to Joyce Phillips, since the Gill-Montague school committee had to cancel their special meeting, on Tuesday, March 19 due to the weather, there will be a regular school committee meeting on Thursday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School.

Further discussion of the superintendent search and the FY’14 budget will be on the agenda for that meeting.

The next regular school committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 27 at 7 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School at which time they will vote on the final FY’14 school district budget.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Larcenies at Black Jungle, Food City, Salvation Army

Wednesday, 3/13

7:02 a.m. Medical emergency at █ Grand Avenue in Millers Falls.

8:42 a.m. Motor vehicle violations at Canal and Third Street in Turners Falls.

4:48 p.m. █ arrested in the vicinity of Unity Street in Turners Falls.

5 p.m. Animal complaint at Family dollar on Avenue A in Turners Falls.

6:15 p.m. Threatening harassment at █ Third Street apartment in Turners Falls.

9:17 p.m. Burglar alarm at McCarthy Funeral Home at █ Prospect Street in Turners Falls. No police service necessary.

Thursday, 3/14

5:26 a.m. Medical emergency at █ G Street apartment. Subject removed to hospital.

1:35 p.m. Fire alarm at Absolutely Fabulous Hair on Avenue A in Turners Falls.

4:00 p.m. Hit and run accident on Avenue C in Turners Falls.

8:37 p.m. █ taken into protective custody from Avenue A in Turners Falls.

Friday, 3/15

2:17 a.m. Suspicious auto next to Verizon building on Avenue A in Turners Falls. Investigated.

1:29 p.m. Person well being check at █ Avenue A apartment in Turners Falls.

1:32 p.m. Assault at █ Second Street apartment in Turners Falls.

3:34 p.m. Larceny at Black Jungle Terrarium Supply at █ Avenue A in Turners Falls.

5:12 p.m. Restraining order violation at █ Fourth Street apartment.

7:11 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle at █ Millers Falls Road in Turners Falls. Services rendered.

Saturday, 3/16

2:46 a.m. █ arrested in vicinity of Rau’s Sunoco & Towing on Turners Falls Road. Charges included speeding, operating under

the influence of alcohol, and failing to wear a safety belt.

1:01 p.m. Restraining order violation at █ Fourth Street apartment.

2:14 p.m. Larceny at Food City on Avenue A in Turners Falls.

11:00 p.m. Abandoned 911 call at █ Ross Avenue in Millers Falls.

Sunday, 3/17

12:17 p.m. Burglary and breaking and entering at █ Mountain Road.

3:45 p.m. Trespassing on Hatchery Road.

Monday, 3/18

7:01 a.m. Burglary and breaking and entering at Montague Town Hall on Avenue A in Turners Falls.

7:35 a.m. Burglary and breaking and entering at Salvation Army Thrift Store on Avenue A in Turners Falls.

9:30 a.m. Larceny on Turners Falls Road.

10:49 a.m. █ arrested at Unity Park Street in Turners Falls for domestic disturbance.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Three Arrests Made

Tuesday, 3/12

8:45 a.m. Report of debris from a pickup striking a motor vehicle, Rte. 2 and Prospect St. Report taken.

1:19 p.m. Arrested █, on warrant.

Wednesday, 3/13

8:45 p.m. Report of possible harassing text messages. Found to be non-harassing. Advised both subjects not to

contact one another, to avoid future issues.

Thursday, 3/14

11:30 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with suspicious vehicle in area of Old Wendell Rd. Vehicle drove over residents’ lawn, stuck in mud in field. Operator arrested.

Friday, 3/15

9:40 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with several vehicles off the road due to road

conditions, Gulf Rd.

Saturday, 3/16

4:15 p.m. Report of loose dog on Gary St. Returned to owner.

9:20 p.m. Criminal complaint application issued to █

█, for operating a motor vehicle after revocation of license.

Sunday, 3/17

12:45 p.m. Alarm, Erving Elementary School. Secured.

2:35 p.m. Officer at Mountain Rd. residence to retrieve property.

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# Life

By JAY COMEAU

Bare knuckle fighters hardly exist anymore. Gun-toting 12-year-olds are the ones you have to watch out for because they have to prove themselves, make a name. Bloodshed, people dead, mothers left crying because their babies are dying, because someone walked down the wrong side of the street. Have you ever felt the burn of a bullet, watched the flesh melt wondering if you'll get through it? Have you ever lain across the back seat of your boy's car half dead, the whole rug covered in red, slowly closing your eyes, fighting to stay alive? I have. I've got the scars to prove it but I don't brag about it because I'm not proud of almost dying.

You should have seen the look on my mom's face. *When are you guys gonna stop? One of you is gonna end up dead.* She was right. But instead of taking me it was my little sister's life. 31 years old, two beautiful girls left without a mother. She followed every path I took. She loved her older brother. I'll never forget her smile. I still hear her cries. She comes to me in my dreams, tells me she's all right. I made her so many promises but still continue to lie.

A family is supposed to last forever but I've watched it go away. I haven't talked to my mom in two years. She still blames me for many tears. She was only 15 when I was born and it was my grandparents who raised me. I started selling drugs for my parents when I was 14. All I got is a habit. I can't even enjoy a cold beer with my boys without thinking about getting high. Take a look next to you, some of you may feel my sighs.

As I sit in this well time winds away. It's a hard lesson waiting to be free: no one to run to, no place to call home. Who are you supposed to turn to when you're all alone? There is fear in my mind, my body's in pain, mastery of control is dying inside of me.

When will it stop? How much can a person take! These decisions I've been making control my fate. Only the angels can save us now but can they see through darkened clouds?

My story always ends with a bizarre little twist.

How long can I go on like this?

In the end do you really think I'll be missed?

I reply with stone-cold fist.

Is reality a glimpse that I've missed?

Or is my life going to end in a place like this?

*Jay Comeau is serving time in the Franklin County House of Corrections. This autobiographical poem was written in the context of a writing course offered there.*

## SUDOKU

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## Looking Back: 10 Years Ago This Week

Here's the way it was on March 20, 2003:  
*News from the Montague Reporter's archive.*

### New Police Station Off To A Good Start

In case you're wondering what all the construction is about on Route 2 down by the MassHighway state garage, it's Erving's future police station. Calling them may be a problem. Since last week Erving is supposed to be united under one area code — 413. But don't try telling that to the telephone operators when you call 411, half of them still think half the town's in 978.

### New Mexican Restaurant a Definite Plus

If you haven't been tuned in to the Tex-Mex grapevine, you might have missed Mesa Verde's arrival. It's tucked away on Fiske Avenue — that courtyard in Greenfield right off Main Street that features a furniture store and, until several months ago, a Chinese restaurant.

### Montague Struggles with Staff Shortages

Budget woes overshadowed most agenda items at the selectboard meeting on Monday, March 17. The board began by dealing with short staffing at the highway department and the water pollution control facility.

Bob Trombley, WPCF Superintendent, not-

ed he had two plant operator vacancies... John Little, the control facility's mechanical handyman, was appointed to one of the operator positions on a 30-day temporary basis.

### Saving the North Leverett Sawmill

The February meeting of the Leverett Historical Society activated the Sawmill Fund, to help preserve the North Leverett Sawmill, which many old-timers still call Dan Glazier's Mill, though Glaziers haven't owned it in a while. The fund was activated in response to the recent partial collapse of that more than 200-year-old structure under the weight of winter snow.

### Neighbors Lend A Hand

This year Clifford Hatch, of Center Road in Gill, has only put out 400 taps and buckets, less than usual due to the late season. His main help this year will come from his sons Reese and Malcolm. With any luck, Hatch hopes to wind up with 100 gallons.

### Editorial: Bring Them Home

We are completely opposed to the war America is launching, as we go to press, against the nation of Iraq. We consider it reckless, defiant of global opinion, and likely to lead to a more dangerous world...

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## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT



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## ALL THE TIME:

## 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.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Karaoke with Dirty Johnny*. 9 p.m. to midnight. Friday Night Karaoke begins on March 1. Free.

## EVERY THURSDAY

Montague Center 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.

## ART SHOWS:

Great Falls Discovery Center, *The Painters at GCC*. Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Nina's Nook, Avenue A, Turners Falls: *Sensual>Sexual>Smut*. Erotic art by local artists. Through March 31.

## LOCAL EVENTS:

## THURSDAY, MARCH 21

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *LGBTIQA breakfast social* for elders & allies. Catered by 2nd St. Baking Co. 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Greenfield Community College Downtown Center: Senior symposium on opera: *So You Think You Know Puccini?* First of two. Pre-registration advised. 2 to 4 p.m., \$

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *The Surly Temple*, with Jim Henry, Guy DeVito, Doug Plavin & of course Tommy Boynton. 8 to 10 p.m.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 22

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Bully*, a powerful documentary about one of the most important educational and social issues of our time. 2012. PG13. 98 minutes. Following the film, educators from Mohawk Trail Regional High & Middle School & other community members will lead a panel discussion about bullying. 7:30 p.m. Music before the movie: *Ken Swiatek*, folksinger/songwriter. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Franklin County Technical School presents *Little Shop of Horrors*. 7 p.m., \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Mark Nomad*, blues, 8 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *The Odd Couple Quintet* with John Clark and Michael Rabinowitz, jazz, with local trio *Mr. Chain & The Lab Rats* opening. 8 p.m., \$

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Simon White & Company*, reggae. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Hobson's Razor*, reggae/rock/funk. 9:30 p.m., \$

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Psycho Magnetic*, classic rock. 9:30 p.m.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 23

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Franklin County Technical School presents *Little Shop of Horrors*. 2 p.m., \$

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Bully*, a powerful documentary about one of the most important educational and social issues of our time. 2012. PG13. 98 minutes. Following the film, educators from Mohawk Trail Regional High & Middle School & other community members will lead a panel discussion about bullying. 7:30 p.m. Music



There are two upcoming chances to see guitar virtuoso and songwriter John Sheldon: this Sunday, at the Deja Brew Pub in Wendell, and again next Friday, when he performs in a roundtable with Lisa McCormick at the Arts Block Café in Greenfield. Both shows are at 8 p.m.

JEFF SKERIK PHOTO

before the movie: Mohawk students & Joey Kotright-Clark, eclectic mix. 7 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Geoff Vidal Quartet*, jazz. 8 p.m., \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Barbara Cassidy Band*, folk, 8 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Paw's Park Dog Park Benefit*. Raffle, other fun. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Eric Love*, playing all your favorites from the '60s and '70s. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Turn It Loose*, classic rock.

9:30 p.m.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 24

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: Valley Classics Concert Series season opening, with *Scott Slapin and Tanya Solomon*, viola duo, and a Tchaikovsky string sextet. 3 p.m., \$

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *John Sheldon*, up close & personal. 8 to 10 p.m.

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

## MONDAY, MARCH 25

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dada Dino's Open Mike*. 8 p.m., sign up at 7:30. Free.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 26

Bruce's Brower, 1497 Main St., Athol: Film screening: part two of *Not For Ourselves Alone*, documentary on Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. 6:30 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Simon White & Boo Pearson*, acoustic reggae, 8 to 10:30 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved Jazz*. 8 p.m., free.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 28

Greenfield Community College Downtown Center: Senior symposium on opera: *So You Think You Know Puccini?* Second of two. Pre-registration advised. 2 to 4 p.m., \$

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Ed Byrne's Latin Jazz Evolution Quartet*. 8 p.m., \$

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

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Steve & Ray* (Koziol & Mason). 9:30 p.m., free.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 29

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *90 Mile Portage*, americana folk, with special guest singer-songwriter Andrew Geano. 7:30 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: Songwriter's Roundtable with *John Sheldon & Lisa McCormick*. 8 p.m., \$

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *The Reprobate Blues Band*, blues baby blues! 9 to 11:30 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Here Come the Foxes*, with *Sandy Bailey*. Folk and much more. 9:30 p.m., \$

## CALL FOR ARTISTS

Montague Arts Movement call for fine art, any medium, from Montague residents, for the 5th Annual *May Day Fine Art Show* and Sale on May 5. Registration fee \$20. Send email to Montague.Arts.Movement@gmail.com by April 1.

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Waiting for Spring



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By LESLIE BROWN

The River is high, full and running fast. It is roily with silt, and carries lumps of ice separated from their main floe. The sap runs merrily and the green tops of daffodils are seen around the yard. Still, the wind is sharp and dry like winter cold, and spring seems to be looking the other way. Meanwhile the post winter clean-up looms large as the snow pulls back, uncovering the dry stems and sticks, the blowing trash,

the large woodchuck hole near the Beauty Bush.

There is much to be done, but one lacks the inspiration of sun and warmth. Soon, apparently another few days of snowy forecasts, not a huge blow, but enough to temper the vague memory of the two days of sixty degree temperatures not too long ago. However long or short the winter, we New Englanders seem to get impatient for spring every March. It is such a sweet, short season before the bugs and the summer's heat, like the running sap, delicately scented quickly changed to heavy dense sugar.

Still, a trip to the closing days of the Smith College bulb show was an enormous treat and inspiration.

Two large greenhouse rooms of

forced blooms of bulbs and shrubs overwhelmed the senses. The flowers are grouped by families of color. Opening the door revealed a large assemblage of lavender to lilac to purple tulips, hyacinth, painted daisy and pansy. The back side of this massive display is filled with yellow and orange and red of daffodil, tulip, freesia and others whose names we do not know. The air is heavy with scent. The flowers are intermittently embellished by statuary and running fountains, pussy willow and azalea, the white giving relief to the eye.

There is forced crab apple and gardenia; huge columns wrapped in fabric and hangings of reflective sheets mirroring the displays so that with the gazing globes, the visitor feels wrapped by flowers and scent and the soothing sounds of running water. The air is so full of fragrance and pollen that a tour of the two rooms, twice around, brings on the need to escape to the dripping, humid

zone in the next greenhouse where the goldfish swim lazily and the orchids show off their exotic shapes and colors. The intense humidity and the damp, earthy air freshen the skin and open the sinuses.

Next a walk through the jungle room with its huge banana trees, cocoa and other palms alive with the tape recording that plays the sounds of bird and monkey calls. Last stop, the dry, arid desert room of cacti, a fitting transition outside to the crisp winter air.

In the sunroom at home, the tomato and pepper seeds are tucked into the soil kept warm by the heating mats. They are not up yet but soon will be. First the hoop of pale green stem and then the tiny first leaves. By the end of March the table will be full of two inch seedlings beginning to show true leaves. It is not too long to wait. In the meantime, there are still late winter fires to enjoy, daffodils to bring home from the grocery store,

the increasing song of the morning birds. We can sit in the sunroom and watch the antics of the small cat recently rescued from the shelter. At night the crescent moon hangs low and bright over the horizon; the constellations are etched against the clear, cold sky.

While this season appears to hover suspended between deep winter and the arrival of spring in earnest, nature seems to take a pause, a rest, gathering energy for the next stage. We too can sit quietly before the hustle of cleanup, the planting and the tending of new growth. We can take pleasure in the strength of the sun, admire the dark night's stars, sleep deeply and waken to the increasing length of the days. We can read and think, write in our journals, gathering our energy for the coming leap into the fresh, green, burgeoning season of growth and renewal.

Welcome spring and happy gardening!

Petersham Offers Creative Photoshopping Class

Award winning photographer, Gail Hansche Godin, will visit the Petersham Art Center for a two-part program on using creative digital photoshopping techniques. The classes will be held on Saturday, April 13, and Saturday, April 20, from 9 a.m. to noon.

The Photoshop Elements program will be the basis of the instruction, but the ideas reviewed would be useful for anyone. Beginning to experienced photographers will benefit from the class to learn how to create any imaginable work, from funny and whimsical to the classically beautiful.

Gail will begin the first part of the program by demonstrating image enhancement by adjusting lighting, color and clarity. She will discuss the use of proper work flow and how to use short cuts to speed up the work. Function of tools,

using layers, burning (darkening) and dodging (lightening) areas of a photo, removing unwanted areas of a photo, cloning from one image to another (adding images), filters, and converting to black and white will be some of the discussion points.

For the second day of the program, participants come back to the class with questions from

teacher and artist who has won numerous awards in international photography competitions. She has had her photographs published in National Wildlife, Massachusetts Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy and Massachusetts Audubon Connections magazines. She is especially passionate about advocating for preservation of our wildlife treasures and natural heritage through photographic art.

The two-part class is \$30 for members and \$45 for nonmembers. There are no computers provided, but the instructor will demonstrate on her own computer, or participants

may bring their own computers. Call the Petersham Art Center at (978) 724-3415 to register or for more information. The Art Center is located at 8 North St, just off Rt. 32, near the Petersham Common.



practicing assignments from the first program.

The classes will be tailored to the level and needs of each individual participant.

Gail is a well-regarded

Easter Services at the Leverett Congregational Church

The Leverett Congregational Church will observe Easter with four special services:

**Palm Sunday,** March 24 at 10 a.m.: a traditional service with music and palms handed out in remembrance.

**Maundy Thursday,** March 28 at 7 p.m.: a short service to remember The Last Supper, with readings and communion.

**Easter at Sunrise,** Sunday, March 31 at 6:30 a.m.: a short service of celebration held in the stone sculptured Emerson Garden beside the church (or inside if raining). A complimentary breakfast follows at 7 a.m., in the Leverett Town Hall.

**Easter Sunday Service,** March 31, at 10 a.m.: a service of joyous and solemn music and readings.

Child supervision will be provided. The Leverett Congregational Church has handicapable access and welcomes all; located at 4 Montague Road in Leverett (across from the Leverett Post Office). For more information, contact Claudia Gere (413) 259-1741 or Claudia@ClaudiaGere.com.

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**Gill Energy Fair**  
Gill has been elevated to a Green Community and has been awarded a \$139,900 grant to spend reducing Gill's energy use and promoting sustainable practices.  
The Gill Energy Commission is planning an educational Energy Fair at the Gill Town Hall 325 Main Street on Saturday, April 6 from 9:30 a.m. to noon to kick off a campaign to reduce energy use in town 13 percent in 2013.  
There will be exhibitors and demonstrations on practices and techniques to track and reduce energy use, and develop a more sustainable lifestyle, live more comfortably, save money, and reduce your carbon footprint.  
There will also be a Farmers Market outside on the Common.  
For more information, contact Gill Energy Commission members Janet Masucci at (413) 863-8694 or Pamela Lester at (413) 222-9674 or visit www.gillmass.org/energy.php.

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