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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 7, 2013

Erving Special Town Meeting

By KATIE NOLAN

The November 4 Erving special town meeting approved spending \$110,594 additional for fiscal year 2014 secondary education, \$40,000 for a new police cruiser, \$5,000 for a recreation administrative clerk, \$3,000 for an internet technology specialist, and \$3,000 for the historical commission to reopen the Pearl B. Care historical building. The meeting also approved transfer of \$20,000 from the "Inspect & Repair Sewer Mains" appropriation to purchase new wastewater pumps.

The meeting of approximately 30 voters approved all fourteen warrant articles unanimously, with little discussion, completing the meeting in 35 minutes.

The meeting agreed to transfer \$151,515 from the Usher Plant Demolition continuing appropriation to pay off the Brownsfields Clean-up revolving loan. Selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin noted that the town had received a \$50,000 Brownsfields grant in conjunction with taking out the loan.

The meeting authorized the selectboard to accept a gift of eight parcels of land off Arch Street and Route 2 from Erving Industries, Inc. Seven of the parcels are adjacent to the former Usher Plant that the town is working to redevelop and one parcel is located at the "Welcome to Erving" sign on Route 2. Erving Industries CEO Morris Housen told the voters that Erving Paper Mill

see **ERVING** page A4

Monte Belmonte and Friends: On the March Again



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

Belmonte (front) and Representative Jim McGovern roll into Yankee Candle.

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

DEERFIELD—On Wednesday, November 6, WRSI morning host Monte Belmonte, accompanied by US Representative Jim McGovern and Andrew Morehouse, Executive Director of the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts walked 26 miles from Northampton to Greenfield to raise money for the Food Bank.

They pushed shopping carts, created by the students at Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School, the entire way. The shopping carts were empty in order to dramatize the need for food that many here in Western Mass experience.

This was Belmonte's fourth walk, and he seemed in fine form as we caught up with him as he rolled his cart into the parking lot at Yankee Candle in Deerfield.

A small crowd, including Belmonte's family and a group of performers from Mutton and Mead, were on hand to greet the marathon walkers.

The Mutton and Mead contingent, outfitted in their Medieval garb, were there to journey up to Greenfield with the trio.

Belmonte said he was "more than half-way there in distance but only a fourth of the way to the dollar goal."

Last year, Monte's March

see **MARCH** page A6

New Library Director Came, Saw, ... Left!

By PATRICIA PRUITT

MONTAGUE – On Saturday, November 2, the Montague Libraries' Board of Trustees received a terse and to the point email from David Payne, saying that he and the position of director of libraries was "not a good fit".

The email came one day after he had officially taken over the job from long-time director Sue SanSoucie.

Astounded, but with great presence of mind, the trustees called upon their second-choice candidate, Montague's own children's librarian for 16 years, Linda Hickman, to be acting director for an unspecified period of time.

Hickman readily accepted, grateful that she had applied and been interviewed for the position, and, therefore, had given considerable thought to what duties and compli-

cations she might face if she were chosen.

On Tuesday, outgoing director Sue SanSoucie began a second round of training to acclimate Hickman to the new position.

The trustees generally felt that it was right for Payne to call an end to what he felt was not "a good fit" as early as possible, therefore avoiding his working in a state of personal discontent, or creating discontent around him.

As for the Acting Director of Montague Libraries, Hickman felt this was an opportunity to explore a new set of responsibilities.

Karen Latka, Chair of the Board of Trustees, indicated that the staff will continue to cooperate with her as she takes over from SanSoucie.

She said a slight reorganization of responsibilities is already being worked out with Hickman's

see **LIBRARY** page A3



LEE WICKS PHOTO

Linda Hickman, now the new acting libraries director, spooks David Payne.

Legislators Discuss Human Services at Greenfield Community College



EARLES PHOTO

Representative Kay Khan, House Chair of the Joint Committee for Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, talks with State Senator Benjamin Downing.

By GARRY L. EARLES

GREENFIELD – Roads to Resilience: Supporting Families & Communities Through Adversity, the 9th Annual Legislative Breakfast of the Franklin County Resource Network, was held at Greenfield Community College on Friday morning, October 25.

The affair has become a staple event of the FCRN, a community network of social service agencies and human services personnel that meet monthly to share information and make connections among various providers. The FCRN, made possible by Community Action, is ably chaired and coordinated by Holly Kosisky.

Speaking before an audience of about 100, Ms. Kosisky began the breakfast

meeting by addressing the effects of trauma and stress experienced by children. A hand-out provided by the Community Crisis Response Team elucidated various causes of these traumas, including emotional and physical abuse and domestic violence.

These ways in which stressful family situations are being compounded by recent congressional efforts to cut food stamps, housing vouchers and other programs were outlined elsewhere in the material provided.

None of this was lost on the audience, many of whom work with economically disadvantaged families.

Noticeable in the audience in this regard, was Andy Grant, Outreach & Promotion Coordinator for Just Roots, a Greenfield based or-

ganization located on the site of the town's old Poor Farm, originally established in 1849. Their stated mission is to increase access to healthy, local food by connecting people, land, resources and know-how.

At the conclusion of her remarks, Ms. Kosisky introduced Rep. Steve Kulik, the long-time popular Franklin County legislator who spoke briefly about how the legislature responds to the needs of children and families before introducing the keynote speaker, Rep. Kay Khan (D-Newton).

Rep. Khan is the House Chair of the Joint Committee for Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

She founded and co-chairs the legislative Mental Health Caucus, the first of its kind in the country, and founded and co-chairs a task force on Women in the Criminal Justice System and their children, under the Caucus of Women Legislators. In recent years, she served on the Commission to End Homelessness.

Rep. Khan's remarks focused on selected bills before the legislature. For example, Pathways to Family and Economic Self-sufficiency (H114, a 3 year pilot program "...to equip low-income families for long-term

see **GCC** page A3

Mahler Agrees to Remain Union #28 Superintendent For Another Year

By DAVID DETMOLD

LEVERETT – At Tuesday's school committee meeting, chair Catherine Brooks announced, with evident relief, that Union #28 interim superintendent Bob Mahler has agreed to a one-year extension of his contract, until July of 2015.

With a final decision on regionalization with Amherst and Pelham up in the air until at least next spring, the Union 28 personnel committee had been in the unenviable position of seeking a replacement for Mahler at a time when the future makeup of U-28 is still very much in doubt.

For the past century, Leverett has shared a superintendent, and central office administration, with the towns of Erving, New Salem, Wendell, and Shutesbury. But Leverett has considered regionalizing from K-12 with Amherst more than once in recent decades. In the past two years a serious effort has been mounted, aided by state-funded consultants, to determine what educational and financial benefits might accrue to Leverett by aligning the governance of the elementary school with the Amherst/Pelham region, where Leverett and Shutesbury's upper school students attend school.

Lack of broad based support for K-12 regionalization

in Shutesbury threw a curve into the efforts of the regional planning board, and derailed a projected fall town meeting vote on the plan.

That vote has been pushed forward until at least the spring, as the planning board considers a variety of regionalization options, and in this period of uncertainty, the prospect of hiring another interim superintendent for Union 28 had left the personnel committee nonplussed.

In this context, Mahler's willingness to extend his contract for another year was a welcome relief, Brooks said.

Mahler formerly served as the principal of Shutesbury Elementary School, and of the Montague Center and Gill Elementary schools before that.

Leverett Elementary Contracts

Nine teachers and three members of the public attended the public comment portion at the start of Tuesday's meeting, a high-water mark for public participation in recent years. They were there to speak on behalf of the Leverett Elementary staff, in the midst of protracted negotiations on a new union contract.

Leverett Education Association president Bill Stewart spoke at length about his own decision to pass up a teaching position in Amherst 14 years

ago, after the Leverett school committee and selectboard had agreed in principle, he said, to seek parity in pay between teachers at the elementary level and teachers in the regional upper school.

Since that time, he said, the gap between pay for Leverett elementary teachers and teachers at the upper school has more than tripled. This year, when the selectboard has supported a 2% cost of living increase for other town employees, Stewart said the proposal for the teachers' contract would limit the teachers to a 1.5% increase.

The teachers have been working without a contract, and pursuing mediation to resolve the matter, so far inconclusively.

"Personally, I feel betrayed by the town and professionally I think the selectboard has manipulated data to make it seem we are overpaid when we are increasingly underpaid," Stewart said.

He added the town seems to have taken advantage of senior staff retirements to decrease the overall amount paid to elementary teachers, resulting in level funded LES budgets for the past five years in contrast to steadily rising assessments for the regional school.

Long-time special education teacher Judy Nietsche

see **LEVERETT** pg A3

The Montague Reporter

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End Bank Subsidies, Pay for SNAP

We applaud WRSI morning host Monte Belmonte for his marathon walk on Wednesday from Northampton to Greenfield to raise money for The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. Kudos, too, to Representative Jim McGovern, for walking alongside Monte as he pushed his shopping cart. Last year Monte's Walk raised over \$45,000 for the Food Bank. As of press time the dollar figure from this year was not yet in. We hope very much that his walk generated at least this much money because the food bank is going to need it. And then some.

On November 1, \$5 billion was cut from the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) budget. The Food Bank's Executive Director Andrew Morehouse, who walked along with Monte and Congressman McGovern told us a few months ago that the reduction in SNAP would put extreme pressure on his organization to help fill the gap for the hungry.

Last week, Representative McGovern, in an address urging his colleagues in the U.S. House not to cut SNAP any further (as the Republicans are keen on doing), put the reductions in perspective:

"We have a hunger problem in this country. It's not fashionable to talk about it, it's not a comfortable conversation to have, but it's a fact. 50 million Americans struggle every single day to get enough to eat. And it is hard to be poor. Very hard.... The House bill would result in 3 to 4 million hungry people being removed from SNAP altogether; about 200,000 kids would lose access to free school meals; and 170,000 veterans would lose access to SNAP.

"These are more than just statistics. Behind every number is a human being – a child or a senior or a neighbor who's struggling, and who needs this modest benefit. And let me remind every Member of this Conference Committee that outside of children and seniors, the majority of able-bodied adults receiving SNAP do work.

"But they make so little that they still need help to put food on their tables. It's unconscionable and unacceptable that we would make their lives more difficult."

We agree wholeheartedly with our representative to Congress. SNAP makes a huge difference for 47.7 million Americans who receive, on average, \$134.29 per month in food assistance, less than \$1.50 per person, per meal. According to the Department of Agriculture more than 15% of the U.S. population receives food assistance. Of these, 76% of SNAP households include a child, an elderly person, or a disabled person. These vulnerable households receive 83% of all SNAP benefits.

SNAP eligibility is limited to

households with gross income of no more than 130% of the federal poverty guideline, but the majority of households have income well below the maximum: 83% of SNAP households have gross income at or below 100% of the poverty guideline (\$19,530 for a family of 3 in 2013), and these households receive about 91% of all benefits. 61% of SNAP households have gross income at or below 75% of the poverty guideline (\$14,648 for a family of 3 in 2013).

Here in Franklin County, about 14 percent of the population lives in poverty, with 9.4 percent below the poverty line. In Turners Falls the poverty rate is 18.9 percent.

Helping to feed the hungry in America isn't cheap, as Congressmen John Boehner and Eric Cantor and Senator Ted Cruz, who make base salaries of \$174,000 a year, are quick to point out. In FY 2012 the program cost \$74.6 billion.

But we have a solution that can pay for this program without it costing an additional dime: end the big bank subsidies. The largest banks in the world – such as Citibank, JP Morgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Bank of America and Goldman Sachs – receive \$83 billion per year in federal subsidies, according to Bloomberg News.

Chris Whalen, an independent analyst of the US banking and financial system, says that even that enormous figure is way off. He estimates the subsidy at \$780 billion per year, if you also include: \$360 billion in Federal Reserve subsidies; \$120 billion in federal deposit insurance; \$100 billion in government-guaranteed loans; \$100 billion in monopolistic advantages in the secondary market for home mortgages; and more than \$100 billion in fees in the over-the-counter (OTC) derivative market.

Unlike the average SNAP household, which has only \$333 in assets, the assets of these banks total more than \$9 trillion. We might also add that CEOs of the big banks earn between \$10 and \$20 million a year, well more than a thousand times above the poverty level.

Even if we can't touch the obscene CEO salaries, and even if Whelan is wrong in his calculation, just ending the acknowledged subsidy of \$83 billion would completely pay for SNAP.

Since even before her election to the Senate, Elizabeth Warren has been fighting to end this absurd corporate welfare scheme. We stand with Senator Warren and Representative McGovern.

It should not be solely the responsibility of Monte Belmonte and the Food Bank, and their generous donors, to feed the hungry. What used to be a federal War on Poverty is now a War on the Poor.

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Letters to the Editors

Squirrel Image In Poor Taste

When I saw the photo under Faces & Places on page A6 of the October 31 edition, I thought perhaps it was *all the news that's fit to print*. I thought perhaps it was a *Halloween prank*.

Sadly it was neither. It was offensive, repulsive, and demonstrated poor taste. With all the interesting news that happens in this area, why an up-close picture of a *crispy critter*?

It makes me wonder – what road-kill will be next? Squashed opossums? Flattened raccoons? Dead deer? Geez, the possibilities are endless ...

Debbe Dugan
Turners Falls

The editors reply:

Many Montague residents did find the widespread electrical outage caused by that particular squirrel newsworthy – enough so that one sent us its picture. We will not make it a general habit.

We apologize for any offense or repulsion its publication may have caused our readers.

On Bullying

A current societal problem that seems to be getting worse is bullying. It has expanded from school age children to the adult level with the recent incident on the Miami Dolphins football team.

An established player (last name Incognito) has been bullying a rookie player. He did this through texting improper racial slurs and extorting money to spend on lavish meals.

No matter what age, a person should not have to experience such terrible behavior. From pre-school through adulthood, the teachers, supervisors and the powers that be need to be proactive and discipline should be very firm.

Bullying can lead to lifelong mental issues. Some people can't cope with the stigma on their own.

David Yez
Monmouth, Illinois

GUEST EDITORIAL Is the Chapter 70 Foundation Budget an Obstacle to Reform?

By JEFF SINGLETON

Adequate state aid increases to the Gill-Montague Regional School District are a crucial component of the long term plan (Table B) that ended state fiscal control. The plan, supported by the district, member towns and the state, calls for an annual 3% increase (approximately) in state chapter 70 aid, the school district's second largest revenue source. Flat chapter 70 aid to the GMRSD, which has been the reality for more than a decade, is simply not viable.

Inadequate annual Chapter 70 increases are a statewide problem. This year (FY 14) approximately 75% of the districts in the state received no aid increase under the core formula. The state essentially threw out the formula for the majority of districts and held them "harmless," adding a small \$25 increase per student.

This is an extreme version of the reality since the formula was reformed in 2007. Even the governor's FY 14 budget proposal, financed by an income tax increase that poured millions of new dollars into the Chapter 70 program, left 45% of districts without new aid under the core formula. Meanwhile a minority of districts tend to get very large increases in Chapter 70 aid.

Something is wrong when a majority of districts consistently receive no aid increases under the basic formula. Something is wrong when a formula produces a few big winners and many losers. Something is wrong when a formula assumes large annual increases in the local contribution but no increase in the state contribution to education.

There are numerous stumbling blocks to a statewide discussion of this problem. One is the incorrect view that the Chapter 70 formula is impossible to understand, often expressed by the proposition that "only three people in the state understand it."

Another is the perception, more realistic but not insuperable, that any change in the formula only produces a different set of winners and losers, a zero sum game.

Right now perhaps the biggest obstacle is the widespread belief that the main problem is the adequacy of the foundation budget,

or lack thereof. The solution, it is argued, is a "foundation budget adequacy review."

The foundation budget is one of the two key elements of the Chapter 70 formula, the other being the minimum or local contribution. The formula is based on funding a foundation budget by a local contribution and state aid.

You calculate your local foundation budget; calculate your minimum contribution; subtract the latter from the former to get your Chapter 70. Presumably if foundation budgets were increased by an adequacy study, the level of Chapter 70 would increase.

The main problem here is "political." Estimates of increasing foundation budgets to current measures of adequacy might require a huge increase in state education aid.

Essentially, Massachusetts would have to revisit the period of ed reform in the 1990s when billions of dollars in local school aid were required. The state simply does not have this money, so an adequacy study could threaten other state programs, including higher education, health care, transportation and human services.

The effect of this reality is that the "adequacy study" strategy has essentially taken the whole Chapter 70 issue off the table for statewide discussion. The legislature does not want to touch it.

Furthermore it is not at all clear that the adequacy of the foundation budget is the main problem.

Yes, there is compelling evidence that this hypothetical basic budget has not kept up with cost increases in areas like health insurance and special education.

However, it is not true that the foundation budget has not been updated since it was created in the early 1990s, as is often claimed.

In fact, the foundation budget has been annually updated for statistically defensible (and statutory) estimates of inflation. This has helped cause significant overall increases in chapter 70 relative to other state programs.

There are in fact other key problems with the formula. The impact of annual enrollment changes on the foundation budget is significantly

see GUEST ED next page

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Posters on Montague’s internet corkboard (www.MontagueMA.net) have been discussing several sightings of a “large canine” spotted on North Leverett Road, near Ripley Road over the weekend of November 3. The animal, **which some speculate is a wolf**, was said to be taller than the side mirror of a Subaru as the car passed by. Also over the weekend there were reports of howls in the woods that did not resemble the howl of a coyote.

Sightings of large predator animals have become more frequent in recent years with large cat sightings, AKA mountain lions, as close by as Gill this spring. It could be possible. Who would have thought 25 years ago that bears would be the nuisance and population they are today?

For its own “big year”– its 50th anniversary – the **Athol Bird and Nature Club** will present “Big Year” birder Greg Miller in two special events. In birding circles, the Big Year is an informal competition to see as many unique bird species as possible within a designated geographic area in a calendar year, and Miller’s 1998 effort, along with that of two other birders, was chronicled in a book by

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Mark Obmascik, *The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature, and Fowl Obsession*.

The book in turn inspired the 2011 feature film *The Big Year*, starring Steve Martin, Jack Black and Owen Wilson. ABNC will show that film on Friday, November 8 at 7 p.m. at the Millers River Environmental Center, at 100 Main Street in Athol.

Then on Wednesday, November 13 at 7 p.m. at Liberty Hall in the Athol Town Hall, 584 Main Street, Miller himself will be present to describe his experiences.

Northfield Recreation Area hosts **Cross Country Championships** on Saturday, November 9. Come watch 40 teams as they compete on this challenging course. Start times for the Junior College Men’s 5 mile Race is at 10 a.m., and the Junior College Women’s 3.1 mile Race is at 11 a.m.

Then watch the top teams from Western Massachusetts high schools compete for a place at the State Cross Country Championships. This event includes the teams from Divisions I and II schools running on Northfield Mountain’s challenging 3.1-mile course. Great spectator viewing. Food concession on hand. Start times are at 12:30 p.m., 1:10 p.m., 1:50 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

In the market for an unusual pet?

Don’t miss “**The Minis are Coming to Town**” at Greenfield Savings Bank on Saturday, November 9, at 10:30 a.m. Come and check out these pint-sized miniatures that fit in anyone’s back yard.

The Minis are gaining popularity with horse lovers and the presenters will tell you why. Learn from current owners about the care and up-keep of this exciting, fun and friendly breed. Hand-outs will be available. This is a family affair for all ages to enjoy. Be sure to bring your cameras.

The 8th Annual **Community Spelling Bee**, sponsored by the Mary Lyon Foundation, will feature 30 adult teams with 30 generous sponsors engaged in friendly competition for the coveted Grand Championship trophy. Teams will also compete for the best costume award. The spelling bee will be held Tuesday, November 12, at 6:30 pm at Mohawk Trail Regional School, but BEE there early for fun and surprises.

This **hilarious, educational event** is for the whole family to enjoy. Admission is free, door prize registration is free, and there are free refreshments provided by Dunkin Donuts. Spellmaster Art Schwenger will be joined by famous voice-over artist Jill Connolly and Chief Justice Joe Judd with his team of judges. Meet the Merry Lion and be prepared for some exciting surprises at the beginning of the spelling bee. There will be 25 extraordinary raffle packages.

The bee is a fundraiser for local education with proceeds supporting the mini-grant program for all 7 schools in West County and the

student assistance fund for needy children. The event’s Queen Bee sponsor is Greenfield Savings Bank, located in many towns throughout the area. The sponsor of the raffle portion of the event is Greenfield Ideal Health Center at 5 Park Street in Greenfield.

On Thursday, November 14, from 2 to 4 p.m. the Senior Symposia Program at Greenfield Community College’s Downtown Center, at 270 Main Street in Greenfield, will conclude its Fall 2013 program with UMass Amherst Professor of Economics, Gerald Friedman, for a symposium entitled: **American Inequality: The 99 and The 1**.

For almost a half century after the stock market crash of 1929, America became more equal and more democratic. But since the late 1970s, the standard of living for most Americans has been nearly static, while virtually all income gains have gone to the wealthiest among us, who now enjoy opulence and social political power reminiscent of the 19th-century Gilded Age.

Friedman will discuss the rise of the “1%”, the political and economic origins of their growing wealth and power, and the consequences for American democracy. He will conclude with a discussion of possible countervailing trends and policies that might reverse growing inequality to restore democracy and the American dream.

Friedman, Professor of Economics, has taught economic history at the University of Massachusetts Amherst since 1984. His most recent publication is *Reigniting the Labor Movement: Restoring Means to Ends in a*

GCC from page A1

economic stability...”), An Act Strengthening Early Support and Early Education (H125), and An Act to Establish an Office of Youth Development (H160), among others, that have direct implications for the well-being of children and families.

Khan’s legislative work to end homelessness is increasingly relevant locally, given the recent spotlight on the influx of families currently housed in Greenfield motels.

At the conclusion of Rep. Khan’s remarks, a panel of four local women, living and working in various capacities in Franklin County addressed *Local Strategies for Building a Resilient Community*.

The panel, facilitated by Rachel Stoler of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments’ Partnership for Youth, consisted of Christine Bates, after-school coordinator for the Gill-Montague Regional School District; Lucinda Brown, community relations coordinator of the Reinventing Justice Program; Kate Finnegan, faculty member of

GCC’s Early Education Program, and Joyce (BJ) Miller, currently a resident in Teen Housing at Dial-Self.

Each panelist spoke about their particular program, and the impact the program had on the lives of others.

Most relevant and personal was that of BJ Miller, who shared some of her heart-felt experience as a former recipient of DialSelf services who is now helping other youth through that same agency.

Once that panel finished, the legislators, Reps. Khan, Kulik and Paul Mark and Sen. Benjamin Downing, took the stage.

Claire Higgins, former Mayor of Northampton and now Executive Director of Community Action, facilitated the panel discussion on *Policy Choices that Support Resilience for Families and Communities*.

After their brief remarks, an open conversation period with the legislators concluded the meeting.



GUEST ED from previous page exaggerated.

The minimum contribution, on the other hand, is not influenced by enrollment at all. When you subtract a minimum contribution not impacted by enrollment from a foundation budget with a big enrollment variable, you get flat chapter 70 for most districts.

As a result, simply updating the foundation budget for inflation may not give most districts the annual aid increases they need to be viable.

Chapter 70 had extremely high inflationary increases between 2007 and 2009, in one case exceeding 5%.

However, even with these big inflationary adjustments, only one-third of districts in the state received aid increases under the core formula.

Increasing the foundation budget for “adequacy” might produce even bigger “winners” but still many “losers.”

The argument here is not that the foundation budget is adequate or the adequacy issue should be ignored. The argument is that the “founda-

tion budget adequacy” strategy for encouraging a statewide discussion of Chapter 70 has, in effect, taken the issue off the table.

And this approach might not achieve the desired result - more state education aid for most districts.

There needs to be a broader discussion of the chapter 70 formula, of all the key variables, including enrollment, and whether a complex formula with a very high degree of internal logic in fact works in the real world.



LIBRARY from page A1

children’s library assistant, Ruth O’Mara. Latka thought it likely that library patrons would notice little change in library services.

Payne, 50, was the former director of Philadelphia’s Tacony library branch for ten years. His salary as Montague library director was

LEVERETT from page A1

said she would be retiring midway through this school year, at the top of the pay scale.

She suggested the town could use the difference between what they had paid her and what they will pay her likely replacement, at a lower pay grade, to fund the difference between a 1.5% and 2% pay hike for the staff.

Brooks said, “If any teacher retires, we must return the extra money to the town. If we hire a new teacher for \$30,000 less, that money is out of our control.

“That might not be fair, and we are going to work on clarifying that in the coming months. We are not going to take this sitting down,” she said.

Parents Lydia Peterson and Victoria Cliche spoke in support of the teachers, with Cliche saying, “I am surprised we are having this kind of dialogue. Most people in town are hugely supportive of the school.”

Peterson said, “I wholeheartedly support the school. We have amazing teachers and staff. We need to support them. I did not know this was happening. There are a lot of people out there, who if they knew this was going on would be here tonight.”

Democratic Labor Movement (2007). The cost for this symposium is \$10. Same day registration is available for this symposium or call in advance: (413) 775-1420.

Finally, check out “**Creating Outdoor Art in the Hills of Colrain**,” inspired by the awesome art of Andy Goldsworthy, artist of found objects from the Natural World, will take place on Saturday, November 16, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Katywil Farm Community, on Stetson Brothers Road in Colrain. Goldsworthy uses the natural materials and landscape around him to create amazing art structures. Come to Katywil for a fun afternoon creating art from nature.

All ages and abilities are encouraged. Come explore your artistic side. Dress for the weather and consider bringing garden gloves and pruning shears as they may be of use finding and using the materials. Don’t forget your camera! Refreshments provided. Register by emailing calendar@kатыwil.com, with “Andy Goldsworthy Art” in your title. For more info, call Nancy at (413) 624-3040, or email nancy@kатыwil.com.

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Public Meeting

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 138, General Laws, as amended, the inhabitants of the Town of Montague are hereby notified that The Montague Parks & Recreation Department and Lake Pleasant Village Association will be sponsoring a meeting regarding Rutter’s Park in the village of Lake Pleasant.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday,
November 20, at 7 p.m. in the Spiritualist Hall,
on Montague Avenue in Lake Pleasant, 01347.

Public participation is welcomed.

Our Lady of Peace Church
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ERVING from page A1
had been in the community since 1910, and "it's nice to see the land go full circle. It's nice to give back to the town."

Usher Plant redevelopment committee member Jeannie Schermesser thanked Housen and his family for the gift, saying that the land will benefit the town now and into future generations. She called the Usher Plant project, which will be enhanced by the land gift, a cornerstone of major redevelopment for the town.

The meeting approved a temporary moratorium (maximum delay is one year) on the use of land or structures in the town for a medical marijuana treatment center.

The meeting also accepted a zoning bylaw change that makes

setback requirements for small accessory buildings more flexible.

The meeting approved payment of bills of prior years for the fire department (and for Gill-Montague Regional school tuition).

The meeting also revised interment regulations for the town cemetery, expanding the days for interment at regular rates to include Fridays.

The revised regulations also specify that the cemetery will be open for interments from April 25 to November 15, rather than "except for winter months".

Town administrator Tom Sharp thanked Ralph Semb for pinch-hitting as moderator on short notice, after town moderator Rich Peabody found he was not able to attend the meeting.



NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Wonkka Reviews Fire Department Wish List

By KATIE NOLAN

Town administrator Tom Sharp told the selectboard at its November 4 meeting that the finance committee had agreed to fiscal year 2015 raises for town employees by up to 3.5%, split into up to 1.5% as cost of living adjustment (COLA) and up to 2% as merit-based raises. Selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin said that he would like to see department budgets and understand "the overall picture" of the town's finances before deciding on COLA or merit-based raise percentages.

Goodwin and Eugene Klepadlo, the other selectboard member present, agreed that department heads should be able to prepare their draft FY'15 budgets before the selectboard sets a raise percentage.

Fire chief Philip Wonkka reviewed potential fire department purchases with the board. He recommended purchasing an electronic incident reporting program to streamline reporting on fire, medical, and other emergency responses by the department. He said the current system is paper-based, with written reports stored in filing cabinets.

He said that at least one of the programs available would import incident information directly from Shelburne Control, the regional emergency dispatcher, saving time in preparing reports and improving accuracy. Electronic reporting to the state would also be easier. The programs also track vehicle maintenance and firefighter training. The three programs he is considering for purchase range in first year costs (including one-time set-up

fees) of \$1,800 to \$3,600. Wonkka said he would like to purchase a system this year and that the costs could be absorbed in this year's fire department budget.

Goodwin said that he is generally supportive of the purchase, but wanted more information. He asked Wonkka to find out more about costs for technical support and any fees for termination of the contract. For a cloud-based system, where the information is stored remotely, the town might be charged to download its information after termination of the contract.

Wonkka said he is also considering purchasing a thermal imager for Station #1 under a group purchase through Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG). Klepadlo reported that the town currently has three thermal imagers, two that are 15 years old and one that is several years old. "It seems a little soon to me [to buy a new imager]," Goodwin remarked.

Wonkka said that there is not enough money in the budget now to cover the \$6,000 cost, but the group purchase price was a good deal. Goodwin said he would like to see a funding source for the imagers.

Wonkka told the board that FRCOG is also looking into group purchase of hoses and apertures, hose testing services and pump testing services. Goodwin said he would like to have information on the amount of savings from the group purchase plan.

Wonkka agreed to research the potential expenditures and the FRCOG group purchase plan further.

Wendell Strays Now Taken to Turners Shelter

Wendell has recently joined the Franklin County Regional Shelter in Turners Falls, which is run by the Sheriff's Department, so stray and lost dogs picked up in Wendell will now be housed there.

The shelter is located on Sandy

Lane in Turners Falls, off Turnpike Road behind Judd Wire.

Anyone who finds a lost or stray dog, or who loses their dog, should still call Wendell Animal Control Officer, Maggie Houghton at (978) 544-7773.

Owners can claim their lost dogs directly from the shelter. The hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Mon-

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard held a special session on October 30 with Ed Walker from Meredith, NH-based Municipal Resources Incorporated, who was hired through the FRCOG to help towns in Franklin County deal with the pressures that fire departments throughout the region are facing.

Because Wendell is small, and has a small department, the town may experience problems more acutely than other towns.

Finance committee member Doug Tanner came to the meeting, as did former fin com chair Michael Idoine. Two years ago Idoine formed the succession committee with the idea that neither Wendell's fire chief, nor its police chief, would be there forever, and that the town would do well to have something ready for when they leave.

Both chiefs served with little pay for years, and the fin com has raised their annual stipends to a level that is still far below the pay of a full-time chief. No one in town has come forward to assume either position.

The succession committee sent a questionnaire to townspeople asking what changes people wanted and how they wanted the town to deal with upcoming pressures. The overwhelming response was that people liked things the way they are.

Walker has long experience with the fire service, with years as chief, and five years as head of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. His purpose at this meeting was to learn from the selectboard what they considered the fire department's strengths, weaknesses, problems, and opportunities.

Chief Everett Ricketts has retired from regular paid work and spends a good part of his time going to meetings for the department or at his office at the fire station keeping up with the increasing load of paperwork required by the state, and maintaining apparatus.

He has been on the fire department 50 years and been its chief for 38 years. Without him and his dedicated service, it is possible that Wendell would have no fire department. During his tenure the fire service and the approach to fighting fires have changed dramatically. His longevity is a great strength for the department, but there are problems that come along with it.

When he joined, Wendell followed the long New England tradition of not spending money, of

day through Friday. Their number there is (413) 676-9182. You will need a rabies certificate. The fee is \$20/day.

Unclaimed dogs will be made available for adoption after seven days. If you're looking to adopt a dog, give them a call. They generally have several dogs available. Call Maggie if you have questions.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

FRCOG Consultant Examines Wendell Fire Needs

making do with what was available. Wendell's tanker, the largest tanker in Franklin County, was acquired as a used oil delivery truck.

Since water is heavier than oil, the truck's chassis was overloaded carrying water, and in 1988 the town bought a new cab and chassis, and installed the tank. Everett ran hoses from the engine's cooling system to keep water in the pipes from freezing, and installed a slide opening so outside air pressure would not crush the tank when water was dumped.

Since it held water instead of oil, the steel tank rusted beyond repair after 20 years, and the town replaced it with a new poly tank, which the highway department and volunteers put on the chassis.

With other volunteers' help, Ricketts connected the pump and piping to the new tank and the tank truck was almost ready for use. But it still needed running lights.

For virtues, selectboard chair Christine Heard said the firefighters are committed to each other and to the department, and that they work cooperatively as a team without egos getting in the way.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said that the department has a quick and effective response and board member Geoffrey Pooser said that no one has complained about a slow response time, even with 850 people in town spread over 60 miles of roads.

For weaknesses, Heard's first answer was concern for when Ricketts leaves. All three board members cited the limited pool of people available to become firefighters, and firefighters available to become officers.

Written job descriptions are being worked on, operating procedures and guidelines are being worked on, and most of the knowledge is lodged only in the memories of the current officers and firefighters. Walker said that the scope of responsibility for the captain and chief have increased exponentially.

Tanner said that the tradition of not spending money needs to be replaced with spending more money, and investing it intelligently.

He cited the practice of idling the tanker too long, while waiting for lights, as a false economy. Air packs are old and there is no schedule for replacing them and keeping them current. The department, he said, needs a long-term capital investment plan.

Keller mentioned the danger of injury due to inadequate equipment, aging, outdated, and untested, and the difficulty in funding and maintaining large capital assets.

Walker will study possibilities of shared equipment and testing, and administrative duties. He will meet with members of the fire department at their next drill, November 18.

The reporter is an on-call volunteer member of Wendell's fire department.

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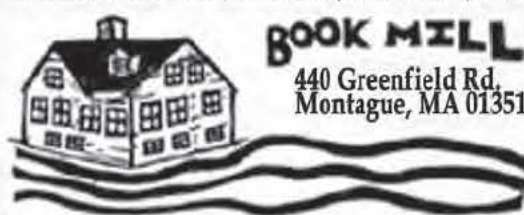
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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Sewer Rate Increases On Hold

By CHRISTOPHER
SAWYER-LAUCANNO

It took more than an hour for the Gill selectboard to come to the conclusion that they could not approve the 11 percent increase in Riverside sewer rates until after the town had conducted a smoke test. The test, they decided, was vital and should be done in the next couple of weeks. A vote on sewer rates is expected at the November 18 meeting.

Six residents attended the public hearing and complained about the rapid rise in their rates. Last year they saw a 58 percent increase; the additional 11 percent seemed just too much. Sewer bills will be mailed in early December, and the selectboard unanimously felt that the smoke test results should be in before they could in good conscience approve the increase users pay to Montague.

Peaks in the flow of sewage from the 104 households that make up the Riverside water district, which is pumped under Barton Cove for treatment at the Montague wastewater plant in Montague City at a cost of approximately \$55,000 to \$60,000 a year, are caused by rainfall flowing into the sewer system via roof gutter downspouts and storm drains, through decaying manholes, and from rising groundwater levels after heavy rainstorms infiltrating the sewer system through cracks in the pipes themselves.

The Riverside district annually discharges about 75% to 150% more sewage than should be expected, based on the amount of water being billed at water meters in Riverside homes.

Some inflow and infiltration of rainwater and groundwater is normal in older sewer systems. A system-wide smoke test can lay the groundwork for the least expensive fixes to reduce that inflow, thereby significantly altering the amount Riverside sewer users have to pay.

Selectman John Ward, who also lives in Riverside, noted that it was necessary to do a rate increase in order to bring money back into the account. "We're near to running in the red," he said. He also reminded the residents that until last year there had not been a rate increase in ten years. "We need to stop the bleeding in the system."

Selectman Randy Crochier said that the discrepancy in the inflow of water and the outflow of sewage had to be addressed. "A smoke test will tell us that." He said he also suspected that some residents in Riverside were using sump pumps to clear their cellars of water and that those pumps were being fed into the sewer. He said that, in his opinion, there would have to be a rate increase. "What we need to determine is how much of an increase."

The entire board, including Ann Banash, who was on speakerphone

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Don't Ignore That Toilet Noise

By JEFF SINGLETON

Ever heard your toilet continuing to run well after it should have shut off? I bet you have, but never seriously contemplated the potential consequences. Better think again, because if the water is leaking into the Montague town sewer system it could cause a hefty increase in your sewer bill.

This was a situation several sewer users requesting abatements, or reductions in their bills, from the Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF), found themselves in recently. Eight such requests were discussed in detail and voted on by the Montague Selectboard at its November 4 meeting. In one case, a bill which generally averaged under \$200 for the first six months of the year had jumped to \$503 for the first six months of 2013. Ouch!

The homeowner requested an abatement of the bill. Water Pollution Control Facility director Bob Trombley was quite sympathetic, but could not agree to the request since the water had flowed into the sewer system, intentionally or not. The Montague Selectboard had no choice but to reject the request.

Other requests involved decreases in the number of residents in a building, leakage that did not enter the system, and an accounting error by the WPCF. The board, following the advice of Trombley, approved three of the eight abatement requests.

Once the hearing was over, Trombley addressed several other issues, including a memo from the Environmental Protection Agency encouraging citizens to "know the condition of your sewer system" and the upcoming application for a new NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) permit.

The latter, which essentially allows Montague to dump treated sewage into the Connecticut River,

is, according to Trombley, "a big deal."

Next Michael Nelson of the Selectboard, in his capacity as organizer of the annual Pumpkinfest Celebration in Turners Falls, submitted three applications: one for use of Peskeomskut Park and Downtown Turners Falls; one for a one day liquor license; and one for the right to place two banners on public land: one in Turners and one on the common in Montague Center. The Selectboard approved all requests, which were made well in advance of the October 2014 event.

Next the Selectboard, operating as the "Personnel Board," voted to appoint police officer Lee Laster as fourth Sargeant on the town police force. Police Chief Chip Dodge said Laster had emerged from a process conducted by an independent "Assessment Center" as the strongest candidate. Dodge stated the process was not simply a matter of passing a test but involved, for example, the candidates responding to specific scenarios they might face in the line of duty.

Jeanne Golrick, well known Millers Falls resident, then came before the board to request that the town post or file copies of employee job descriptions in public locations. She noted that the Millers Falls library did not have such descriptions for the public to view.

The Selectboard voted to copy and make available all job descriptions not currently the subject of collective bargaining by the end of the week.

Chris Janke, one owner of the Rendezvous bar in Turners, requested several permits for his annual fashion show, held at the adjacent "Suzees Third Street Laundry," which he also owns. The selectboard approved entertainment and one-day liquor licenses for the event on December 7. "I'm amazed at what they come up with," said Janke, referring to the fact that the

"fashions" on display are created from items headed for the laundromat trash.

Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio's report included a request to approve a \$643,482 payment to Balthazar Contractors for recent sewer work near the industrial park; to sign an authorization to disburse the final payment for work on the Unity Park project, and to sign a letter of support for a grant to encourage recycling of "agricultural plastics."

Abbondanzio also discussed several issues related to the downtown streetscape project that had surfaced at the last meeting. Regarding the current youth sculpture park on Canal Street, originally designated as a parking lot, Abbondanzio stated any development of the site would need to wait until completion of a "slum and blight study" to be eligible for Community Development Block Grant funding. The same scenario applies to any CDBG-funded upgrade of the pedestrian bridge across the canal, crucial to the development of the Stratmore Building.

Bruce Hunter of the Franklin Regional Housing Authority attempted, with mixed success, to explain the agreement between the town and the Franklin County Home Care Corporation for the Meals on Wheels program. The contract, which theoretically begins in July of 2013, and lasts eighteen months until December of 2014, does not in fact appear to begin implementation until the fall of 2013.

Jeanne Golrick, fearing that a funding gap might leave some seniors without meals, stated that she was very confused about the timing. "We're very confused up here too," said Selectboard Chair Mark Fairbrother.

"It is very confusing," stated Hunter, who nonetheless seemed quite confident that all eligible seniors would receive meals.

from Florida, agreed that it was crucial to understand, through a smoke test, what was happening, so that rates could be properly set. The test will likely be performed for free by the non-profit Massachusetts Rural Water Association. Gill will only need to supply the smoke.

Perambulation of Town Boundaries

Town clerk Linda Hodsdon Mayo presented the board information on how the exact boundaries of the town could and should be updated. She noted that the last thorough studies of the town boundaries were performed in 1885 and 1890. She cited state law that requires boundary lines to be re-determined every five years.

She provided fascinating pieces of information about the 1885 boundary study, including a diary entry from the 1885 diary of Henry B. Barton: "I went with Asa Stoughton and perambulated the town."

One possibility for conducting a

study would be to utilize the Fire Department's advanced GPS. It was noted that two of the boundary lines are fairly fixed: the middle of the Connecticut and Falls rivers.

Approvals

The board approved the following items. A contract to reclaim the pitted and cracked 1100 feet of Hoe Shop Road was awarded to Allstate Paving for \$9,975. The company will excavate the old pavement, grind it up, then recondition and rebuild the sub-base. Final paving will likely take place next year.

A \$5,000 grant from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) also received approval. The grant is made available to Massachusetts municipalities to help curb potential insurance losses.

The money will be used to buy a 6 x 12 foot trailer, fully equipped with a variety of work zone/traffic control items such as cones, barrels and sawhorses. Better demarcation of road work will potentially help

keep work crews safer.

Ken Sprinkle and Amy Gordon were appointed to the Town Forest Task Force through June 30, 2014.

Hampshire Power Ending Municipal Profit Sharing Plan

Hampshire Power, which until last year provided a rebate for electricity use to Gill for its municipal buildings, has discontinued the rebate citing changes in the economy. From 2007 until last year Gill did receive rebates from the aggregate power company.

Since there have not been profits in the last two years, Hampshire is pulling the plug. The town has always paid the WMECO default rate but in past years the aggregate power bought by Hampshire turned out to be less, thus resulting in money coming back to the town.

Other

A flu clinic will be held on November 12 from 3:30 to 6:30 at Gill Elementary.



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MARCH from page A1

brought in \$45,000, but he was hoping this year to exceed that amount. "It is so necessary for so many," he added.

Representative McGovern has been one of the loudest voices in Congress on the necessity to strengthen food programs and to aid the hungry. The march gave him a chance to "walk the walk" alongside his constituency.

He said he was looking forward

to a brief break in Deerfield but was ready to hit the road again before he stiffened up too much.

He admitted that he was already rather tired and sore but if necessary, "he'd crawl across the finish line because the cause is so important."

Morehouse noted that over 135,000 people in Western Massachusetts – one in every eight – face hunger on a daily basis. Each week, the food bank and its associated programs feed more than

15,000. 20 percent of households with children in Massachusetts – 1 in 5 – said they were unable to afford enough food. The food hardship rate for households without children was 14.4 percent.

WRSI broadcast the event live at several stages along the way so that supporters and donors could keep abreast of the whereabouts of the marathoners.



Skatepark Raffle Winners Announced!

The October Skatepark Raffle Fund Drive netted the committee \$3000 toward building the Unity Park skatepark, and also garnered support from many local residents, who bought tickets.

The winners: Linda Ackerman won a very sexy cowboy print apron from Funk*Shun; John Ward won the variable speed jigsaw from Couture Bros; Ron Mosca won a \$25 gift certificate from Jake's Tavern; Mike Naughton won a \$25 gift card from the Rendezvous; Vanessa Espinal won a \$25 gift certificate from Loot; Benjamin Miner won the \$300 gas card from Rau's Sunoco; Chloe Marchese won a \$50 gift card from the Green Fields Market; Eileen Tela won a small handmade walnut cutting board from Dolan Casework; and Carol Flandreau won the large cutting board. The grand prize, a custom-made skateboard from Dolan Casework, went to Mandy Skiff. The only out-of-town winner, a visitor from New York, won a subscription to the *Montague Reporter*, which she kindly donated to her brother, Rich Becker.

The committee wants to thank many who made the raffle possible:

Thanks to Rich Becker and River Station, for a very generous matching pledge, and allowing us to set up a table in front of River Station on Pumpkinfest; Bill Holbrook of Jake's Tavern, for sponsoring the benefit for the skate park that raised more than \$700 in one night at Jake's; Booska Flooring, Eagle Automotive, and Aubuchon Hardware, for contributing to the raffles that helped make the Jake's benefit such a success; John McNamara and Erin MacLean, of Loot, for assisting with the Jake's benefit, and also for contributing their share of the winnings from the 50/50 raffle that night to the skatepark; to Jean Hebden, Don Clegg, Suzette Snow-Cobb and Jeff Singleton for helping with raffle tables; and to Amy Podlenski and Krystal Glushien for graphic design on posters and signage for the fund drive.

To all who contributed, thank you for making the October drive such a success!

Gill's Local Health District Receives State Regionalization Grant

Ten local towns sharing regional health staff received welcome news on Tuesday, October 29.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has awarded the Cooperative Public Health Service (CPHS), a program of the FRCOG, \$209,000 for three years of grant funding to support the stabilization of the new district's services and structure.

The CPHS serves Gill, as well as Buckland, Conway, Charlemont, Deerfield, Hawley, Heath, Leyden, Monroe and Shelburne, and the towns were celebrating the one year anniversary of the district at

an Annual Meeting and dinner in Charlemont.

David Kibbe, Communications Director for the state Department of Public Health announced the grant: "DPH is pleased to include the Cooperative Public Health Service in the District Incentive Grant Program.

"CPHS has an established track record in delivering regional public health services and we look forward to working with them and the participating Franklin County communities to further enhance their regional public health infrastructure."

According to Coughlin, the funds awarded to the FRCOG are part of the state's District Incentive Grant, or DIG program.

Phoebe Walker, Director of Community Services for the FRCOG, reported that the funds will be used to support the work of the regional health agent and public health nurse, to increase training opportunities for local board of health members, to complete a community health assessment for the district's towns and to expand Lyme disease education.

On the web: www.frcog.org/services/regional_health/index.php

FACES & PLACES



Ben Franklin (aka Eva Pruitt-Dahl) visits Turners Falls.



Thanks to a grant from the Leverett Community Preservation Committee, Leverett Elementary Preschool Playground has undergone a total transformation. The Community Preservation grant paid for new fencing, a new climbing structure, and materials for a new sandbox.

Wayne Cromack and Joe Sobieski, the evening maintenance staff, built the sandbox from locally sourced locust wood. Now it is filled with sand, and the kindergarten and preschool students are having a most excellent time at recess!

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YEAR 12 – NO. 6

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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

NOVEMBER 7, 2013

Turners Field Hockey Loses to Mohawk, 2-0, in Quarterfinals

By REPORTER STAFF

BUCKLAND – Despite excellent play by the Turners Falls High School field hockey team on Wednesday, October 30, Mohawk played just a little bit better. In a very tight game, Mohawk Trail Regional High School managed to get two past Turners' goalie Jaimee White and into the net for a 2-0 victory in the quarterfinal of the Western Massachusetts Division II Tournament.

Mohawk scored first just a little over two minutes into the game when Warriors Senior Kesheal Henderson, out maneuvering the Indians defense, shot low to the left side of the net to quickly put Mohawk on the scoreboard.

Throughout the first half, Turners and Mohawk see-sawed up and down the field in what would quickly become a thrilling game of defense. Despite advances by both sides, the defense came to the rescue each and every time.

During the first part of the second half it looked as if the Indians might tie it up, or even go ahead as they earned three corners. But Turners' offense just couldn't pull off a goal. Mohawk, on the other hand, continued to battle hard. With 9:16 remaining, Mohawk Junior forward Leigh Shippee, after receiving a pass from Henderson, slipped another by White.

The score might have been even more lopsided except for the superb goal keeping of Indians Senior Jaimee White who made 24 saves in the game, including stopping several close-range blasts.

Mohawk are headed to the semifinals on November 7 against Frontier. Turners Falls ended its season at 9-8-2 and were winners of the league championship for the first time since 2002.

Book Review

"Jinx," by Gerald Collins

By JOE PARZYCH

TURNERS FALLS – On Friday, November 1, Gerald Collins, a.k.a. Jinx, came from Arizona to meet with Laura Rodley's Writing Group at the Montague Senior Center.

Earlier in the year, Collins had furnished the writing group copies of the manuscript of his memoir asking them to check it for historical and geographic accuracy. On his visit last Friday, Collins presented the group a copy of his memoir, *Jinx*, and read from it.

Gerald Collins wrote his memoir in third person because, "In my mind Jinx was another person, in another time, and that person no longer exists."

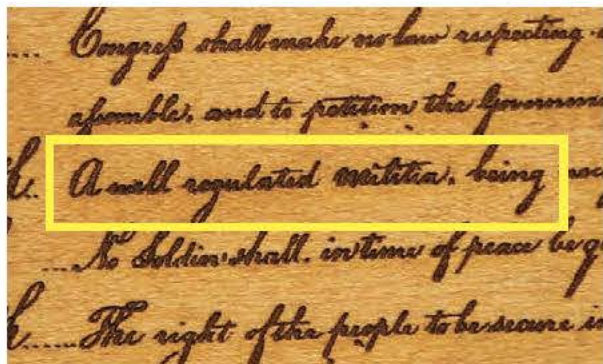
A picture of the Third Street Cutlery Block in Turners Falls, where Collins grew up during the Great Depression, is on the book's cover.

Nicknames in Turners Falls are legendary. The Carnegie Library has a book of them. Virtually everyone had a nickname.

Collins got his by accidentally sticking his foot into the spokes of a friend's bicycle wheel while riding on the crossbar, resulting in his friend calling him a "jinx." The name stuck.

David Beaubien earned the nickname "Hacksaw" as a

Muskets, Militias, and the Second Amendment



By JEFF SINGLETON

GREENFIELD – The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution reads, "A well regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed."

In an 1876 decision the United States Supreme Court, which interprets the Constitution, ruled that the amendment, part of the Bill of Rights, only applied to federal regulation: "The right to bear arms is not granted by the constitution, neither is it in any manner dependent on that instrument for its existence." In the early twentieth century the court expanded protections under the Bill of Rights and increasingly applied them to state and local governments.

But not to the Second Amendment. In a key 1939 case, the *United States v. Miller*, the court ruled that a federal prohibition on interstate commerce in sawed-off shotguns was permissible because such weapons did not have "a reasonable relationship to the preservation or efficiency of a well regulated militia." In effect, the court in *Miller* linked the first half of the sentence which comprises the amendment

to the second half. The "right" to bear arms is connected with the need for a "well regulated militia."

That link was broken by the court in a landmark 2008 decision, *District of Columbia v Heller*. The court struck

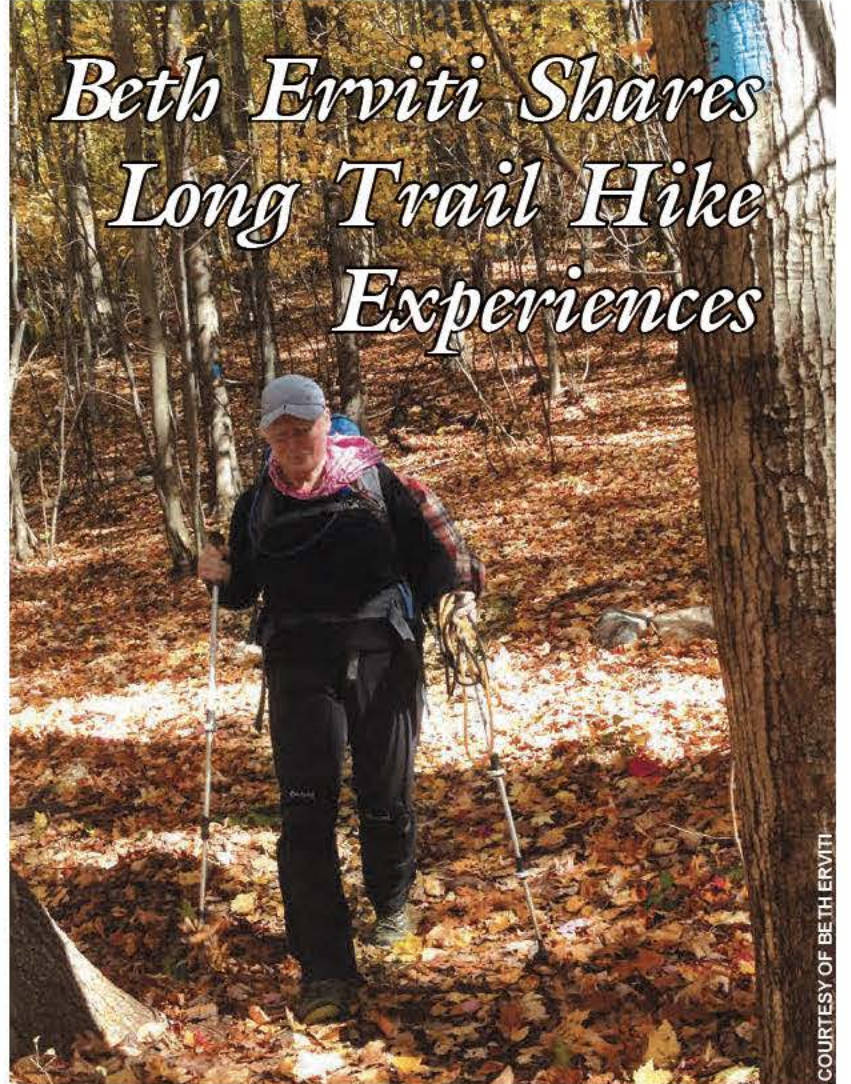
down a District of Columbia law severely restricting the ownership of handguns. Lawyers for the district had argued, consistent with *Miller*, that handguns, a key cause of the city's high murder rate, were not being used to maintain a militia. However the Supreme Court, in a typically divided decision, found that the second amendment conferred an "individual right" to carry a gun not connected to service in a militia. This included the right to self defense.

The *Heller* decision appeared in the context of rising public concern about gun violence in the United States and an equally militant defense of "Second Amendment rights" by gun enthusiasts. The latter have been led by National Rifle Association (NRA) and the Republican Party. (Republican presidents had appointed a majority of the *Heller* justices, although in fairness two GOP appointees were in the minority.)

The politics of all this has been front and center for several decades, at least since the attempt to assassinate former President Ronald Reagan produced federal restrictions on firearms under the so-called "Brady

see SWEENEY page B4

Beth Erviti Shares Long Trail Hike Experiences



COURTESY OF BETH ERVITI

By KATIE NOLAN

Beth Erviti of Wendell will present her experience of through-hiking the 273-mile Long Trail in Vermont and share photos at the Wendell Free Library on Friday November 15 at 7 p.m.

"On the last day of the hike, I had an epiphany: I felt that I was a person no better than a coyote, moose or crow, I was part of the same picture, as important as any other creature, but no more important than any other creature," Erviti said of her experience.

She started the 273-mile trek at the Canadian border last fall and hiked to Appalachian Gap in Waitsfield, Vermont (Route 17).

This fall, she started at Appala-

chian Gap and arrived at the trail's end in Williamstown, Massachusetts on October 12.

Erviti lives on a wooded dirt road in Wendell. "I like to walk, but there wasn't enough space here, even in Wendell..." she said. She called her through-hike "a life changing experience that gave me an immense appreciation for the balance of nature."

Her brother accompanied her for about a week, but, for most of the hike, she hiked by herself.

"There were no other grandmothers hiking the trail – certainly no grandmothers through-hiking alone," she said.

"I'd like people to know what it's like, so maybe other people will give it a shot."

TURNERS MOVES TO PLAYOFFS, DESPITE WIDE LOSS TO CATHEDRAL

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – It was all Turners Falls. For the first 17 seconds that is. Jalen Sanders caught the opening kickoff, was hit hard by two Cathedral players, spun away and raced past the entire kicking team and put the Indians on the score board. Alas, it was the only score of the day en route to a 54 to 7 drubbing.

The players found out that they had made the playoffs before the game began and that they would probably play Mohawk in the first round. Franklin Tech would probably play McCann.

A loss to Cathedral, a school in a higher division, wouldn't keep them out of the playoffs. That's probably why they seemed to be playing at three quarter speed.

The receivers were still wide open at times, the lanes open as usual but it seemed that the players were thinking about next week. Their heads didn't seem to be in the game.

But the hundreds of true blue fans, who seemed to outnumber the home crowd, continued to cheer even into the fourth quarter. Even though the Indians lost, it was still a pretty good way to spend a warm Saturday afternoon in the fall.



Jalen Sanders (21) makes it look easy with only his teammate, Quinn Doyle, for company.

What really hurt the Indians were the giveaways and the sacks. Turners gave up the ball on six turnovers and allowed four sacks. This combination stopped their usually potent offensive machine, killing drives and allowing Cathedral plenty of scoring opportunities.

Despite this, Malcolm Smith was 5 for 7 for 105 yards, averaging almost 15 yards per reception. Melvin Moreno, Jalen Sanders and Brody Markol each caught passes.

The team averaged almost 6 yards per carry with Quinn Doyle, Jalen Sanders, Alex Carlisle, Brody Markol, Ricky Carver and Malcolm Smith each carrying the ball.

You would think, with these stats, the team would score every series. But you

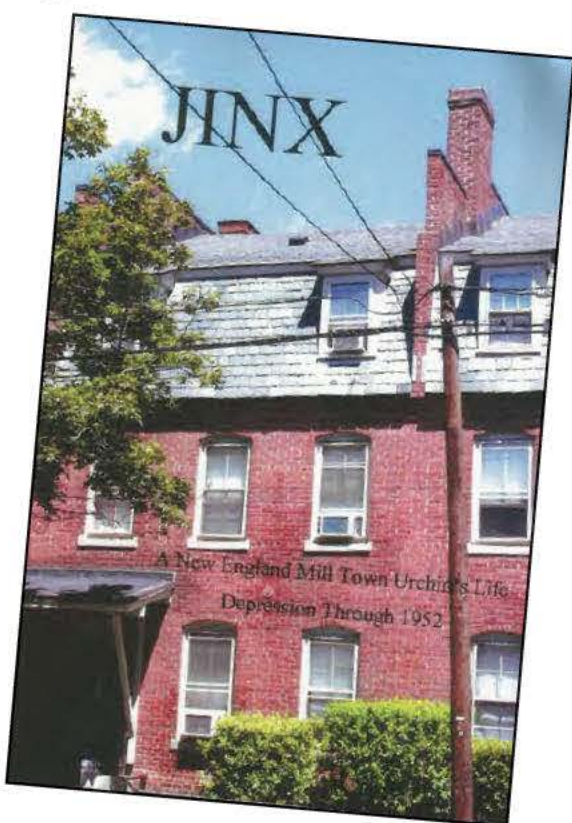
can't score if you give up the ball, and you can't win if you don't score.

So where are we now? The last I heard, Turners dropped in the power rankings because of the lopsided loss. They will no longer play Mohawk Regional, a familiar Franklin County team, but instead will have to play McCann.

Hopefully, it's a lesson learned: Concentrate on the task at hand. Play today's game the best you can.

So for one of the first times this season, Turners Falls will enter a game as the underdog. Nothing to lose.

But a caution to McCann, don't look past the Tribe. Don't take Power Town too lightly. You will be surprised at how good they can play when their heads are in the game.



Pet of the Week



“Angel”

You'll sense my sweetness the moment you walk into the shelter here in Leverett. I'm the big, soft,

fluffy girl with gorgeous green eyes and pink nose – come over and talk to me, won't you? I'm such a darling girl. I'm cuddly and gentle, shy at first, but warm and devoted once I get to know you. I love to be petted. I lived with a bunny rabbit and we were friends! I am scared of dogs and, umbrellas. So please, no dogs, or indoor umbrellas.

I'm good luck too: I bring love and comfort to everyone who knows me. So won't you come fall in love with me and bring me home with you forever? Then I'll be the lucky one too. Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or info@dpvhs.org

Senior Center Activities
November 11 to 15

GILL and MONTAGUE

Gill / Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m.

All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. 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 11/11

9 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 11/12

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
12 noon Lunch
1 p.m. Painting Class

Wednesday 11/13

9 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment
10 a.m. Aerobics
12 noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 11/14

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Coffee & Conversation
12 noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 11/15

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Writing Group

WENDELL

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

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 congregate meals. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at (413) 423-3308, for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call the Center to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out when is the next blood pressure clinic.

Monday 11/11

CLOSED - Veterans Day
Tuesday 11/12
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
9:30 a.m. C.O.A. Meeting
12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday 11/13

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
12 noon Bingo

Thursday 11/14

8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones/Muscles
12 noon Cards

Friday 11/15

9 a.m. Bowling

LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$5 (first class free).

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

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Stuck Trucks and Other Annoyances

Monday, 10/21

4:20 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with an injured moose on Route 2.

Tuesday, 10/22

7:10 a.m. Reported assault & battery at French King Highway residence. Under investigation.

11:30 a.m. Motor vehicle complaint on the French King Bridge. Leaf-peepers moved along.

Wednesday, 10/23

3 p.m. Male party reported harassing patrons at the Gill Mobil.

4:50 p.m. Medical assistance at the Northfield Mount Hermon football field.

Saturday, 10/26

8:40 a.m. Power outage through 90% of Gill. Assisted with traffic at Main Road intersection.

10:30 a.m. Ben Hale Road resident reports annoying/harassment issues.

7:20 p.m. Boater reported overdue at state boat ramp.

Sunday, 10/27

1:20 p.m. Brush fire reported on West Gill Road. Assisted Fire Department.

Monday, 10/28

7:45 a.m. Tractor-trailer unit stuck on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Contacted Roseledge Towing for assistance.

3:50 p.m. Firearms issue settled with resident on West Gill Road.

7:30 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with tractor-trailer unit accident on Route 2.

Tuesday, 10/29

7:30 a.m. Assisted tractor-trailer unit stuck on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.

Wednesday, 10/30

9:35 a.m. Motor vehicle complaint on Route 2.

10:10 a.m. Medical emergency on Boyle Road.

Resident transported.

12:50 p.m. Man reportedly pushed out of moving motor vehicle on Main Road. Under investigation.

4 p.m. Reported larceny of property from French King Highway residence.

4:45 p.m. Lemon Law complaint filed concerning motor vehicle purchased at Route 2 business.

5:25 p.m. Cell phone reported stolen from Northfield Mount Hermon student.

6:30 p.m. Medical assistance for Center Road resident.

Thursday, 10/31

4:25 p.m. Second complaint by Ben Hale Road resident regarding harassment. Advised to get prevention order at district court.

10:55 p.m. 911 hangup call from Northfield

Mount Hermon.

Friday, 11/1

10:15 a.m. Debris reported in the roadway on Pisgah Mountain Road.

10:35 a.m. Suspicious people reported on Highland Road. All were walking dogs.

8:05 p.m. Deer vs. motor vehicle accident on Main Road.

Saturday, 11/2

10:45 a.m. Assisted Deerfield PD with reported hit-and-run accident committed by Gill resident.

2:35 p.m. Illegal dumping on West Gill Road. Suspects located and asked to reverse same.

9:55 p.m. Searched area of French King Bridge for reportedly suicidal subject.

Sunday, 11/3

7:10 a.m. False alarm at Route 2 business.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

An Eye on Glaucoma



By FRED CICETTI

Q. What exactly does glaucoma do to your eyes?

Glaucoma is defined as a group of diseases that can damage the eye's optic nerve, which carries images from the eye to the brain. Here's how glaucoma works:

A clear fluid flows through a small space at the front of the eye called the "anterior chamber." If you have glaucoma, the fluid drains too slowly out of the eye and pressure builds up. This pressure may damage the optic nerve.

However, increased eye pressure doesn't necessarily mean you have glaucoma. It means you are at risk for glaucoma. A person has glaucoma only if the optic nerve is damaged.

Glaucoma can develop in one or both eyes. The most common type of glaucoma starts out with no symptoms. Without treatment, people with glaucoma will slowly lose their peripheral vision. Eventually, the middle of your vision field may decrease until you are blind.

Unfortunately, there is no cure for glaucoma, a leading cause of blindness in the United States.

Any vision that glaucoma destroys cannot be restored. Early diagnosis of glaucoma is extremely important, because there are treatments that may save remaining vision.

Almost three million people in the U.S. have glaucoma. Those at highest risk are African-Americans, everyone over age 60, and people with a family history of glaucoma.

Glaucoma is just one reason seniors should make regular visits to an eye doctor. Glaucoma is detected through a comprehensive eye exam that includes a visual acuity test, visual field test, dilated eye exam, tonometry, and pachymetry.

A visual acuity test measures vision at various distances. A visual field test measures peripheral vision. In a dilated eye exam, a

special magnifying lens is used to examine the inside of the eye. In tonometry, an instrument measures the pressure inside the eye. With pachymetry, an instrument is used to measure the thickness of your cornea, the transparent part of the front of the eye.

The most common treatments for glaucoma are medication and surgery. Medications for glaucoma may come in eye drops or pills. For most people with glaucoma, regular use of medications will control the increased fluid pressure.

Laser surgery is another treatment for glaucoma. The laser is focused on the part of the anterior chamber where the fluid leaves the eye. This makes it easier for fluid to exit the eye. Over time, the effect of this surgery may wear off. Patients who have laser surgery may need to keep taking glaucoma drugs.

Studies have shown that the early detection and treatment of glaucoma is the best way to control the disease. So, have your eyes examined thoroughly and regularly if you are in a high-risk category. And that includes all of us geezers.

Questions? Send them to fred@healthygeezer.com.

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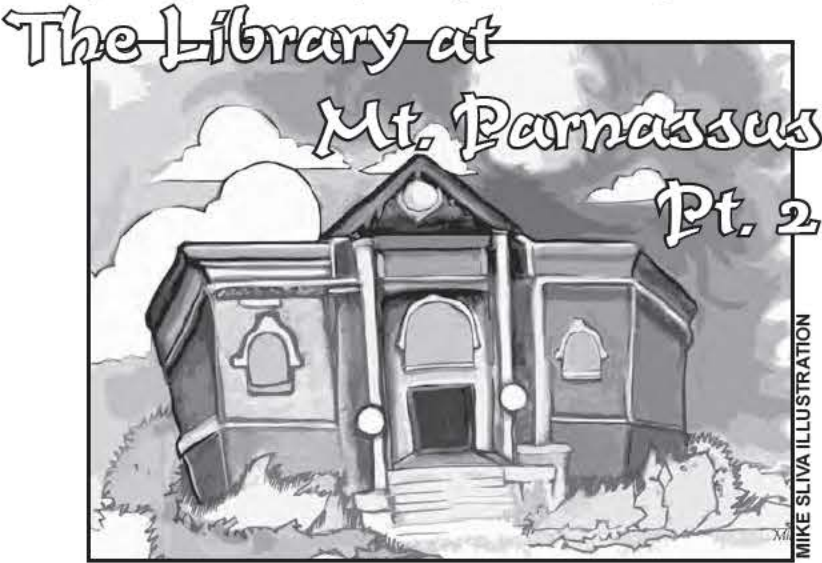
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PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

A crack in the library landing is the cause of some debate in town, while the allure of the night librarian inspires the patrons with strange dreams...



By DAVID DETMOLD

I was always forgetting what I wanted to ask Melantha, the night librarian, when I saw her standing, tall and serene and beautiful behind the main desk. I had wanted to ask her something about coffee and sweet rolls, something along those lines, but, well... she had that effect on me.

“You were looking for the want ads?” she asked, with her cutting tone. “Or the personals?”

“The want ads. Melantha...”

She reached over and took my hands and turned them palm side up and laid them flat on the walnut desk, and leaned in close to study them. I inhaled a sulfurous aroma of cinnabar and asphodel...

Asphodel?

“What’s that, Melantha? Some kind of new perfume?”

“Do you like it?” Her temple was right beneath my nose. “It’s called Stygian Sunrise.”

“Wow!” I took another breath, and exhaled. “What a knockout.”

In the reading room, the usual crowd had gathered – Cadmus, Orville, and the rest. Cadmus – was that his given name or his family name? Nobody knew for certain. We all called him Bo; he reminded us of a tired old cowboy blown in on the dry north wind.

He’d turned up in town, no one could quite remember when, and stuck like a burr. He wore a sweat-stained Stetson with a battered crown and boots so worn and mapped with grease and creases they resembled Italy after the sack of Rome.

Cadmus was deep into his genealogies, as usual, with his pet crow Ulysses perched on one foot on his shoulder, staring at the fire.

Orville – Orville Estes – was an earnest, endearing youth with a too thin frame and a nagging tendency toward tardive dyskenesia. He sat there in the corner in a cramped armchair reading and re-reading a dog-eared copy of *Life*, the one with the cover story on “The Search for Meaning and Comfort in the Spiritual World.”

It was rumored – or rather, it was known (though we were too polite to put it this way) – that Orville was a matricide. The act, which had taken place in the distant past, had been judged a justifiable homicide, and we quite forgave him for it. But this did nothing to alleviate his own remorse.

Orville could be found here most

evenings, sitting in the furthest corner of the reading room beside the gilded purple ranks of encyclopediae.

Or felt safe here, to the extent it was possible for him to feel safe anywhere. He was able to sleep a little, despite the scanty horsehair padding and pointed springs of his usual chair. It may be that the savage hounds of conscience were lulled, to some extent, by our convivial presence in the reading room. Be that as it may, Or was always here, week in week out, sitting in the corner, jittery and echolaliac, occasionally snoring, a battered jack-in-the box, friendly and feverish and forever sprung.

In winter, especially, but all throughout the year, our little library provided a kind of sanctuary for the outcast and isolate who gathered in search of warmth and knowledge and companionship within its marble walls. On winter nights like these, Old Clare, the head librarian, would kindle a fire in the fireplace in the reading room and we would gather round as the ash logs blazed to sit and chat or read and pass the night away in study or in sleep.

Tony was there too, with his addled leer, our gap-toothed economist, reading the *Attic Times*.

I felt lightheaded standing in the rising draft at the main desk with Melantha studying my palm, her long dark hair swept around one shoulder, her eyes intent, so near my own.

“See anything?” I asked.

She turned my hands over and gave them back to me. “You have good hands,” she said.

“That’s all?”

“Look both ways before going to sleep,” she added.

“Why?” I took a step backwards.

“Objects in dream are closer than they appear.”

I thought, there must have been a screening committee when they hired her. It wasn’t that long ago, was it? A few months. Or had it been a year already? People change.

Melantha took a stack of books and began opening their back covers one by one and scratching at their pockets with bold strokes of a quill pen fashioned from the feather of a crow.

I glanced over at Ulysses. The bird stood still as a stone on Cadmus’s shoulder, one upraised claw outstretched, one black eye glaring now in my direction.

Continued next week.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Moose, Raccoon, Deer, Dogs, Humans Run Amok

Monday, 10/28

8:22 a.m. Multiple reports of a moose roaming the Worcester Avenue / Turners Falls Road / Sheffield School area. Unable to locate.

9:20 a.m. Vandalism to book return box at Carnegie Library. Services rendered.

1:18 p.m. Report of couple parked outside daycare/ Mayhew Steel behaving suspiciously. Referred to an officer.

1:35 p.m. Report of breaking/entering into a motor vehicle on I Street on Saturday; backpack containing emergency medical supplies/book missing.

7:21 p.m. Eight open line 911 calls received from same cell phone. Investigated; owner of phone located; phone had been in his pocket all night. No further services necessary.

11:07 p.m. Two reports of disturbances on Fourth Street, one involving a group of males ringing apartment buzzers and knocking at doors. Investigated.

Tuesday, 10/29

9 a.m. Report of cars swerving to avoid man in wheelchair trying to make way up L Street hill. Area search negative.

12:07 p.m. Verbal altercation between caller and owner of Madison on the Avenue regarding money owed for items sold on consignment. Advised of options.

1:03 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

1:18 p.m. Fire alarm on Avenue A triggered by burnt toast.

3:25 p.m. Suspicious behavior at Unity Park basketball court. Parties lo-

cated; courtesy transport to Leverett provided.

6:07 p.m. Neighbor dispute involving missing basketball hoop; further complaints from involved parties regarding each videotaping the other. Advised of options.

7:42 p.m. Shed fire on South High Street threatening nearby house. TFFD responded. Turnpike Road briefly shut down at Walnut. Fire brought under control; streets reopened.

Wednesday, 10/30

12:45 a.m. Male on bike stopped outside St. Kazimierz Society on Avenue A, advised regarding wrong-way travel and lack of reflectors, and sent on way.

2:10 a.m. Fire in barn attached to house on Federal Street. All occupants accounted for. MCFD responded. Route 63 closed for several hours.

11:08 a.m. Complaint regarding elderly female sitting on Avenue A bench yelling at people and asking them to sit with her. Officer spoke with female; no problems.

1:43 p.m. Report of possibly rabid raccoon with blood on its face, foaming at mouth and seizing, at Taylor Heights. Animal control officer advised and responding.

4:04 p.m. Summons issued in response to restraining order violation in Turners Falls.

11:18 p.m. Report of female in area of Turners Falls-Gill Bridge yelling “Don’t throw me in.” Bridge area and bike path checked; unable to locate.

Thursday, 10/31

10:38 a.m. Report of larceny from a garage on Second Street.

1:49 p.m. Summons issued

in response to disorderly conduct at Great Falls Middle School.

5:33 p.m. Caller reported receiving threats after notifying police of drug activity. Referred to detectives.

10:44 p.m. Parties spoken to regarding loud music on Bridge Street. Peace restored.

Friday, 11/1

3:40 a.m. Assisted Greenfield PD with a domestic disturbance on Deerfield Street.

4:09 a.m. Domestic dispute on Central Street. Services rendered.

7:26 a.m. Report of male acting strangely, yelling, and jumping up and down outside St. Stanislaus Society on K Street. Officers located party, who was not drinking alcohol but was found to be acting a little strangely (howling).

12:59 p.m. Unwanted person in apartment on Second Street. Party gone when officers arrived. Advised of options.

10:53 p.m. Ongoing problem regarding vandalism (egging) of George Street residence. Extra patrols requested.

Saturday, 11/2

11:20 a.m. Report of male in wheelchair walking dog in L Street and causing hazard. Unable to locate.

12:10 p.m. Parties working on truck on Seventh Street advised to move it.

1:01 p.m. Report of two people sitting on top of water tower in Montague Center. Unable to locate.

7:50 p.m. Report of larceny of money and DVDs from Avenue A apartment. Report taken.

11:05 p.m. Caller witnessed young deer running down Seventh Street, across Avenue A, and into

Pesky Park. Report taken. 11:42 p.m. Damaged vehicle abandoned on L Street for past week identified as stolen vehicle from Racine, WI. Vehicle towed. Registered owner located and contacted.

Sunday, 11/3

2:24 a.m. Male patient at Baystate Franklin Medical Center reported having been assaulted by five males near Turners Falls-Gill Bridge early Sunday morning. Patient suffered severe facial injuries and a possible broken ankle. Report taken.

6:16 a.m. Vehicle reported stolen from Route 63 Roadhouse overnight. Vehicle later located hanging over an embankment behind a cattle fence on South Ferry Road.

8:22 a.m. Avenue A apartment building hallway reported vandalized with eggs and animal feces. Report taken.

11:08 a.m. Dog bitten by another dog on Dell Street. Animal control officer advised; biting dog quarantined. Report taken.

2:12 p.m. Report of domestic dispute on Fourth Street. Investigated.

4:50 p.m. Request for well-being check on two children at a Fourth Street apartment.

5:03 p.m. Neighbor dispute regarding possession of bicycles and possible unauthorized entry to apartment on Fourth Street.

5:44 p.m. Neighbor dispute on Woodland Drive. Advised of options.

9:10 p.m. Threatening/harassment on Fourth Street. Investigated.

10:25 p.m. Deer struck by Dodge Caravan on Turnpike Road. Deer took off; driver not injured; damage to vehicle.

Local Families Win Local Prizes in Family Day Contest

The Communities that Care Coalition has announced the winners of their Family Day Contest. Due to the extraordinary generosity of local food producers, the Coalition was able to choose not just one, but three winners.



The Damon Family of Gill

Each of these families diligently took a photo of themselves having dinner with their families on September 23rd, a national

movement launched by the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA), to celebrate parental engagement as an effective tool to help keep America’s kids substance free.

First prize goes to the Damon family from Gill, second prize goes to the Fontaine family from South Deerfield, and third prize goes to the Cogswell family from Turners Falls.

Each family won a colorful tote bag from the Communities that Care Coalition filled with a variety of local food items and gift certificates.

The Communities That Care Coalition celebrates *Family Day* and the importance of family dinners as an effective step in reaching this goal. Our hope is that families will increase their frequency of eating

meals together so they can reap the benefits!

For more information about national *Family Day* visit: CASAFamilyDay.org. For wonderful family dinner resources, visit thefamilydinnerproject.org.



The Cogswell family of Turners Falls

For more information about the Communities That Care Coalition serving Franklin County and the North Quabbin visit communitiesthatcarecoalition.org.

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OBITUARY

Robert Manley Ripley, Jr.

Robert Manley Ripley, Jr., age 81, of Manhattan, died October 23, 2013, at Good Shepherd Hospice House in Manhattan.

He was born April 17, 1932, in Greenfield, Massachusetts, the son of Robert Manley Ripley, Sr. and Ruth Lawrence Ripley.

Mr. Ripley worked for General Electric and then on several dairy farms for 12 years prior to working for Central Hudson Gas and Electric as a Control Operator, switch-board operator and then as a draftsman.

He volunteered as a fireman in Marlboro, NY, and was a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Mr. Ripley enjoyed playing the guitar, organ and piano and spending time on the computer and was very good at links golf.

On May 24, 1953, he was married to Jessie May Hensel. She preceded him in death on July 11, 1980. On September 4, 1982, he was married to Nancy Belle (Wallace) Bootz. She preceded him in death on February 27, 2008. He was also preceded in death by his brother Kenneth Ripley.

Survivors include his four children: Albert Ripley and his wife

Frances of Americus, KS, Flora Kay Swanson and her husband John of Wallkill, NY, Melanie Hawks and her husband John of Manhattan, KS, and Robert M. Ripley, III and his wife Lucy of Peabody, MA; three step-children: Barbara Bootz Powell of Berkley Lake, GA, Dolores Bootz Mulkey-Kramer and her husband Alan of Houston, TX, and John Bootz and his wife Sara of Walden, NY; 12 grandchildren, seven step-grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter.

Cremation is planned. The family and friends held a time of remembrance of Mr. Ripley on Tuesday, November 5, at the Meadowlark Hills Tranquility Room. Inurnment will be held at a later date in Cedar Hill Cemetery in Newburgh, NY.

Online condolences may be left for the family through the funeral home website at www.ymfifuneral-home.com.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Good Shepherd Hospice House or the American Lung Association. Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66502.

SWEENEY from pg B1

Bill.” In the 1990s the issue of banning assault weapons sharply divided the national parties. The NRA is widely credited with contributing to the GOP takeover of the House of Representatives in 1994.

Less well known is a somewhat obscure but highly influential academic debate about the origins of the Second Amendment.

The Heller decision was partially the product of an academic debate which took place in the 1980s and ‘90s over the Second Amendment that, despite the wording and syntax, was intended to confer an “individual right” to gun ownership unrelated to a militia.

The academic controversy has also spawned a good deal of research and debate about militias in eighteenth and early nineteenth century America.

Amherst College professor Kevin Sweeney addressed these issues at a Senior Seminar at Greenfield Community College’s downtown campus on October 31.

It was a large and engaged audience, despite the impending onset of Halloween and despite Sweeney’s rather traditional academic approach. As the enthusiastic seniors filtered out of the talk, the streets

of Greenfield were filled with eager trick-or-treaters.

Sweeney freely admits he is not a constitutional scholar but he knows a lot about militias and guns in the eighteenth century. His past research is primarily on architecture, material culture and social history.

For years he worked at historic Deerfield and in 2002 published a book called *Captors and Captives*, about the 1704 attack on Deerfield by the French and their Indian allies.

Sweeney handed out a number of sheets with interesting data on firearm ownership in the eighteenth century.

These were primarily based on probate records, inventories of the possessions of deceased individuals recorded by colonial and state courts. Such records, for all their flaws, are a key source for American social history.

Sweeney’s data showed a good deal of variation in gun ownership and not necessarily a high correlation between guns and militias.

In Worcester County, Massachusetts in the 1740s, for example, only 39.6% of probate records listed firearms despite the fact that militia service was required of all

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on November 6, 2003: News from The Montague Reporter’s archive.

Bean Offered Road Post

After failing to reach agreement with their first choice for DPW superintendent, the Montague selectboard offered the job to Thomas Bean, currently a manager of new technologies for Verizon in Concord.

Bean was born in Montague City. His grandfather worked as a civil engineer and hydrologist for the Turners Falls Water Company, and his younger brother John has been head of the Greenfield DPW for many years.

Bean, who also worked for the Greenfield DPW before moving east, said if he accepts the job it will be a challenge “to bring in ethical behavior for the department, and to improve morale.” He said he had some soul searching to do over the next few days: “I really love my job.” But he told the board he would let them know his answer shortly.

Gill’s Notable Armored Mud Balls

In the early 1970s, GCC Geology Professor Richard Little noticed armored mud balls in the cable foundation blocks removed from the old Red Bridge, which once connected Riverside in Gill with Turners Falls.

Although such balls exist in at least eight other known locations, Gill’s were formed when dry mud fell into a stream bed and was tumbled by the current, picking up pebbles in the process.

A second nearby discovery was made in 1997 in an east Deerfield quarry.

By The Light Of The Moon

The Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse opened its doors just about 20 years ago, making it probably the longest continuously running venue of its kind in the state.

The first coffeehouse took place in February 1984, to raise money

to support the Wendell Concerned Citizens, who were battling the state over the relocation of Route 2 through the Wendell State Forest.

After almost nine years of fighting, the proposed South Bank Alignment was dropped, but by then, the coffeehouse had become an important institution in town.

Editorial: More Art For Montague

If we read the tea leaves right, the arts scene in Turners Falls is about to grow exponentially with an infusion of community development block grant funds.

Montague Catholic Social Ministries and the Brick House will be offering music, visual arts, drama, and even a kids’ writing group, culminating in coffee house readings, performances and displays in local galleries.

One need look no further than dusty old mill towns like New Bedford or North Adams to see the economic benefit a vibrant cultural scene can have on the larger community.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG
Playing In, & Sleeping On, the Road

Monday, 10/28

11:05 a.m. Assisted resident with retrieval of property at North Street residence.

2:30 p.m. Motor vehicle crash with no injuries on Semb Drive.

7:30 p.m. Report of power outage in Farley Area.

7:30 p.m. Tractor trailer crash on Route 2. Determined to be the

cause of the power outage. Under investigation.

Tuesday, 10/29

3:15 p.m. Disabled tractor-trailer unit, Route 2 eastbound.

5:45 p.m. Report of children playing in the road on Moore Street. Spoke with same.

8:30 p.m. Vandalism reported at French King Highway residence.

Friday, 11/1

10:45 a.m. Advised of tree in roadway on North Street. Removed by Highway Dept.

Saturday, 10/2

3 a.m. Assisted Orange PD with a fire alarm box pulled in Orange Center. Subjects located.

Sunday, 10/3

1:01 a.m. Suspicious vehicle in Dunkin’ Donuts

parking lot. Driver was sleeping.

1:24 a.m. Abandoned 911 call on Gunn Street. Verbal domestic dispute. Subjects separated.

3:50 a.m. Suspicious vehicle in Freight House lot. Driver was sleeping.

9:50 a.m. Vandalism at Pocket Saver in Erving Center. Report taken.

able-bodied adult males.

On the other hand, in Kent County, Delaware in the same decade, 66.7% of inventories contained firearms, although there was no militia. According to Sweeney, the guns were mainly used for hunting and fending off “noxious animals” – critters who might attack livestock and destroy crops.

Sweeney’s research also suggests that eighteenth century Americans primarily owned light muskets and “fowlers” suitable for hunting and pest control. The preferred military weapon, on the other hand, was the “Brown Bess,” a formidable musket that fired one-ounce lead balls and was equipped with a bayonet.

In other words, the average American militiaman was not well-prepared for combat with imperial

French or British regulars, not to mention the ubiquitous German mercenaries.

So what does this all have to do with the Second Amendment? Like a number of other historians, Sweeney argues that the founding fathers sought to encourage gun ownership in order to upgrade and regulate militias. Thus the second amendment was directly related to militia duty.

Sweeney also stressed the radically different context of late 18th century, compared with twentieth century America.

Support for militias and gun ownership were closely connected with traditional English opposition to a standing army which derived from political conflicts (and a civil war) in the seventeenth century.

Sweeney found little evidence of

the notion of an “individual right” to bear arms for self defense.

He also took issue with the idea of a “people’s militia” or “citizen’s militia,” concepts which appear in the *Heller* majority decision but not in any of the original documents from the eighteenth century.

If you are interested in the academic debate on this topic, Sweeney promoted (and contributed to) a book with the rather ominous title *The Second Amendment on Trial: Critical Essays on the District of Columbia v. Heller*.

That volume, published by the University of Massachusetts Press, contains “paired essays” on different aspects of the gun control debate which reflect “a range of ideological viewpoints.”



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ONGOING:
EVERY SUNDAY

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*, musicians of all levels welcome to play traditional Irish music, 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 and snacks. 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

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.

EVERY FRIDAY

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

ART SHOWS:

Great Falls Discovery Center,

Turners Falls: *Changing Coastlines*, oil paintings by Paula Tessier on display in the Great Hall through November 30th. Great Falls Discovery Center is open



The Ha-Ha's perform at Greenfield's Arts Block on Saturday, November 9, 8 p.m. with guests from CT, Sea Tea Improv. Performing improvised comic theater that will have you rolling in the aisles. Rated PG-13. Tickets \$13, or \$10 in advance online.

Fridays and Saturdays, 10 to 4 p.m.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Painting The World Happy*, work by Denyse Dar on display through November 23.

University Museum of Contemporary Art, UMass, *Du Bois In Our Time*, exhibit continues through December 15.

AUDITIONS:

ARENA Civic Theater: auditions for *Hell and High Water* at Lilly Library, Florence, Sat., Nov 9, 1-4 p.m., Art Space, Greenfield, Thurs, Nov. 14, 7 p.m. and Jones Library, Amherst, Tues., Nov 26, 7 p.m.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series* featuring Amanda Auchter, Lori Desrosiers and Gail Martin, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Roosters*, classic rock dance music by Bruce Scofield & Mark Feller, 8

p.m.

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Artist Reception for Allen Fowler with works on display at Provisions, Northampton, 5 to 7 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Celticcrossings*, Scotland's Alan Reid and Rob Van Sante with the Leverett Community Chorus, \$, 6:30 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Great Falls Coffeehouse presents *Strawberry Afternoon*, classic folk, rock & blues, \$, 7 p.m.

12:55 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Alan Williams, singer-songwriter, 8 p.m.

The Arts Block, Greenfield: *The Happier Valley Comedy Show* and *The Ha Ha's and SeaTea Improve*, \$, 8 p.m.

Twohey's Tavern, at the King Phillip Restaurant, Phillipston: John Currie, acoustic entertainment. A great place to meet up with friends and enjoy the night. No cover charge.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Melanie & The Blue Shots*, blues, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Original Cowards*, *Elephants* and *The Creature from Dell Pond*, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Rick Murnane*, pop rock, 2:30 p.m.

Greenfield Community College Concert Series: *British Choral Music From Medieval Times* to *Present* directed by Margery Heins, Sloan Theater, GCC Main Campus, 4 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Jen Spingla & Alyssa Kelly*, original folk, rock, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 10 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Audio Hearth*, an evening listening session co-organized by Tina Antolini of NPR's State of the Re:Union and Karen Werner, free, 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nora & Martha's Open Microphone*, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Mid-Week Music, All Souls Church, Greenfield: *Hunter Paye*, folk guitar, 12:15 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shout Lulu*, southern string band, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Simon White - Acoustic Style* with Peter Kim, Jay Stanley and Boo Pearson. Reggae. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Surly Temple*, *Jim Henry*, *Guy DeVito*, *Doug Plavin & Tommy Boynton*, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crab Grass Band*, *Americana-ana*, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Jeremy Lyons*, folk roots blues and M.R. Pouloupoulos, singer-songwriter, 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levan-*

gie & The Mud, Blood & Beer Band, Johnny Cash favorites, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Santina & Drew Bligh*, indie-acoustic, 9:30 p.m.

Leverett Library: Leverett Film Club presents a screening of *Stories We Tell*, PG-13, 1 hr. 48 min., 7:30 p.m.



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG

Serious Climbing Accident at Rattlesnake Gutter

Wednesday, 10/2

3:06 p.m. Two Mile Road resident reported possible illegal dumping. Officer checked up to the Amherst line. Appears unfounded.

4:17 p.m. Amherst Road resident reported tampering with his brake lines. Referred to Amherst Police as incident appeared to have happened in Amherst.

Sunday, 10/6

12:45 p.m. Medical emergency at Depot Road residence.

Monday, 10/7

4:50 p.m. Hit-and-run motor vehicle accident on Depot Road. A Shutesbury driver reported being sideswiped by a vehicle traveling in the opposite direction. His car sustained damage and he was transported to Cooley Dickinson for minor injuries. Under investigation.

Tuesday, 10/8

8:25 p.m. Officers recovered over 20 marijuana plants from an illegal grow site in the woods off Long Plain Road near the Sunderland line. Under investigation.

Wednesday, 10/9

7:20 p.m. Officers recovered another 8 marijuana plants from the same area.

Thursday, 10/10

7:33 a.m. Medical emergency at a Montague Road residence.

8:27 a.m. Medical emergency at a Juggler Meadow Road residence.

11:35 a.m. Resident filed a complaint about threatening phone calls from a subject known to him.

12:50 p.m. Injured raccoon at a Long Plain Road residence. Raccoon put down. Disposed of by Highway superintendent.

Friday, 10/11

7:46 a.m. Report of a vehicle lockout in parking area off Bull Hill Road. Driver had already notified AAA and declined assistance.

7:38 p.m. Report of an erratic operator on Depot Road. Unable to locate.

8:46 p.m. Officer assisted Shutesbury PD with a welfare check at a Wendell Road residence. All OK.

Wednesday, 10/16

12 noon Foreman from the New England Central Railroad reported that a large truck struck the railroad overpass on Juggler Meadow Road, moving the track 3 inches. Investigation revealed a box truck struck the bridge at about 7:45 a.m. Witnesses stated there were no injuries and the driver left. Under investigation. NECR sending crew to reset the bridge.

Friday, 10/18

6:10 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Long Hill Road. A 22-year-old Longmeadow man sideswiped a snowmobile trailer being towed in the opposite direction, damaging both vehicles.

Tuesday, 10/22

3:10 p.m. Domestic disturbance reported on Shutesbury Road. Male subject was gone upon arrival, and female subject refused to supply information and declined offers of restraining order and medical treatment.

9 p.m. Officers arrested

on a fugitive-from-justice warrant from Hampton, VA. Transported to FC House of Correction.

Friday, 10/25

5:17 p.m. Report of gunshots in the woods off Rattlesnake Gutter Road

under the high-tension lines. Officer located a group of hunters. No legal issues.

9:55 p.m. Assisted Shutesbury PD with an arrest for operating under the influence.

Monday, 10/28

10:17 a.m. Medical emergency at a Shutesbury Road residence.

11:25 a.m. Long Plain Road resident reported the larceny of her husband's prescription medicine.

12:57 p.m. Medical emergency at a North Leverett Road residence.

Wednesday, 10/30

5:53 p.m. Climbing accident.

fell approximately 60 feet off rock formations at Rattlesnake Gutter, sustaining serious injuries. was transported to a friend's home on Dudleyville Road, where EMS was notified. He was then transported to the Leverett Elementary School athletic field by Amherst FD ambulance, and to Baystate Medical Center in Springfield by lifeflight helicopter. Condition is unknown.

MONTAGUE REPORTER ON THE ROAD



Linda Ellis Symmes goes to great heights to read the Reporter on Gomergrat Mountain, Zermatt, Switzerland.

... and at home, among friends:

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

We at *The Montague Reporter* were overwhelmed by the turnout and support our community gave us on Monday at Hope and Olive's Free Soup and Games night. We want to thank all of you who so generously donated to the paper, who bought raffle tickets and baked goods and drinks at the bar. Our list of those we want to thank is long.

First, we are extremely grateful to Jim and Maggie Zaccara and Evelyn Wulffkuhle for creating Soup and Games, and for selecting us as a beneficiary. Thank you, too, to the volunteer staff who helped set up, manned the bar, worked the kitchen and hosted us as we hosted you.

We also want to thank our soup and bread donors: The Gill Tavern, Hope and Olive, 2nd St. Bakery, People's Bakery, the Rendezvous, Green Fields Market, and many individuals, especially Jane Stephenson and Laurie Davidson.

Thanks to the many skilled and loving bakers who contributed cakes, pies, cookies, brownies, brookies, and macarons to a fast-moving and lucrative bake sale.

Finally, a huge shout out to those who provided raffle prizes for us: David Brule, Joanna Frankel, Jane Stephenson, Patricia Pruitt, the Great Falls Discovery Center, the Solar

Store, Nina's Nook, Carriage House Designs, The Black Cow Burger Bar, Diemand Farm, the Rendezvous, French King Bowling Alley, the 99 Restaurant, Gary's Coins and Antiques, the Lady Killigrew, About Face Computer Solutions, Pipione's Sport Shop, Kharna Salon, Boyden Farm, and Animal Crackers.

On Monday, November 18, at Hope and Olive, there will be a special Free Soup and Games event to raise money for the many businesses that were destroyed in last week's massive fire on Route 9 in Hadley.

Jim, Maggie, and Evelyn, who were themselves victims of fire when their previous restaurant, *Bottle of Bread*, burned to the ground, have decided to open their doors an extra time this month for the cause.

We hope our readers will spread the word, and show support for these small businesses, many of which found themselves woefully under-insured for the catastrophe.



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