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# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 15 – NO. 17

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 9, 2017

## MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

### Voters to Weigh In on Team Name

By MIKE JACKSON

On Monday night, Montague's selectboard agreed to place a non-binding referendum on the May 15 election ballot that would advise Turners Falls High School "to retain its Indian logo."

The request was brought by Jeremy Dillensneider, Chris Pinardi and Jeff Singleton, who oppose changing the name of the school's sports teams. The group reports it has collected half of the signatures it would

need – 10% of the town's registered voters, or about 630 – to directly place the question on the ballot without the selectboard's approval.

The Gill-Montague regional school committee has been considering a proposal to change the high school team name since September, and may take a vote on the matter as early as next Tuesday.

The May referendum, which would carry no legal weight, would additionally advise the school district to expand curriculum on

see MONTAGUE page A4



JACKSON PHOTOS

Residents packed the town hall meeting room, but the public was not invited to weigh in on the request.

## ERVING SELECTBOARD

### Erving Moves Toward Hiring Full-Timers for Fire Department

By KATIE NOLAN

After the February 6 special town meeting, the Erving selectboard held a forum on fire department staffing, including a proposal to hire a full-time chief and two full-time firefighters. They heard strong support for the proposal, under which the full-time employees would work a daytime shift.

Last July, when the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) asked Erving to join a grant-funded study of emergency service regionalization, the selectboard decided instead to ask fire chief Philip Wonkka to review the town's emergency service needs and develop its own potential solutions besides regionalization.

The board and Wonkka agreed that the town's greatest need was for emergency coverage during weekday daytime hours, when many of the town's call firefighters are working out of town.

In October 2016, Wonkka presented the board with the five potential staffing models: the current model, with call firefighters and a part-time chief; making the chief full-time; adding two full-time firefighters; a full-time chief and one firefighter; and a full-time chief and two full-time firefighters.

On Monday night, selectboard member William Bembury said that the board "said 'no' to the study because we thought we were better off on our own. We have adequate

see ERVING page A8

## Wendell Energy Gathering

By DAVID DETMOLD

Imolg, a traditional cross-quarter day on the Celtic Isles corresponding to America's Groundhog Day, was a time for visiting sacred wells and practicing the fine arts of divination.

So – for a wellspring of inspiration in barren times, and a peek into the possible future – there seemed no better place to travel on February 2 than the potluck gathering of the Wendell energy committee.

The strong wind was blowing off the top of Bear Mountain, and the town common was dark, except for the light of a slender moon. But inside the old town hall newly installed heating ducts were pumping heat, and the new community kitchen was warming food for a crowd that soon swelled to 40.

The heating ducts came courtesy of a 2012 Green Communities grant of \$138,125, which the town picked up after meeting five criteria set

by the state of Massachusetts. The old ducts leaked. They picked up the smell of mold from the basement – a problem happily in the past.

To become a Green Community, Wendell had to pass a tight energy building code, plan for a 20% energy reduction in town buildings, and agree to purchase only fuel-efficient municipal vehicles – other than exempt trucks.

Since Wendell doesn't purchase any vehicles except exempt trucks, the committee bought and installed bike racks at the library and town offices to meet this criterion. It's not uncommon to meet Wendellites biking to the shopping mecca of Turners Falls – the Franklin Regional Transportation Authority cannot seem to find funds to establish fixed-route bus service for East County hill towns, no matter how many call on them to do so.

The other criteria Wendell had to meet concerned by-right siting and expedited permitting for renewable

see WENDELL page A5



PAT LARSON PHOTO

Farmer Caro Roszell (left) talks with energy committee member Anna Gyorgy (right) at last Thursday's potluck.

## A Food Forest Begins to Bloom

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

LEVERETT – At the corner of North Leverett and Rattlesnake Gutter Road, an extraordinary forest is growing.

The Village Co-op Forest Garden is not our native Eastern Broadleaf Forest, nor is it a traditional orchard. Instead, it incorporates numerous and exotic species of food-bearing trees and shrubs planted in a naturalistic park-like fashion and designed to function as a self-supporting ecosystem.

According to its designer, Leverett resident Jono Neiger, "its mission is to provide food for the community, a space to enjoy the growing of food, and to provide a community gathering space."

Neiger is a landscape designer, forest biologist, and teacher. His work at the Greenfield-based Regenerative Design Group, he explains, includes the overlapping areas of "sustainability, land management, regeneration, community resilience, and bringing productive land back."

Last year Neiger published a book titled *The Permaculture Promise*. In it, he asserts that permaculture is the practice that will enable humanity to thrive without destroying the earth. In addition, the book addresses the ways in which permaculture can be a tool to



JONO NEIGER PHOTO

A harvest of beach plums at the Leverett co-op.

reverse climate change.

The Village Co-op Forest Garden was conceived by Neiger back in 2007. Prior to its current use, the space, behind the Leverett Village Co-op, was a vacuous open lawn, mostly used by kids. As the forest grows, it will tie the pizza-slice-shaped

see FOOD FOREST page A7

## Rep. Kulik Signs On as Cosponsor of Safe Communities Act of Massachusetts

By JULIA HANDSCHUH

WORTHINGTON – "I want my district to be stable, secure and safe," said Steve Kulik, who represents the First Franklin District, including the towns of Montague and Leverett, in the state House of Representatives. "That goes for all the people who live in my district: I want to make sure they have a voice, and a representative, in that conversation."

Last week Kulik, along with over half of the representatives from western Massachusetts, agreed to sign on as a co-sponsor of a new bill called the Safe Communities Act

(HD.3052 and SD.1596), introduced by state senator James B. Eldridge.

The Safe Communities Act concerns the rights of Massachusetts residents in regards to their immigration status, privacy of information, and right to due process.

If passed, the law would prohibit use of "funds, resources, facilities, property, equipment, or personnel for immigration enforcement purposes," with a stipulation that it would not prohibit correctional facilities from engaging in Intergovernmental Service Agreements with Immigration and Customs

see COSPONSOR page A6

## Montague's Kathleen Chagnon Honored for Outstanding Care Work

By JOE KWIECINSKI

MONTAGUE – In a world where divisiveness slowly severs the commonalities and civilities that once joined us together, it's comforting to know there are people like Kathleen Chagnon reaching out to support other human beings.

And in a world where immense attention and financial rewards are questionably heaped

upon those who live in the spotlight, it's equally uplifting that a modest, unpretentious Montague resident like Chagnon is honored for her caregiving contributions to another person.

Kathleen was honored "for her dedication and outstanding performance" in her work as a personal care assistant (PCA) at an awards ceremony last fall at the State House in Boston. She was one of a select handful – five

see CARE WORK page A7



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Montague resident Kathleen Chagnon (right), pictured with her employer, Daniel Greaney of Amherst, at the Paul Kahn Awards ceremony last fall at the State House.



# The Montague Reporter

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*"Young Ralph" Rau, last of the Rau family who have run Rau's Auto in Montague for the past 52 years. Last May, the station stopped selling gas, but it continues to provide towing and car repair.*

## The Turnout

Between 2006 and 2008, the Gill-Montague school committee found itself the center of a bitter struggle over how to consolidate the district's too-thinly-enrolled schools. It would ultimately decide to close the elementary school in Montague Center.

At the time, some expressed hope that losses to school choice at the secondary level would be reduced by the closure, since it might mainstream more Montague Center kids into Turners Falls schools.

At first, the school committee was leaning toward keeping the elementary school open, at the Hillcrest school's expense. A key step in changing the committee's mind occurred ten years ago this week, when a citizens' petition convinced the Montague selectboard to put a purely advisory, "non-binding" referendum in favor of closing the Montague Center School on the spring election ballot.

That referendum came up a mild *Yes*, 57% to 43%. More crucially, Montague voters mobilized around school district politics in a way that they haven't since, altering the composition of the school committee itself in successive spring elections.

This year's culture war over the high school's traditional sports team name, or mascot, the Indian, has touched old nerves, and mobilized old constituencies.

Montague's population, and perhaps its economy, have been shored up by newcomers – especially on the far north and south ends of town. People who move might move again. Too little effort is made to welcome newcomers, to teach the town's incredible history, to pass along the stories, to explain its traditions. Too little effort is made to learn from their experiences of the outside world, either.

The discussion over the team name has therefore been dominated by two relatively small groups. One has no personal positive associations with the "Indians" that might quieten their belief that it is immoral to appropriate an ethnic identity.

The second is, simply, that set of people in town most likely to resent the first for those two things.

The Gill-Montague school committee is going to make a decision to keep or change the team name. They may even do so months before the spring election.

The referendum is, by design, an incredibly poor test of the opinion of the 10,000-odd residents of Montague and Gill on the issue. 1,684 Montague voters voted either *Yes* or *No* on the Montague Center School question. That 33% turnout of registered voters hasn't been approached since then; between 2008 and 2016, the town's average turnout at spring election has been 70%.

Furthermore, those who most fervently hope the "Indian" stays have consistently questioned the school committee's authority, while those who most hope it's retired think it is racially oppressive, and don't believe such matters should be put to majority vote. Therefore we have a situation in which, independent of anyone's concern for the outcome, only one faction has a natural incentive to mobilize their sympathizers to vote.

The referendum will not have any effect on the sports team name. But it may well have a much larger effect: electing people to the school committee who care a lot about not changing sports team names.

On Tuesday Betsy DeVos was appointed the United States Secretary of Education. DeVos, whose brother controls the world's largest mercenary army and whose husband is a billionaire pyramid-scheme heir, got the job for three reasons: her political donations, her political connections, and her unshakable dedication to a program of intentionally destroying public education by redirecting taxpayer money to for-profit schools.

Anyone thinking of running for a seat on the Gill-Montague school committee had better know what they're doing. It's about to be a very tough time for public education, and this district is going to need leaders with vision.

### CORRECTION & CLARIFICATION:

In last week's coverage of the planning for a new Montague DPW facility (February 2, "New Highway Garage Price Tag Runs to \$11.5 Million"), we incorrectly quoted building committee member Mark Fairbrother as noting "that an initial cost projection was '\$16 or \$17 million,' and that the committee had worked to 'cut it down.'"

Town building inspector David Jensen, who was present for the conversation, tells us he believes those figures were cited, though not by Mr. Fairbrother, as an initial "high end" the consultant cited for the project's cost.

We apologize to Mr. Fairbrother for the misattribution, and to our readers for the reporting error.

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## Letters to the Editors

# Wrong Decision, Flawed Reasons, In Approval of Referendum

The most newsworthy item on Monday's selectboard agenda item was whether to formally approve, as a board, the addition of a non-binding referendum on the Turners Falls logo/mascot to the May 15 municipal election ballot. After brief statements by a proponent and an opponent of the addition, the board approved it unanimously.

I believe it was the wrong decision, and from comments during their deliberation, I think their decision may have been influenced by irrelevant factors.

First of all is the central matter: the question of where the decision on the logo/mascot rests. Voters in our two towns elect school committee members to decide this sort of question, they are capable people, and they have followed a thorough, publicized process to deal with it.

Given the extensive public participation to date, there is no value to adding a referendum to the committee's work. Considerable time has already been devoted to the concerns of adults, at the cost of dealing with students' needs, and it accomplishes nothing to suspend their momentum for three months, only to resume after May 15.

The prospect of committee campaigns and turnover over a minor issue is discouraging, and a delay in a decision which could occur before summer compounds the community tensions.

My second comment addresses the flawed deliberation. Mr. Singleton, speaking for inclusion, stated clearly that if the board did not approve the ballot measure, the supporters would expand the approximately 300 signatures now in hand up to the level – 10% of registered voters, estimated as 600 – needed to put the question on by citizen petition.

That certainly is the prerogative of the supporters, but should not affect the selectboard's vote on the merits of the request. As a listener, I felt the board was allowing itself to be herded.

Another consideration discussed by the board was the cost of the town clerk's office to certify approximately 600 signatures on a larger petition beyond the ten certified to date, and the incremental cost to count votes on an additional ballot question.

Signature confirmation is a core responsibility of the clerk's office, and it concerns me that selectmen would use this criterion to determine whether to carry out a basic governmental function, in support of a democratic principle.

In addition, I am an experienced vote counter, and would rate the incremental effort to tally a Yes/No vote as negligible. The municipal election already includes town officials, town meeting members, and a separate ballot for school committee members.

(Mr. Boutwell is concerned that counters are not released until all have balanced their tallies, but that is not relevant to this proposal: that issue is the counters' competence, not the addition of one ballot question.)

As a result of the vote, this question will now appear on the ballot. Regardless of the outcome, it will delay the resolution we all hoped for, and impede the work of the school committee we have elected.

**John Hanold**  
Turners Falls

## Loves Adopted Community

In 2002 I began a new adventure in my life: travel nursing. After being born, raised, and spending nearly half a century in Iowa all total, I set off for places and jobs unknown.

My second assignment was at Franklin Medical Center (pre-Bay-state era) in Greenfield. Our assignments were 13 weeks, I stayed 15 months... The beginning of my "love affair" with western Mass., in particular Franklin County.

Four years later, I returned to further contemplate making this a place in which to retire (I prefer Michael McCuskers' "rewire"). Late in 2007, I purchased a house in Montague – a place to call home ("Arcadia" – place of simple pleasure and quiet").

In this area the landscapes are inviting and appealing, outdoor activities abound, culture is prolific, and social consciousness amazes. I was profoundly humbled the evening of January 19 as a participant in the "Ghostlight Project" at the Shea.

Young lives, and more seasoned ones, were in attendance, spiritedly and harmoniously raising voices to the ever-present challenge of bringing forth light into the darkness – though for both generations, and all those in between, the advent of a new and renewed urgency.

There are not words to describe the privilege it is to live among you. We now have before us a critical challenge to act – yes, work – though I could not be among a more genuine community.

Know that I find you, young and not-so-young, inspiring, welcoming, insightful, enthusiastic, caring, willing, kind... and yes, compassionate.

Kudos to you!

Gratefully,

**Mary Kay Mattiace**  
Montague

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The *Montague Reporter* is now available for sale at the Spirit Shoppe, located at 6 Main Road in Gill. Customers will be able to purchase the current and previous week's issues.

Thank you, Spirit Shoppe!

Reminder from last week's *Briefs*: This Saturday, February 11, Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls will be holding a **mask-making workshop** with Belinda Lyons Zucker, as part of its Black History Month series. Seats are still available and can be reserved by calling Linda at 863-4316. Belinda will talk about the importance of masks in West African tradition, and participants will create collage masks to take home. Children are welcome.

Meet the **author and illustrator of *Henry and Lola***: The Erving library will be celebrating Valentine's Day early, with a reading of the romantic book *Henry and Lola: A Puppy Love Story* this Sunday, February 12, from 6 to 7 p.m. Author Keith Cohen and illustrator Roberta Paul will be on hand. The book is appropriate for all ages, but perfect for children three to eight.

Materials to make Valentines will be available at the craft table before the reading. Please arrive by 5:30 p.m. if you plan to make a Valentine before the reading.

The Friends of the Erving Public Library will also be selling handmade chocolates after the event. The chocolate sale started February 5 and ends on February 14. The library is located at 17 Moore Street in Erving.

Are you **under 65 and thinking about retirement**, and maybe feeling uneasy about your insurance options? Take the opportunity to come hear current and clear information about Medicare Parts A, B, C, and D at one of three sessions in February.

Counselors from LifePath's SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) program and SHINE director Lorraine York-Edberg will present an educational seminar called, "I Am New to Medicare: What Are My Options?"

The first session will take place at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15, at the Greenfield Savings Bank branch in Turners Falls.

The second will be at 1 p.m. Friday, February 17, at the GSB branch at 61 North Main Street in South Deerfield, and the third at 3 p.m. on Monday, February 27, at the Greenfield Council on Aging, 54 High Street in Greenfield.

Sabrina Feliciano from the Social Security Administration will attend the February 27 presentation.

If you cannot attend any of these sessions, you can always learn about your options by making a SHINE appointment. To reach a counselor in your area, contact the regional office at 1(800) 498-4232 or (413) 773-5555.

Professor Drew Lopenzina will present on *William Apess, Standing Rock, and the 1833 Mashpee Resistance* at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Saturday, February 18, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. This event is

presented by the Nolumbeka Project as part of the 4th Annual Full Snow Moon Gathering.

Drew Lopenzina hails from western Massachusetts and teaches Early American and Native American literatures at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA. His recently published second book, *Through an Indian's Looking Glass* (University of Massachusetts Press), is a cultural biography of the Pequot activist and minister William Apess. Apess, born in Colrain, was the first Native American to write and publish his own book-length treatises and memoirs in the 1820s and '30s.

For more information, contact Diane Dix at (413) 773-9818, or visit [www.nolumbekaproject.org](http://www.nolumbekaproject.org). The event, which is cosponsored by the Nolumbeka Project and DCR, is free and open to the public.

Local school districts will be on **winter vacation** starting Monday, February 20. The Great Falls Discovery Center will be open the entire week from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Actually, the center will extend the previous week's hours, and be open from Wednesday, February 15, through Sunday, February 26.

The GFDC is offering many events and programs during the week, so visit [www.greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org](http://www.greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org). Join the Friends of GFDC on Facebook or call 863-3221. Admission is always free.

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## Another Letter to the Editors

### On Men and Crying In The Age of Trump

New York Senator Chuck Schumer teared up and cried at a press conference just before he called Trump's executive order temporarily banning people from seven Muslim-majority countries "mean spirited and un-American."

Trump responded the next day by saying, "I know him very well. I don't see him as a crier. If he is, he's a different man.... I think they were fake tears."

Trump is essentially saying that Senator Schumer is not a real man because he can cry.

This is of course absurd, especially coming from the "Predator in Chief."

I watched *Democracy Now's* excellent coverage of the protests across the country to the Muslim ban.

Following an on-the-ground segment filmed at the protests at JFK airport, there was a several-minute musical break depicting scenes of the protest at JFK, set to Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings' amazing soul version of Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land."

I immediately broke into deep wailing and sobbing as I watched this. I actually played back this musical segment several times on my satellite DVR, and each time, it stimulated for me deeper levels of wailing and sobbing.

It was the first time I let myself cry since the election of Trump, and let myself deeply feel the accumulated weight of all the anticipated destruction he set into motion during his first week in office alone.

I must also admit that I'm a sap for "This Land is Your Land." It has often brought tears to my eyes, as I have been very privileged to hear it sung live many times by

Pete Seeger and Arlo Guthrie and their children and grandchildren at the Clearwater Folk Festival, started by Pete Seeger, held each year just north of New York City. I also feel a personal connection with Pete, as I've filmed interviews with him several times.

Over the years, I often wondered, as I looked around at the thousands gathered at the Clearwater festival listening to Pete: "Would these people really show up if the shit really hits the fan in America?"

I'm feeling my faith restored in humanity and the progressive people of America. With only hours' notice, tens of thousands of people showed up at airports all across the country to protest the Muslim ban.

And, that was just a week after over 3 million people across the US protested Trump the day after his inauguration.

What provoked my deepest-held tears was seeing a long-held dream of mine manifest – that people will join a nonviolent resistance movement, and protect freedom and democracy and the rights of all, when the shit really does hit the fan in America.

These were tears of sorrow for the pain that people and the planet will suffer in the years to come under the announced very destructive and harmful policies of the Trump administration.

But they were also tears of joy for seeing masses of my fellow American people break out of our individual complacency and rise up to work together for the collective good of our very interconnected global human family.

Robbie Leppzer  
Wendell

## In Wendell, A Rally To Reclaim the Flag

By JOSH HEINEMANN

**WENDELL**—Close to 30 citizens gathered on the Wendell common last Saturday, February 4 to claim the American flag as a flag for all Americans, and for the ideals of America, not just for the "right wing."

The day was clear and cold, and the west wind was strong enough to keep fingers numb and all the flags out straight.

Wendell citizen Morgan Mead initiated the gathering because of two experiences he'd had.

He went to the Women's march in Greenfield carrying the flag, and was told he should not do that, because he looked like a Trump supporter. And during that gathering, a few large loud pickup trucks went by up hill so their exhaust sound was more disruptive, showing the driver's disapproval. At least one of those trucks carried twin flags in back, and no other payload.

HEINEMANN PHOTO



Wendell residents gathered on the town common Saturday to hear soapbox orators.

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in Montague

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School Students  
of the Week  
week ending 2/3/2017:**Grade 6**  
Sophia Wolbach**Grade 7**  
Emily Young**Grade 8**  
Natalie Kells

## MONTAGUE from page A1

Native American history and culture, and to “alter the image to be more consistent with indigenous cultures in our region.”

“This meeting has nothing to do with whether the selectboard is in favor of, or opposed to, the mascot—or logo, or whatever you choose to call it,” said selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz on Monday. Addressing a packed town hall meeting room, Kuklewicz said the board would hear only one short presentation in favor of the request, and one against it, before deliberating.

“The people who want to change this mascot should get out into the community and talk to people, and this is a mechanism to encourage some of you to do that,” said Jeff Singleton of Montague Center, designated to speak in its favor.

“This is not designed to short-circuit the school committee,” Singleton said, “or change the school committee process. In the end, they’re going to make the decision.”

Turners Falls resident David Detmold, who was among the group that approached the school committee last May to ask it to reconsider the “Indian,” urged the board not to “put the rights of the minority to a majority vote,” comparing the issue to the abolition of black chattel slavery and the recognition of same-sex marriage.

“There are, as of the 2010 census, ten Native Americans living in Montague,” Detmold said, “and there are thousands of white alumni, and friends of alumni, of the Turners Falls High School. Really, what do you hope to prove?”

## GUEST EDITORIAL

By JENNIFER GUILIANO

Thank you to Jeff Singleton and the *Montague Reporter* for reviewing *Indian Spectacle: College Mascots and the Anxiety of Modern America* (2015, Rutgers University Press). As a scholar, it is always gratifying to have one’s work recognized.

As a historian who has spent almost two decades educating herself about American history, college athletics, and Native American history, it was disheartening to read that Mr. Singleton did not appreciate the entirety of my work.

As historians, it is our responsibility to not just recover the evidence of the past (what Mr. Singleton refers to as “colorful historical trivia”), but also to frame those fragments of the historical record within specific contexts.

While I could argue point-by-point with Mr. Singleton’s characterization of those contexts as “judgmental,” “largely unsupported,” and part of a “generally left-liberal cottage industry of academic cultural studies,” it is more important to answer Mr. Singleton’s last question in his review: “Is there really anything so terrible about students playing Chief Illinwek and William Penn, smoking a catlinite pipe and walking

off the field arm in arm?”

What Mr. Singleton’s tongue-in-cheek question hides are the historical and contemporary consequences to Native American people of Native American nicknames/logos in sport.

Historically, Native people faced centuries of violence and other forms of oppression, as they experienced dramatic population declines and exploitation at the hands of Spanish, French, and English colonists.

The American government placed bounties on their scalps, forced them at gunpoint to sign treaties relinquishing land and political rights, moved them away from ancestral homes, and attempted to destroy their language and culture through forced acculturation.

To people who support Native nicknames/logos in sport, I ask what they really know about Native Americans here in the US and in their specific state today.

Can they name more than a few of the over 560 federally recognized tribes? Can they speak intelligently and with evidence-driven considerations on the rights of sovereign Native American nations? Have they spent time with culturally-connected and tribally-affiliated contemporary Native people, learning about their lives not as

abstract evidence of the past but as contemporary people who have persisted in the face of adversity?

When they represent the “Indian” of Turners Falls, do they do so knowing that their representations are fictional and built upon white people’s fantasies of what Indians were?

And, most significantly, do they understand that there are Native peoples today who continue to experience the effects of colonialism generations after it supposedly ended?

*Indian Spectacle* argues that the vast majority of white men who created Native sport nicknames, logos, and rituals had little-to-no contact with actual Natives. Their knowledge was drawn from tropes created in white-authored books and music, Wild West shows, and other fictional accounts.

These individuals were interested in creating a commercial spectacle that was more lavish and interesting than their peer institutions. And they did so while ignoring the experiences of the Native peoples on whose land they founded their institutions and built their sporting arenas. Historical accuracy or tradition were not the goal, as my book demonstrates. Putting on a good show was.

As a scholar and historian, it is a terrible thing to witness Chief Il-

liniwek and William Penn walking off arm in arm after having declared peace. Not only is this historically inaccurate, but it is a heartbreaking fiction that leads viewers to believe that colonialism was a peaceful process. It completely ignores centuries of oppression that Native people faced in the past, and continue to experience today.

And, importantly, it ignores all of the contemporary research that demonstrates the negative effects of racialized representations not just on Native peoples (in this case) but on all peoples.

So yes, Mr. Singleton, I’m disappointed that you did not appreciate all aspects of my research on this topic. And, it is my genuine hope that you’d work to understand why it is outright wrong to willfully ignore the consequences of these representations for Native peoples today.

*Jennifer Guiliano is the author of Indian Spectacle: College Mascots and the Anxiety of Modern America. She teaches at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis as an assistant professor in the Department of History, and as affiliate faculty in Native American and Indigenous Studies and in American Studies.*

## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was February 8, 2007: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Non-Binding Question to  
Close Montague Center School  
To Be On Townwide Ballot

Speaking for a group called the Organized Taxpayers, former highway department clerk and selectboard member Ed Voudren, of Stevens Street in Precinct 4, brought a sheaf of petitions he said contained the signatures of 1,128 registered voters of the town of Montague, asking the selectboard to place a binding ballot question on the annual town election in May calling for the Montague Center elementary school to be closed in September 2007.

On December 19, the G-M

school committee voted to expand the Montague Center School to K-5, and turn Hillcrest Elementary into a center for pre-K early childhood education, closing half the building and moving the K-2 classes to the Sheffield Elementary School.

A petition generated after flyers were distributed by the Hillcrest PTO led to the signature drive, and to Voudren’s appearance Monday.

“I think it is always important that citizens get involved and make their points of view heard,” said selectboard chair Patricia Pruitt. “We do not have a provision for putting a binding referendum on the ballot. We can put a non-binding question on. We have checked with counsel on this.”

Board member Pat Allen proposed the board vote to place the question on the May ballot as a

non-binding article, and the motion carried unanimously.

The board affirmed that only the school committee has authority to actually close a school.

Board member Allen Ross said the town of Montague could no longer support “small, charming” schools like Montague Center. He said an influx of students from Montague Center, where, in his opinion, high property values correlate to positive educational outcomes for students, could lead to a reenergized elementary education for all Montague students.

Finance committee chair Jeff Singleton said, “A petition drive to close a good school does not create a good image for our town.”

He added, “Jefferson did not believe in government by referendum.”

\$69,200 due to a clerical error, which the board reduced to \$280.

Another sewer user, Brick & Feather Brewery on Eleventh Street, was granted a reduced bill at the request of their landlord, Christian Couture. Sewer usage is generally calculated based on water usage, but a quantity of the brewery’s incoming municipal water leaves the building in beer form.

Police chief Charles “Chip” Dodge introduced the selectboard to Bryce Molnar, a police academy and college graduate working for the county sheriff’s department, and recommended him as a reserve police officer for the town.

“Quite honestly, we’re pretty lucky to have him as a candidate,” said Dodge, adding that the department planned to grant conditional offers to additional candidates.

The selectboard hired Molnar effective immediately, at \$15/hour. Bob Macewicz was appointed to the public works facility planning committee until the end of June.

Town administrator Steve Ellis said he had spoken with Dodge and highway superintendent Tom Bergeron about returning the Sixth Street bridge across the Power Canal, which connects Canal and Power streets by the Railroad Salvage building, to two-way traffic, and

that both department heads were supportive of the idea.

Kuklewicz, who serves as the town’s electrical inspector, said he had received an email from Bergeron about restoring power to the traffic light, in order to test it out.

Ellis reported that there had been “no resolution, as yet” in the town’s mediation with the Penta Corporation, which worked on the town’s combined sewer overflow project in 2008. Three meetings in December and January included executive sessions to discuss litigation with Penta, and on January 19, the town filed a lawsuit against the company in district court.



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# Wendell Depot Road Solar Project Awaits Final Vote

By DAVID DETMOLD

**WENDELL** – “I’m optimistic,” said Haskell Werlin on Tuesday. Werlin, principal of Sunnectivity, is a Harvard, MA solar developer who has been trying to gain approval for a large photovoltaic project on land owned by Dave Arsenault off Wendell Depot Road since March of 2012.

“My chances are better than the Patriots’ at half time.”

Originally a 2-MW project, Werlin has cut the size of his proposed solar field by half in an attempt to meet the 100-foot wetland buffer zone mandated by Wendell’s conservation commission bylaw.

That bylaw, twice as strict as the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act requirement, is the target of a lawsuit by Werlin pending in Superior Court. But Werlin said he hopes to drop the suit if the ConCom grants him a special permit for his redesigned solar field.

That was the gist of the new hearing the ConCom opened Tuesday night, with more than two dozen people braving sleet and snow to attend.

After an hour and a half of questions and answers, Robin Heubel, commission chair, said, “We just got the plans.” The plans arrived by mail on Friday; members had not had a chance to review them prior to the meeting. “We need to continue the hearing,” she said. “We will not vote tonight.”

Heubel asked for a revised table of impacts to the wetlands, and an explanation of why the impact area of the gravel access road crossing wetlands in two places had increased from 750 feet to 900 feet.

The state Department of Environmental Protection, which has carefully reviewed the plan and walked the site, issued a superseding order of conditions to the Wetlands Protection Act in December for Werlin’s revised plan, clearing the way for construction if the Wendell ConCom agrees.

Myron Becker spoke up. “Once they supply this information, do you feel you will have enough information to make a decision?”

“I would hope so,” answered Heubel.

“I would urge the conservation commission to ask all the questions you have so you can come to a decision at your next meeting.”

“That’s my goal,” said Heubel. She continued the hearing until March 14 at 8 p m.

As he left the room, Arsenault said, “I’m hopeful that the conservation commission will be able to see the positive impact to our environment the solar panels will provide. The developer, the conservation commission and the state have worked very hard to come up with a reasonable plan – and this is it. We’d have liked a larger field, but for the safety of the environment, this is what we’ve come up with.”

Werlin, who said his firm has already invested a quarter million dollars in what is now a \$4 million dollar project, is offering to pay Wendell \$250,000 over 20 years in lieu of taxes, a figure agreed to at a special town meeting in May 2016, and to offer a 10% electric bill discount to creditworthy Wendell ratepayers, plus a 20% discount for town buildings, a roughly \$2,000 annual value, if the project goes on line.

“We’re doing this because we are environmentalists,” said Werlin.

An associate, Kevin McCaffrey, described the impacts to the oak, hemlock, beech, birch and maple forest within the buffer zone on the south side of the project: “what we call shade management.”

Trees that would otherwise shade the panels would be removed within 50 to 100 feet of wetlands south of the project. Within 25 to 50 feet, trees would be topped on an angle allowing full sun to strike the panels, as measured at the summer solstice.

**WENDELL** from page A1

energy facilities. Like large scale solar arrays.

“All we did to meet that one,” Wendell energy committee chair Nan Riebschlaeger explained, “is have our lawyer say, ‘It doesn’t take long to get a permit in Wendell.’”

More on that later.

Besides new ductwork and bike racks, Riebschlaeger said Green Community funds were used to provide energy audits on town buildings and to purchase a thermal imaging camera, which folks can borrow “to see where the energy is coming out of your house.” (Hearty laughter all around at this thought.)

Then again, the energy committee has established a fund homeowners can access, following a free Mass Save Energy Audit, to provide \$750 grants to upgrade deficient items noted in those audits. Twenty-two residents have done so.

Soon, she said, there will be new energy-efficient lights for all town buildings, new fans for the library, and the six ancient fluorescent valances hanging from the town hall’s pressed tin ceiling will be replaced with LEDs. (Cheers in the hall.)

Still – the town hall, built in 1845, has not been insulated, and the heat coursing through those new ducts comes from oil burners.

After the meeting, Riebschlaeger said there has been no consensus among her committee to spend any of the remaining Green Community funds (about \$75,000) to insulate town hall, due to concerns over the possibility that tight walls might hasten deterioration in the historic building, and because the hall may not get enough use to justify the expense.

Don Stone pitched a proposal for a community solar project on town-owned land near the Kemsley Academy. Stone was looking for community investors willing to take a risk to help establish the Wendell Community Solar Cooperative, an enterprise he said could own and manage a 250- to 500-kW photovoltaic array on the 3.3-acre site, which could produce enough electricity to power 50 to 90 households.

“Wendell has pulled off some pretty amazing things in the past,” said Stone, “and I hope we can pull this off too.”

By meeting’s end, Stone had found several prospective investors.

If the community solar project takes off, it could be one of two large photovoltaic projects hoping to connect to National Grid high-tension lines in that part of town. Haskell Werlin, principal of Sunnectivity, has been hoping his lease of land from Dave Arsenault will finally result in a 1-MW photovoltaic array, which would offer 10% discounts for residents’ electric bills, 20% off for town buildings, and \$250,000 in payments in lieu of taxes to the town over 20 years. Interconnection with the grid would be accomplished in conjunction with a co-generation plant at Erving Paper.

But Werlin has not found it quite so “easy to get a permit in Wendell,” no matter the prior assurances offered to the office of Green Communities.

After the meeting, Riebschlaeger said Werlin has “bent over backwards to meet the requirements of the conservation committee,” by reducing the size of the project by more than 50%, and agreeing to a new peer-reviewed stormwater design and a de-commissioning bond.

The project has been held up for years.

The Wendell energy committee voted “not to support” Werlin’s project in 2015. The vote was not unanimous. The committee supports the concept of the nearby community solar project, Riebschlaeger said.

Former committee member Jonathan von Ranson said, “I think a community solar project, when the energy is actually owned and controlled and come to grips with by the people who are going to use it, instead of by some distant entity,” is preferable.



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But concerns about the solar projects’ impacts to trees and wildlife, wetlands, abutters’ views, and consult over Native artifacts were raised in small group discussions following Stone’s presentation. Some of those concerns have been the focus of the conservation and open space committees’ opposition to Werlin’s project.

The community solar project would be built on land previously cleared of trees, where brambles have taken over.

Presentations from Nancy Hazard of Greening Greenfield, on the 100% Renewables for All Campaign in Massachusetts ([mapowerforward.com](http://mapowerforward.com)); Pat Larsen of North Quabbin Energy, on plans for a regional forum on climate change and energy ([northquabbinenergy.org](http://northquabbinenergy.org)), and Wendell’s own Caro Roszell, on the under-realized carbon sequestration power of no-tillage organic gardening and farming (see *MR* 15#14, and workshops upcoming at Wendell library March 31 and April 28) were all warmly received.

Alistair MacMartin had the last word, noting that his friend Peter Gallant, way out on Bear Mountain, still had a 1950s-era 200-watt solar panel. These first generation units cost about \$10,000, Gallant said. Comparing that to the similar sized panel he recently installed on his historic Wickett Pond Road home, MacMartin said he had paid just \$172 for 280 watts – roughly 60 cents a watt.

Two signs dominated the stage during these presentations. One read: “Wendell Climate Action: What Can a Small Town Do?” The other spelled out a 2009 resolution passed by town meeting: “Wendell is a deliberate energy conserving community.”

This small town has already done many things to combat climate change. First in the area, Wendell hired a part-time local food coordinator in 2011. Her work remains in the form of a permaculture edible food garden by the town offices, and a heightened consciousness of the energy impacts of imported food.

The town passed a groundbreaking conservation-oriented housing bylaw, and finally gained state approval for it in 2015, permitting an exemption under strict conditions from state building code requirements to allow new homes to be constructed without wiring or indoor plumbing.

And Wendell certainly puts the deliberate into energy conservation and renewables.

The next meeting of the Wendell energy committee is set for the town offices on Thursday, February 16 at 7 p m.



# Protestors Mourn Protected Forest Land

By LISA McLOUGHLIN with REPORTER STAFF

**PITTSFIELD** – Over protest, a section of Massachusetts state forest was sold out on Monday for a pipeline to deliver more fracked natural gas to neighboring Connecticut.

According to 2015 legislative testimony by Karen Heymann of Mass Audubon, the Otis State Forest is part of a network of 8,500 acres of interconnected protected space and contains “a 400-year old eastern hemlock old growth forest, rare plant and animal species, historic sites, mature deciduous woodlands, rolling meadows, and the entire 62-acre Lower Spectacle Pond.”

This land used to be protected by Article 97 of the Massachusetts constitution, a legal status meant to keep the forest forever conserved. But the state attorney general entered an agreement for an easement to be taken by Kinder Morgan through eminent domain, to build a pipeline through the protected area, in exchange for proceeds from the timber sales and funds to purchase land with “equivalent ecological functions.”

A “funeral” was held Monday at Park Square, across from the Berkshire Superior Courthouse in Pittsfield, just before the hearing on the proposed



Activists carry a casket during Monday’s event in Pittsfield.

settlement agreement. Approximately 85 people attended to mourn the demise of the protected status of the land in Otis State Forest that will become a right-of-way controlled by Kinder Morgan.

They gathered mostly in black, carrying signs protesting the demise of the forest and a biodegradable black coffin. Led by a bagpiper, they circled the park in a somber procession, then stopped to hold a funeral service.

Interfaith minister Rev. Sarah Pirtle presided, with a eulogy by Jean Atwater-Williams, Sandisfield resident and member of Sandisfield

Taxpayers Opposing the Pipeline. Trumpeter Nina Coler played *Taps* to end the ceremony. Following the service, some attended the hearing in the courthouse, where no demonstrations or signs were allowed.

The Sugar Shack Alliance, a non-violent, direct action coalition opposed to fossil fuel infrastructure and working toward renewable energy and climate justice, had issued an open invitation to the “funeral” for the loss of Article 97 protected status in Otis State Forest.

Still, they said their action should not be misconstrued as a funeral for the entire Article 97 process – only its failure to protect the Otis State Forest. Leigh Youngblood, executive director of the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, who was in support of Monday’s protest but was not in attendance, was quick to state that even though this deal was cut, Article 97 is still intact.

“My main concern,” Youngblood said, “is that people will get the wrong idea that Article 97 is ineffective, especially against pipelines, because of the attorney general’s consent. It is not: Article 97 must be raised definitively, by a vote of the legislature, during the FERC process to make any difference. There is a FERC certificate issued [in Sandisfield] already.”

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COSPONSOR from page A1

Enforcement (ICE), the arm of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) responsible for the detention and deportation of undocumented immigrants.

The bill would also ensure that state and local law enforcement agencies, emergency responders, and the Registry of Motor Vehicles would not share information with Homeland Security concerning residents’ immigration status.

Rep. Kulik told the *Reporter* he understands the bill to be a response to statements President Trump made during his campaign about immigration enforcement. Kulik said he felt the president’s actions, including the “travel ban” executive order he signed on January 25, are “raising a whole new level of awareness” about the safety of immigrants.

“People are worried about their futures, and about the futures of their communities,” he said.

Kulik said the bill reflects a sentiment he has heard from first responders and others who have called him concerned about new federal immigration policies: “We don’t want Massachusetts to be playing a role in enforcing federal immigration laws -- we’re here to serve and protect people who live in Massachusetts.” When residents are concerned about reporting emergencies due to fears of deportation,

he explained, it becomes a public safety issue.

The Safe Communities Act expands on the Trust Act, which was brought before the Massachusetts legislature in the last two sessions, which sought to regulate the ways law enforcement and other local resources can be used in the monitoring and apprehension of people suspected to be undocumented immigrants.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, the Trust Act was originally proposed in response to former President Obama’s “Secure Communities” (S-Comm) initiative, which they note was “largely responsible for the record-breaking numbers of deportations under the Obama administration”.

S-Comm empowered ICE to collect information from local and state databases, and enlist local law enforcement to help detain and deport immigrants. After much public criticism of Obama’s administration for these practices, S-Comm was replaced in 2014 by a program called the Priority Enforcement Program, which maintained many of the same functions.

The bill introduced last week would require that all Massachusetts detainees be informed of their right to due process, including access to a lawyer, the right to decline being in-

terviewed by ICE, and the right to a bond hearing that would set terms for release on their own recognizance.

Kulik said he could not remember a time when federal policy stood in such strong contrast with the local and state political climate.

“I remember, particularly at the beginning of the Reagan years, thinking ‘How are we ever going to get through the Reagan years?’” Kulik told the *Reporter*. “And then we did -- we survived them...”

“The thing that seems different to me about Trump is, you don’t really know what his policy is.... He paints a very dark picture. He talks about high crime rates, and dysfunctional society. I don’t see that in the communities where I live.”

“I think he is an undemocratic person,” Kulik continued. “I don’t think he believes in American democracy. The way he seems to emulate dictators around the world -- Vladimir Putin, Kim Jong-Un. He seems to admire strong-armed dictators.”

Although Kulik was uncertain what the outcome of the Safe Communities Act will be, he noted that it provides “a way to jumpstart a conversation at a pretty high level.”

“We need to have a rational discussion, in our nation, of how we deal with federal immigration policy at the local level,” he said.



NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

# Board Discusses Federal Money, Immigration Order Enforcement

By MIKE JACKSON

At their Monday night meeting, Gill’s selectboard heard a proposal from two town residents who teach at Northfield Mount Hermon school, Seth Montgomery and Rachael Abernathy, to set a policy instructing Gill Police not to enforce civil immigration detainees issued by Customs and Border Patrol or Immigration and Customs Enforcement, “when such an order seeks excessive or unnecessary detention.”

The teachers, who emphasized that they were acting as residents and not representing the school, brought language passed by the city of Holyoke for the board’s review.

“This will not apply to individuals who are subject to criminal warrants, or court orders for continued detention,” Abernathy explained.

“If a student, or a teacher, or a seasonal worker, or really any neighbor, gets pulled over for something like a traffic violation – something very minor – the police would do what they’d normally do,” said Montgomery, “and they’d do that without acting on the person’s immigration status.”

Administrative assistant Ray Purington said he had asked police chief David Hastings, who was unable to attend Monday’s meeting, about the idea. “I would characterize his initial reaction as generally not in favor,” Purington said.

“This ordinance could relieve the burden of dealing with immigration status situations for local police, and leave it to the national government to work on those problems,” said Abernathy.

Gill fire chief, and emergency manager, Gene Beaubien was on hand. “I just want to be sure that this doesn’t affect any federal funds that could be coming our way,” Beaubien said. “We have a

major grant coming up.”

Gill is waiting to hear a response from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for a grant of about \$190,000 that would cover air packs for the town’s fire department, as well as a \$2,600 emergency management grant.

President Trump signed an executive order on January 25 that would empower the Secretary of Homeland Security to “designate... a jurisdiction as a sanctuary jurisdiction” and therefore “not eligible to receive Federal grants.”

The legality and enforceability of this are unclear, and on January 31, the city of San Francisco filed a suit in the Northern District of California challenging its constitutionality.

Selectboard member Greg Snedeker said he had also spoken to Hastings about the proposal. “I wanted to make sure, too, that the officers wouldn’t be put in any kind of situation,” he said, also voicing concern over the town’s pending federal grants.

“I would be concerned about putting a bull’s-eye on us, considering the nature of the executive [branch] right now,” Sneaker continued. “I am not a fan of what’s going on right now.... I’m much more cautious in thinking. I really want to see how the federal courts deal with this.”

“I’ve had exactly those same thoughts myself,” said selectboard chair John Ward, “but they’ve been tempered by my natural proclivity to say, ‘Political statement? I’m ready!’”

“I do have reservations about doing it too soon,” said Snedeker. “I would hate to see things dissolve in a way where we wouldn’t have needed to become a ‘sanctuary city,’ but by declaring it....”

“We do spend a lot of time with people who are directly affected by this,” said Abernathy. “A lot of our

students, for instance – some frequent Gill restaurants, and members of their families, when they come and visit, are. I have a few students who literally don’t know, if they leave for spring break, if they can come back – or if they do come back, how they would be treated here.”

“I completely sympathize with where you guys are coming from,” said Snedeker, adding that “personally, I resent us having been put in this situation. I think it’s unnecessary – I think it was an executive order that did not have clear direction to the people who were supposed to enforce it.”

Snedeker said that Hastings had told him the town’s police department is “not actively looking to become immigration, or border patrol. I don’t see that changing.... He’s assured me that they’re doing business as usual.”

“Would you be comfortable with publishing a statement like this, if the funding piece has cleared?” asked Montgomery.

“I do want to just be patient,” said Snedeker. “For me, first I’d like to see them, at the federal level, hash this out, since they’re the ones who created the mess, and then we’ll have a better understanding as to whether or not, at the local level, we need to respond.”

Snedeker and Ward, whose fellow selectboard member Randy Crochier was not present for the meeting, took no action, but they proposed that Hastings be invited to a future meeting to discuss the proposal again.

**Other Business**

The board reviewed a request by resident Bob Callery for a temporary easement into the town’s right-of-way on Oak Street. The porch of Callery’s trailer, and part of his garage, have been discovered to jut into the right-of-way.

# Erving Voters Spend \$65,000 on IP Mill

By KATIE NOLAN

At a special town meeting Monday night, about 40 Erving voters approved over \$188,000 in spending from free cash, and over \$9,000 in transfers between accounts.

As requested by police chief Christopher Blair, the meeting voted \$10,000 from free cash for speed monitoring equipment at Church and North streets. According to Blair, traffic on Church and North streets has increased “tremendously,” with at least six tractor-trailer trucks per day passing along the residential streets. The solar powered radar signs will inform motorists about their speed.

Mike Truckey of North Street said the street “has become a major road.” “I really appreciate the police department trying to figure out a solution,” he said.

Several citizens suggested passing town bylaws to restrict commercial traffic, or heavy vehicles, on the two roads.

Town clerk Richard Newton said that approval of \$15,000 for voting check-in devices would speed up checking in for town meeting and elections, and would automate post-election record keeping and mandated state reporting. The request was approved unanimously.

The meeting approved \$50,000 from free cash for hazardous material cleanup at the former IP Mill, the town’s share of a \$200,000 Brownfields grant the town has applied for. Administrative coordinator Bryan Smith said that the US Environmental Protection Agency grant awards are usually announced in July, but are currently on hold, with the new federal administration.

Voters also approved transferring \$15,000 from free cash to conduct a feasibility study for light industrial use at the former paper mill. This study would build on a previous \$80,000 feasibility study that considered mixed use, including residential, according to selectboard chair Jacob Smith, who added that several light industrial businesses had expressed interest in the property. “We want the most

viable option for the town, but there are costs involved in getting there,” he said.

After a recommendation from Newton that the town “put the money to building a new town hall,” a majority of voters approved transferring \$60,000 from free cash to add to \$90,000 previously voted to repair and replace siding at Town Hall. Newton said the current building “is not adequate for a town hall.”

Jeanie Schermesser suggested that the selectboard appoint a committee “to think about it.”

Jacquelyn Boyden said that town hall is “a little dingy, a little dirty, a little old,” but is “pretty adequate.” She said that even if a new town hall were to be built, replacing the siding would allow the current town hall to be repurposed.

Jacob Smith said that the board had been considering changing the current building’s layout so that the space will be more useful.

The voters approved \$2,000 from free cash for formalizing the layout of Care Drive, which was not formally surveyed and accepted as a public way when the senior and community center was built.

By unanimous vote, the meeting approved transferring \$14,448.08 from free cash for 2016 energy-efficient lighting upgrades at POTW#1.

The voters approved transferring \$4,804 from the highway truck and plow fund to purchase a sander. Highway foreman Glen McCrory explained that the new highway truck was less expensive than expected, and the remaining money was enough to buy a sander to be used with it.

The meeting also voted to transfer \$20,750 from free cash for updating the Open Space and Recreation Plan, a plan necessary for applying for some grants, according to Boyden.

Other approved transfers included \$993.19 from free cash for town offices expenses, and transferring \$4,525 from the Wastewater Retained Earnings fund for POTW#1 loan fees.

have not paid sewer bills.

The Franklin Regional Retirement System board has notified Gill that at its February 22 meeting, it may vote on a 3% cost of living allowance.

Gill has received a \$3,063 grant for fire safety education.

The board agreed to declare as surplus a broken 2005 Crown Victoria police cruiser of unknowable mileage, believed to be of less value than the cost of advertising its potential sale in local newspapers.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 21 at the Riverside Municipal Building to discuss the idea of placing that building, and all of Riverside, on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Friends of Gill will hold its annual pancake breakfast at 8 a.m. on Saturday, February 18. The mistaken listing of this date as February 8 in the town newsletter probably does not legally obligate the Friends to supply pancakes to the public on that earlier date.

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**FOOD FOREST** from page A1

space between North Leverett and Rattlesnake Gutter Road together under a partial canopy, and improve both roadways and the co-op by creating a living boundary wall.

According to Neiger, “A lot of the trees will be 15 to 20 feet, sub-canopy.” In keeping with prior tradition, the garden will also maintain an open, central play space.

The Forest Garden is an arboretum of regionally rare and obscure plants. Fruit trees planted here include pawpaws, hazelnuts, asian pears, persimmons, apricots, crab apple, and quince.

Gooseberries, black currants, beach plums, blueberries, and junberries grow as understory shrubs. Herbaceous groundcovers include strawberry, comfrey, echinacea, and mountain mint.

Growing plants that inhabit these different levels of forest structure is crucial. “It’s a garden that mimics a forest,” explains Neiger. “By having all of these different parts like a forest, it minimizes care.”

The garden, now a decade old, is beginning to be productive. “We’re starting to get harvests,” Neiger says, “beach plums, pawpaws, hazelnuts, asian pears. We’ve sold asian pears at the co-op. There’s some persimmons that are coming in.”



Volunteer Emily Watson-Blagdon helps harvest sunchokes in the edible forest garden.

**Che’s Second Coming?**

Last year, Neiger planted more persimmons, as well as a che tree.

In this contemporary second era of botanical innovation, the che is an example of an ancient tree being looked at with new eyes. Che, related to figs, mulberries, and the osage orange, is native to East Asia where it was used for many things. (*Che* means “stony ground,” or “stone tree.”)

According to Francis Blackwell Forbes’ article in the 1883 edition of the *Journal of Botany: British*

and *Foreign*, che leaves are used to feed silkworms, especially when mulberry leaves are unavailable. Silk from silkworms fed on che makes lute-strings “which give a clearer sound than the ordinary ones.” Che is also used to make the Chinese Imperial yellow dye, arrow points, and medicinally both for constipation and flatulence.

Knowledge of the tree first reached the West in a 1793 specimen collected along the Grand Canal in Shantung Province, China by Sir George Staunton for the British

Museum. The che arrived in America in 1909, after it had already been cultivated in Europe for a half-century. The Department of Agriculture was interested in its applications as a hedge or living fence.


Strangely, the tree is only today being looked at as a fruit tree. According to Lee Reich’s article titled “Che: Chewy Dollops of Maroon Sweetness” in *Arnoldia*, the magazine of Boston’s Arnold Arboretum, “che remains relatively unknown as a fruit or a plant, despite the plant’s early and reliable fruit production, its resistance to pests, and its probable (judging by the closely related osage orange) wide adaptability.” The che’s fruit, which it produces in plentitude as early as its second year if transplanted, are said to taste like a cross between a fig and a mulberry.

**Get Involved!**

When one creates a garden or a park, one is creating a vision for the future. The Village Co-op Forest Garden is just now beginning to take on its mature shape.

“In five years,” Neiger prophesies, “it will look more like a forest.” Forest gardens could contribute to our region’s food security, especially if there were many. “One of the goals is to have forest

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gardens all over the valley,” says Neiger. “They’re repositories of agricultural biodiversity.”

Neiger hopes to create a community group to care for Leverett’s forest garden, and invites volunteers to contact him at 367-2304 or [jono@rdgland.com](mailto:jono@rdgland.com).



**CARE WORK** from page A1

individuals in Massachusetts – to receive the highly regarded Seventh Annual Paul Kahn Award for Personal Care Attendant Service.

“This award,” said Chagnon, “stands as recognition of everyday people serving others and doing their best work on a regular, ongoing basis. I simply represent so many of us out there, who are deeply committed to the quality of life for the people we work for. I’m also very fortunate to have a great boss, Daniel Greaney of Amherst, who is an amazing person.”

Greaney, Chagnon’s **PCA employer**, nominated her for the Kahn Award. The director of the PCA Program at Stavros Center for Independent Living, Greaney suffered a spinal cord injury in an automobile accident more than three decades ago. Through the help of a staff of personal care assistants such as Chagnon, Danny is a productive contributor to the community – a person of disability who works in a professional capacity as part of his independent life.

“Kathy’s **steadfast dependability and unwavering attention** to even the smallest detail,” said Greaney, “**have made her a gem of a PCA**, in every respect.”

**Rewarding Work**

Another professional, Elenore Parker, the president of Rewarding Work Resources (RWR), is in agreement. “PCAs are so vital, because they make it possible for people to remain living independently at home,” said Parker. “The Paul Kahn recipients are representative of the tens of thousands of excellent PCAs across the state of Massachusetts who help improve the quality of life for more than 20,000 individuals.”

RWR is a private, non-profit organization based in Brookline and one of the sponsors of the Kahn Award. This group developed and manages the PCA Directory on behalf of the state, which helps PCA consumers and workers – such as Daniel Greaney and Kathleen Chagnon – connect with each other.

“We also recently launched something



Five Personal Care Assistants from across the state were honored for their dedication and outstanding performance in a ceremony at the State House. From left to right: Kathleen Chagnon of Montague; Annie Mae Bell of Roxbury; Mary Dube of Worcester; Diane Hahn of Fairhaven; Ruth Kahn, widow of Paul Kahn; Thomas Hahnen of Lynn; and Alice Moore, undersecretary of health and human services. The awards are named in honor of Paul Kahn, a long PCA employer and advocate, who died in 2010.

new,” added Theresa Driscoll of RWR. “It’s an automated job board, partly funded by a grant from the attorney general’s office, enabling consumers to more easily find and hire personal care assistants.”

Thus, RWR provides a database of personal care workers as a tool of connection. In this state, most people of severe disability have Mass. Health, which allows them to be in charge of hiring their own caregivers. According to Parker, RWR’S **leader**, “**This tool combines the best of technology and personal customer service support to make the hiring process better for everyone: elders, individuals with disabilities, family caregivers, and PCAs themselves.**”

Chagnon has worked for close to three decades as a PCA. “I’m so proud to help Danny fulfill what he does at Stavros,” she said. “He needs a lot of assistance during each day due

to his paralysis. It’s **my pleasure to provide** that help, whether it be driving him to work or the barber shop, or helping him with meal preparation and consuming meals.

“We share a lot of smiles along the way. Danny’s got a **great sense of humor**, which makes the day lighter.”

High rates of turnover can be a fact of life in the demanding field of personal care assistance. That’s **why her employer relies on Kathy’s many skills, including the recruitment and training of new PCAs.**

He notes that Chagnon “has always been both enthusiastic and generous with her time in the recruitment and training of new personal care assistants. Her attitude and dedication are infectious. So, through Kathy, new PCAs can come to see the importance of their work.”

In addition, the dedicated Chagnon is a skills trainer at Stavros. One of her chief gui-

ding principles is “PCAs should keep an open mind and learn to meet the unique individual needs and personality of each employer. It’s important for PCAs to learn about the independent living movement as a whole, support the choices of PCA employers, and always be striving to improve the quality of life for all employers.”

**Supporting Independence**

Kathy Chagnon says she is deeply touched by being a recipient of the Paul Kahn Award, noting that Mr. Kahn was a longtime disability rights advocate who lived in Newton, and died in 2010. Able to rely on the services of personal care assistants, Kahn was empowered and able to live on his own terms. Without competent PCAs, Kahn would have remained institutionalized, unable to make his plethora of contributions as an activist in the independent living and disability communities.

“I’ll never forget the award ceremony,” said Chagnon. “It was beautiful. His wife, Ruth, attended, and she struck me as a person with a warm heart and a beautiful smile. It reminded me that there are so many people in the world who remain kind despite misfortune.”

“Ruth and Paul were typical people hit by tragedy,” continued Kathleen. “With assistance, though, he was able to live at home and pursue his own goals and dreams as an advocate for the disabled, artist, teacher, and writer.

“I’m told Mrs. Kahn appreciated Paul’s workers so much. It just makes me feel so good that I was able to make a difference in Danny Greaney’s life and free him, too, to achieve the best life he could.”

Another source of satisfaction for Chagnon is a citation from the Massachusetts Senate sent to her home after the awards ceremony in Boston. “It’s an official state document signed by Stan Rosenberg from Amherst, as President of the Senate. I’m extremely proud of it – not only for myself, but also the many good PCAs across the state who are there every day for others.”



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ERVING from page A1

funding to address the issues at hand." Bembury said that, with regionalization, the town could lose authority over use of its emergency services equipment and funding.

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache said joining the FR-COG study was "fruitless" if the town was unlikely to decide to regionalize when it was completed. Bastarache said that at least two firefighters were needed before a vehicle leaves the station, and having three full-time personnel would allow for one person to be out for sick, vacation or training time.

He said that the full-time personnel would have new responsibilities, including training, vehicle and fire station maintenance, and community outreach.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith recused himself from the discussion because he is a call firefighter with the department.

Assistant assessor Jacquelyn Boyden developed estimates for the increases in real estate taxes necessary to pay for the most expensive option, a full-time chief and two full-time firefighters. She estimated that the owner of a home at the town's median value of \$172,300 would owe approximately \$25 more per year in annual taxes.

Looking at specific commercial taxpayers, Boyden estimated that Renovator's Supply would owe an additional \$434, Erving Paper Mill would owe an additional \$725, and FirstLight would owe an additional \$135,783 in taxes for the Northfield Mountain project.

Finance committee member Daniel Hammock said the town "benefits greatly from Northfield Mountain." Regarding the three full-time personnel option, he said, "financially, it seems like a great deal... I think we can afford it right now."

"The numbers seem pretty reasonable," agreed town clerk Richard Newton. "It's worthwhile to move ahead with this."

Asked about the hiring process, Bastarache said the selectboard would hire the chief, and the chief would hire firefighters. Smith said that normal town hiring practices would be followed.

Asked where the full-time staff might be located, considering that Erving has two fire stations, Wonka suggested that staff would "rotate around," and Bastarache said both stations would be covered.

An earlier forum was held on January 18. Bastarache said the board held the two forums to find out what townspeople felt about the proposals. He said it wouldn't be useful to bring a proposal to town meeting if most of the townspeople disapproved of the idea.

Bastarache asked for a straw vote on whether to bring the three full-time personnel proposal to annual town meeting. The majority of the approximately 30 people present for the hearing voted in favor of moving the proposal forward. Others at the meeting remained silent rather than voting against the proposal.

See also page A6 for a report on the special town meeting.



# FACES & PLACES



JERI MORAN PHOTOS

*Suffering for one's art? One morning last week, when it was only 15 degrees out, our A&E page editor Jeri Moran found artist Melanie Phillips of Northfield on Falls Road in Sunderland, painting en plein air—creating a work of art by painting it directly outdoors. These scenes are usually summer landscapes! Hers was primarily a watercolor work, and Melanie said it was "an interesting process. I have to keep the water warm enough in the car so that the color can actually be applied." Impressive effort!*

*Valentine Card Making for Adults was held at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, February 4. In addition to making cards for loved ones, over forty valentines were made for area seniors. The library partnered with LifePath to distribute the cards, in a program sponsored by the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries.*



LINDA HICKMAN PHOTO

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## New Medical Horizons: Using Our Own Ecology

By EMILY MONOSSON

Five years ago, Tim Stoklosa caught a cold. He was twenty-six at the time, his lungs compromised by muscular dystrophy, a neurodegenerative condition that he has managed for much of his life. Because Tim lacked the ability to cough and clear his lungs, colds predictably led to pneumonia. This time around, it was silent pneumonia.

Tim was given Augmentin, a powerful combination of amoxicillin and an enzyme inhibitor aimed at penicillin-resistant bacteria. As a so-called broad spectrum antibiotic, it not only kills harmful bacteria but also plenty of beneficial species that make their home in our gut.

For many of us, a few cups of yogurt or some probiotics helps rebuild that microscopic community. But ten days after Tim's first course of Augmentin, his fever continued, and he developed stomach upset. He was given another course. It didn't help.

"Finally," says his mother Karen Anderson, a single mom who has devoted a large part of her life to Tim's health, "one nurse figured he had *C. diff*."

*Clostridium difficile*, or *C. diff*, is a potentially lethal infection of the colon. Though the bug may lurk in our guts without causing harm, it is also a notorious opportunist often acquired in the hospital; in the past few years a particularly dangerous strain has emerged.

Wiping out the beneficial gut flora provides the pathogen with the perfect opportunity to set up shop. "When you have *C. diff*," says Karen, "it is like the lining of your colon is coming out of you. It's horrifying."

### Throwing Out the Good...

Infection with *C. diff* is a direct consequence of waging chemical warfare against a community of bacteria when our aim, really, is to

see ECOLOGY page B5

## Saturday at the Brick House: "The Indian Talking Machine"

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

TURNERS FALLS – Somehow, only one known album of rock music was produced in the Republic of India during the hippie era: Atomic Forest's *Obsession '77*. Rob Millis, who will be presenting his work at the Brick House this Saturday, went to India to find more.

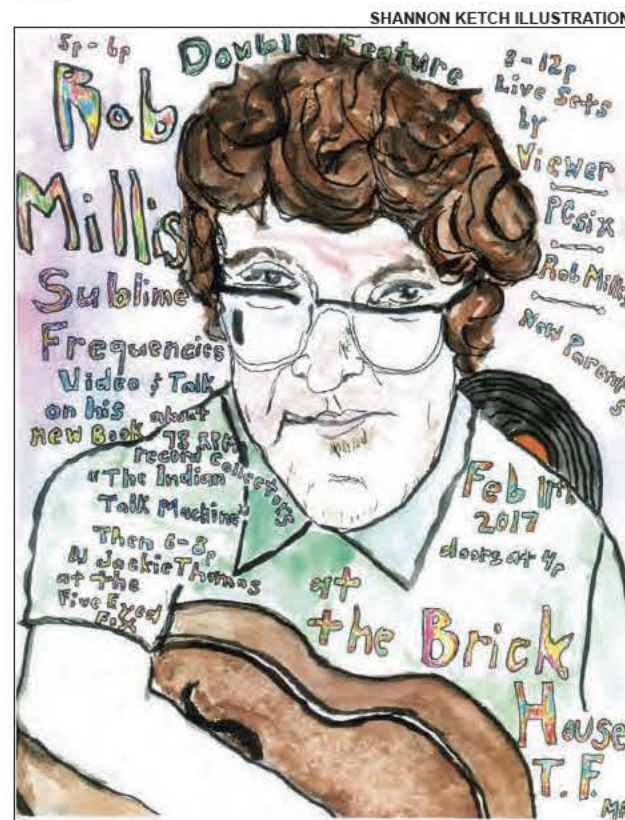
Millis has spent his life traveling the world and recording its sounds. He has made field recordings in North Africa, South and Southeast Asia, and in China.

Millis has an affinity for the background and environmental sounds that make up our sonic world: "I grew up loving music – but I really grew up loving sound," he explains.

A restless wanderer, he documents his travel through recording. "When I started traveling, I started making recordings instead of taking pictures," he says. "They're like snapshots – if you close your eyes, you can imagine yourself there. We're such a visually oriented culture – I find music even more transportive."

In 2015, Millis published a book about his perambulatory inquiry across South Asia, titled *The Indian Talking Machine* (Sublime Frequencies, 2015). Millis did not find much evidence of Indian hippie-era counterculture, discovering only a single mysterious

see MACHINE page B3



The poster for Saturday's "double feature" at the Brick House. Millis will present at 5 p.m., and is on the evening's rock bill.

## Exploring the Legacies of Slavery: Kara Walker at UMass Art Center

By NINA ROSSI

AMHERST – Kara Walker shocked the art world in 1994 with her first exhibition at the Drawing Center in New York City. Walker's use of black paper cutouts to make a life-sized tableau of silhouetted racial caricatures in nineteenth-century costumes contained horrifying content illustrating the history of the South. Critics struggled with their response to these scenes, but Walker went on to win a MacArthur Genius grant in 1997, and has become one of the most widely known and controversial artists working today.

The African-American artist was born in Stockton, California in 1969. She remembers encountering racism for the first time when her family moved to Atlanta, Georgia when she was thirteen. She describes her adolescence as a kind of "slave narrative" beginning with the dislocation from the freedom of California to the segregation of the South, continuing with an "escape North" when she enrolled in the Rhode Island School of Design.



Some of the figures in the horrifying "playset" designed by Walker.

At first Walker pursued painting and the search to express "universal themes." She recalls that at some point in the 1980s, many African-Americans began to collect objects that were black stereotypes of earlier days: lawn jockeys, Aunt Jemimas, and so on. While engaged in an intense process of self-investigation and creative inquiry, Walker

seized upon these past stereotypes, and turned her back on the medium of painting.

"A Black subject in the present tense is a container for specific pathologies from the past and is continually growing and feeding off those maladies," she explained. "My work is subsumed or consumed by

see WALKER page B4

## The Week in TFHS Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

With only a few weeks left in the regular season, both Turners Falls basketball teams have made the playoffs, and are now jockeying for playoff seedings. Also this week, the swim season ended, but four Turners Falls students swim on; Franklin Tech's Colin Gould reached the millennium mark; the Lady Indians hoopsters got some revenge; the football divisions were again realigned; three different local teams beat the Falcons; and Stash took back his seat.

### Boys Basketball

Hopkins 71 – TFHS 54

TFHS 77 – Smith Academy 49

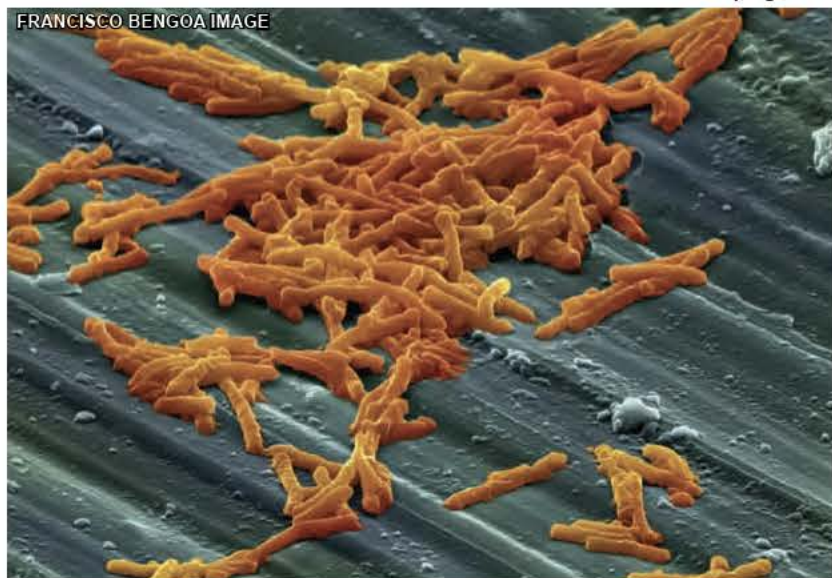
Hopkins at Turners: Those boys were on fire. On Wednesday, February 1, there was a rumor floating among the Hopkins fans that their reserves were playing against the Indians. How else could Turners do so well? After all, the Golden Eagles are the elite of the league, ranked among the best teams in Western Mass.

But the rumors were unfounded. Hopkins had all five starters in the game, but were unable to bury the Indians in the opening minutes of the game. Then when Nick Croteau hit a buzzer-beating 3-pointer at the end of the first quarter, Turners was up by 4 points, 14-10.

see TF SPORTS page B4



Turners' Kyle Bergmann gets a good look in the lane.



A color-enhanced photograph of a *Clostridium difficile* colony.



### WEST ALONG THE RIVER

## Winter Solitaire

By DAVID BRULE

ERVINGSIDE – When I woke up this morning, the baleful February sun was beginning its slow climb over the ridge, and the dog was sitting on my chest, his black wet nose nuzzling behind my ear. Whether I wanted to or not, I was getting up, leaving the down comforter to let the impatient pup outdoors bolting into the fresh snow.

The winter hyacinth graces the window sill, a welcome springtime fragrance hovers in the room.

*Lovers forget your love,  
And list to the love of these,  
She a window flower,  
And he a winter breeze...*

Out I go into the cold, with coffee and dog, the birds swirling in the snowy air. The company out here is growing: three rusty blackbirds have shown up and spent the last three weeks in the yard. Juncos, tree sparrows, and three pairs of cardinals have moved in. Yet, I'm still waiting for the first piping of the song sparrow. He's usually the first to start the springtime chorus that will swell to thousands of voices by mid-May.

In the meantime though, my solitary sparrow, who has worked his way thoughtfully and modestly through the bleached out grasses and flower stems for the past two months, has been joined by two others of his species. Word travels on the wind in the bird community, so

these newcomers must have gotten the message somehow.

*He marked her through the pane,  
He could not help but mark,  
And only passed her by,  
To come again at dark...*

This winter has been a collage of images, jotted down in notebooks during my solitary walks and winter porch sitting. I feel I'm keeping track of events out here, out of doors, for those of you who don't venture out very far from your cozy living rooms.

Thus I can begin my report of February stirrings and events out here with notes about the effects of the lengthening of the days: the woodpeckers have begun drumming and setting up territories; the rata-tat-tat beat on a dead branch

see WEST ALONG page B8



Goldeneye ducks (*Bucephala clangula*).



# Pet of the Week

I (a mouse named Owl) enjoy being handled but may be a little jumpy at first before settling into your hands; time outside of my cage is essential to keeping me happy.

I like to tuck into small places. Give me a box to hide in and I'll fluff up my bedding into a soft nest

An exercise wheel in my cage helps keep us fit and healthy.

Mice like to eat all kinds of things! I'll eat my seeds, and small amounts of fresh fruit and vegetables.

Keep me busy with things to crawl through and chew on!

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## “OWL”

### Senior Center Activities FEBRUARY 13 TO 17

#### GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. 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.

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**M, W, F** 10:10 a.m. Aerobics;  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
**Monday 2/13**  
8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic Appts.  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Tuesday 2/14**  
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga (new time)  
12:45 p.m. COA Meeting  
**Wednesday 2/15**  
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach  
12:30 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday 2/16**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
1 p.m. Cards & Games  
**Friday 2/17**  
1 p.m. Writing Group

#### LEVERETT

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

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

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

for a reservation.

#### ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for activities and congregate meals.

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 2 days in advance. Call (413)-423-3649 for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Paula Betters, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

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

**Monday 2/13**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
12:20 p.m. NEW Game Day  
**Tuesday 2/14**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
9:30 a.m. COA Meeting  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
Valentine’s Day Lunch  
**Wednesday 2/15**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs  
**Thursday 2/16**  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
**Friday 2/17**  
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop  
9:30 a.m. Bowling  
New program. Call for details

#### 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.

### MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

## This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

We here at MCTV hope you’re having a fantastic February.

This week we recommend you check out *TurnersFallsRiverCulture.org*, a great resource to learn about community events. There’s so much going on this month! From a lasagna bake-off, to a public art process workshop, theater, comedy & more...

Did you know the Montague Parks & Rec Department is applying for a 2017 Playful City USA



Designation? You can help these efforts by marking and rating Montague’s play spaces at [mapofplay.kaboom.org](http://mapofplay.kaboom.org).

At the end of the day, what’s a

better use of your time than surrounding yourself with your community’s best? Check out our TV schedule at [montaguetelevision.org](http://montaguetelevision.org).

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

Contact us at (413) 863-9200, [infomontaguetelevision@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguetelevision@gmail.com), or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We’d love to work with you!

## February 11: Local Mushroom Workshop

**GREENFIELD** – This Saturday, February 11, local mushroom educator and grower Paul Lagreze of New England Wild Edibles, based in Colrain, will offer a workshop entitled, “Getting to Know Your Local Mushrooms: Where, Why, and How They Grow.”

The workshop will take place in the upstairs meeting room of the Franklin Community Coop (“Green Fields Market”) at 144 Main Street, from 10 a.m. until noon. It will include an illustrated talk on foraging for a select, few, edible mushrooms in our region, and how some of them are being cultivated.

Paul will show participants some of the more easily identifiable mushrooms that grow here in New England and describe how to carefully remove them from their environment. He will also do a simple demonstration, inoculating a shiitake log, and he will explain how to build an oyster mushroom totem.

Paul Lagreze has been running New England Wild Edibles for over 20 years. He primarily cultivates log-grown shiitake mushrooms using an ancient Asian method. He has been teaching courses in mushroom foraging and cultivation in the Farm and Food Systems Pro-

gram at GCC. He also offers cultivation workshops at various venues including his home, the Franklin County Land Trust, UMass-Amherst, and the Island Farm Institute on Martha’s Vineyard.

Paul sells his mushrooms at Green Fields Market, River Valley Co-op, and the Tuesday Market in Northampton, as well as other farm stores and restaurants in the Valley.

The workshop is being sponsored by the Valley Community Land Trust together with the Franklin Community Coop. There is a requested donation of \$10 per participant, but no one will be turned away.

## February 11: The Nite Caps at the Full Moon Coffeehouse

**WENDELL** – The Nite Caps are your one-stop shopping for good-ole time, honky-tonk country music, the kind with the all the twang still intact.

This 5-piece combo is ready-made for kickin’ up a ruckus, be it two-step partner dancing Texas-style or get-down jitterbug swing dancing, with a group of musicians who love to play for folks who love to shake the shack!

The Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse, located

in Old Town Hall in the center of Wendell, is the longest running non-profit venue in New England. Come experience the Valley’s only Dessert-O-Rama in an affordable family-friendly venue. Saturday’s show is \$6 to \$15, sliding scale, and proceeds will go to benefit the Swift River Historical Society.

Open mic begins at 7:30. For open mic sign-up, directions and further information, visit [www.wendellfullmoon.org](http://www.wendellfullmoon.org).

## February 16: Dinner, Chorus, and Silent Auction to Benefit Child Haven

**GREENFIELD** – When Fred Cappuccino, a Unitarian minister in Maxville, Ontario, and his wife Bonnie were almost finished raising the 19 children they had adopted from war-torn countries around the globe, they sat down and discussed what next to do with their lives.

Bonnie and Fred decided to continue helping children in dire need around the world. But they decided on a different approach. In 1985, with the help of family friends, Bonnie and Fred founded Child Haven International to care for destitute children, but also to raise and support them in their own cultures, according to Gandhian principles of simple living, self reliance, equality of the sexes, disregard of caste, respect for all religions, vegetarianism, and non-violence.

Today, more than 1,300 formerly destitute women and children are in their care, living in Child Haven homes in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Tibet. The homes provide food, education, health care, shelter, clothing, and loving care for their children. Many thousands more have taken the skills and support they gained at Child Haven and gone on to lead independent and productive lives.

On Thursday, February 16, at 6 p.m., an Indian dinner, Amandla Choir performance, and silent auction will be held to benefit Child Haven International at the All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 399 Main Street in Greenfield.



Children at CHI’s Children’s Home in Chittagong, Bangladesh.

Child Haven is a registered US and Canadian charity. The Cappuccinos are recipients of the Order of Canada and the United Nations Humanitarian Service Award; their work with Child Haven is widely supported by Unitarian Universalist Societies throughout Canada and New England. Their son, Robin Cappuccino, will be on hand on February 16 to meet people at the dinner and show a brief slide show about Child Haven’s work.

Fred, 90, and Bonnie Cappuccino, 82, still work

actively to support and expand the reach of their charitable institution. The vast majority of funds raised to support Child Haven goes directly to the welfare of children and women in the care of their homes.

On February 16, Amandla, Franklin County’s social justice chorus, will give a performance after the Indian dinner. Chorus members are waiving their usual fee to further benefit Child Haven.

The Silent Auction will feature many items brought back from the countries in which the homes are located, including wooden masks, metal and wooden statues of various deities, ornate jewelry, Tibetan singing bowls, and other items sold to support the homes. A suggested donation of \$20 at the door will provide a full-course Indian dinner prepared by Steven Snow Cobb, with ingredients donated by Green Fields Market.

Call David at 863-9296 or [daviddetmold@gmail.com](mailto:daviddetmold@gmail.com) for more information on Child Haven or the February 16 event.

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MACHINE from page B1

photograph of an Indian band playing on the street: “They looked like Black Sabbath. No one knew who they were.” *The Indian Talking Machine* documents India’s record collectors today, and tells the story of its early recording industry.

The recording industry in India is one of the oldest in the world outside of the West. India was producing 78 rpm records in 1902, just a few years after the US. Yet both the pastime of record collecting and the kinds of popular music contained on them are much different in Indian culture than ours.

Compared to America, India does not have a culture of consumer acquisition. The idea of *stuff* almost does not exist – in this context, record collectors are an anomaly. “It’s not a society that supports accumulation,” explains Millis. And yet: “They’d crammed in their tiny houses with all of the records that they could.”

According to Millis, popular music in the 20th century evolved much differently in India than in the West. In the US, many people heard music through record ownership – typical listeners were collectors, in that they owned records and the means to play them. People also discovered music through the radio.

In India, most people heard popular music exclusively through Bollywood film. The sound of Indian popular music was confined by the intractable Bollywood style, and its need to appeal to a nationwide mass audience.

According to Millis, Bollywood music is a living fossil: “It’s as if the heyday of the American musical in the ‘30s and ‘40s lasted until today.” In India, the radio did not disseminate popular music at all: for a long time most non-classical music (even Bollywood) was outlawed on the radio.

The only way for some to hear rock music, says Millis, was to tune in to a shortwave station out of Sri Lanka. An anti-Western sentiment that persisted for much of the century, and a lack of access to basic prerequisites such as instruments, amps, and electricity were also factors that prevented the emergence of rock music in India. While rock music in the West, through the Beatles, managed to incorporate the sounds of Indian classical music into psych-rock, in India, the Beatles’ revolutionary music was subsumed and reconstituted as Bollywood.

With the post-2000s revival of psychedelic music, there has been much interest in the rediscovery of little-known, mostly unheard psych bands from its first era – the ‘60s and ‘70s. Millis’ label, Sublime Frequencies, along with producing sound collages and field recordings, has popularized the psych-rock that was being made all around the world during this time, releasing compilations of bands originating in Southeast Asia, North Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and even North Korea.

Like Smithsonian Folkways, Sublime Frequencies seeks to record music and sound that, according to their mission statement, has not been “documented sufficiently through all channels of academic research, the modern recording industry, media, or corporate foundations.”

The collectively-run label took “world” music from the clutches of the likes of Putumayo Records and gave it to a new audience, par-

tially through the cultural influence of Alan Bishop, of the important 1980s and ‘90s experimental group Sun City Girls. Instead of selling CDs at Starbucks that appeal to the longing ear of the average cruise-ship tourist, Sublime Frequencies records show the dynamic aliveness of music from these places, and how rock ’n roll and other modern forms of music were uniquely adapted and expressed there.

Sublime Frequencies attempts to avoid the fetishization and appropriation of other cultures that can happen in ethnographic work. One way they do this is by locating the documentarian in the work: personal experience, particularly in travel, are themes that come through in their releases.

Millis believes that the peregrinating adventure is crucial to his work as a musician, artist, and documentarian: “Traveling, besides providing experience and sounds, makes you resilient and able to spend time with yourself. It makes you able to get out of yourself – it makes me better able to do my work.”

As a rambling observer, he also believes that these journeys make one more able to continue normal life. “As a teenager I felt like an alien,” he says. “When you travel you actually are an alien – that experience makes you better able to deal with that experience of alienation at home.”

Sublime Frequencies does not just press records, it creates *objets d’art*. The cover art is top-notch, and albums include interesting commentary and photos or other images that deepen one’s experience of the recording.

Pressings are limited usually to 1,000 copies and, from a partial search of their website, most of their LPs are sold out. On Amazon, many of their records are selling for at least double their original price of \$17. *The Indian Talking Machine*, with a one-time printing of 1,000 copies, is sold out from the publisher, while a “new” copy is being sold by a Japanese seller for \$355.16.

Millis will have some copies of the book for sale at the event on Saturday.

A number of occurrences will take place this Saturday on Third Street in conjunction with Millis’ presentation.

Millis will give an enhanced talk on *The Indian Talking Machine* beginning at 5 p.m. at the Brick House. Afterward, DJ Jackie Thomas, the pseudonym of East-hampton resident and original Sunburned Hand of the Man member Robert Thomas, will spin records from his own collection across the street at the Five Eyed Fox. According to his own estimate, Thomas has a private library of “five or six thousand records.”

Then, starting at 8 p.m., the Brick House will host a special show, featuring Millis’ spirit-of-Leonard-Cohen blues-folk. The show will also include local millenarian acid-folk songwriter PG Six, Replay Music’s solder-master Adam Langelotti as New Parents, and real-life progenitors Shannon and Beverly Ketch playing their quietly cogent songs as Viewer.

*The Brick House is located at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls. Events at the Brick House are all-ages and substance free. Suggested donation for the 8 p.m. show is \$8 to \$10. No one turned away for lack of funds.*



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

# Unknown Assailant; Slipping and Winching; Basket With Beverages And Tissues Provided

**Monday, 1/30**  
9:24 a.m. Sheffield School requests assistance with student who is refusing to return inside the school. Several staff members and child’s mother are trying to get her to come inside, to no avail. Officers clear: child returned to school.  
9:32 a.m. Officer requested to review surveillance footage at Food City from shoplifting incident the previous night. Subject identified.  
10:09 a.m. Assault and battery reported at Fifth Street and L. Caller reports he was just assaulted by an unknown male who struck him in the face, then fled the area. Caller declined medical attention. Downtown area checked extensively; negative contact.  
10:43 a.m. Caller request to speak with an officer regarding her 32-year-old daughter who she has not seen since Thanksgiving. Not sure if she should file a missing person’s report. Cross agency check yielded recent contact by Springfield police department. Officer spoke to daughter on phone. Daughter to call mother.  
4:46 p.m. [REDACTED] arrested on a straight warrant.

10:01 p.m. Male wants advice on how to properly kick his ex-girlfriend out of his home without breaking the law. Officer advised him of options.

**Tuesday, 1/31**  
2:25 a.m. Vehicle parked oddly at Powertown Apartments. Was paper delivery person.  
10:55 a.m. 911 caller from Greenfield Road asked dispatch to relay to officers that they are welcome to park at her residence to monitor traffic. Caller would not answer dispatch questions and hung up before more information could be obtained. Officer confirmed no emergency.  
11:59 a.m. Caller from Central Street requests to speak with an officer about an incident that just occurred involving her neighbor. Caller heard her neighbor’s car exhaust so she went to his residence to speak with him about it; he was not happy, and reportedly told her he did not think it was a “good idea” that she had done so. Caller felt threatened by this comment and requested to speak with an officer. Caller advised by officer.  
2:15 p.m. Follow up on animal complaint at Vladish Avenue.  
2:41 p.m. Report of hit and run accident on Industrial Boulevard. Tractor trailer unit struck a vehicle, causing it to

hit a snowbank, and left the scene. Truck later returned to the scene and advised officer he did not realize he had struck caller’s vehicle.

2:50 p.m. Report of a suspicious person entering garage at Montague City Road. Resident not home, neighbor does not recognize subject. Subject traveled by foot, was in garage 1 or 2 minutes, then left towards Paradise Parkway. Officer checked garage, filled with various items, and was unable to determine if anything was missing or tampered with.  
8:54 p.m. Greenfield PD requesting assistance locating a device that may have been stolen from Greenfield and ended up in Turners. Officers contacted female resident, who was holding the item in her hand. She refused to give it back, unless she got a “receipt.” She then slammed the door in their faces and would not reopen it.

**Wednesday, 2/1**  
6:55 a.m. Caller reported a tractor trailer truck stuck at Turnpike Road location with hazard lights on. Walk-in reported same. DPW and officer responded, unit cleared prior to arrival. DPW treated hill.  
9:20 a.m. Officer assistance requested for unruly bus passenger, possible alcohol involvement. Caller did not have any further information due to radio transmissions possibly escalating the situation with the disorderly passenger. Bus located on Millers Falls Road. Officer transporting female passenger to her residence, no alcohol involved, disturbance only.  
12:07 p.m. 911 caller reporting ongoing speeding issue at Greenfield Road location. States vehicles are going at estimated 100 miles per hour, throwing things out the windows and laughing at her. She insisted the police department post an officer to walk the beat up and down Greenfield Road every day to address the issue. When asked when the most recent oc-

currence was, she stated “every single second of every day.” Caller hung up. Offer went to residence, upon arrival, a vehicle passed by the caller’s house and she stated to officer “Good luck, have at it.” Caller had made up a basket with beverages and tissues that she stated the officers could take from while on the beat. Officer noted that caller’s house is on a winding corner, and it would not be possible for a vehicle to go the speed alleged, due to the terrain.

10:55 p.m. Unwanted male party going through trash at F.L. Roberts and refusing to leave. Upon clearing, officer advises no contact with male and to call back if he returns.

**Thursday, 2/2**  
4:56 a.m. Male caller reports vehicle that appears to be stuck in snow on side of road. Male exited and walked in road towards Scotty’s, then back towards vehicle. Officers on scene, Rau’s winched out vehicle, all clear.  
8:46 a.m. Officer patrol in the area of Franklin County Technical School after a disgruntled student was removed. Left property without an issue.

12:10 p.m. Animal complaint on Winthrop Street about two loose dogs roaming the neighborhood. Area checked, unable to locate.  
12:57 p.m. Multiple callers to report tractor trailer truck at Strathmore/In-deck plant on Canal Road blocking traffic. Cleared.  
4:06 p.m. General disturbance call at Third Street laundromat. Unable to locate subject.

6 p.m. Caller from L Street stating that a male party she has issues with is drinking today, and she is reporting it in case there is any sort of issue that arises.

**Friday, 2/3**  
8:45 a.m. Animal complaint on Montague City Road. Caller reports seeing a “bobcat” in his back yard last night. Concerns as to whether or not it is

a danger to the neighborhood and thinks it lives at the golf course. Animal control officer notified.

1:57 p.m. Lake Pleasant Road caller wants it on record that there has been a train idling on the tracks next to her home for 24 hours.

4:45 p.m. Walk-in complaint of harassment from complainant’s ex-husband’s former girlfriend. Ex-husband arrived soon after to report same. Multiple jurisdictions involved. Sergeant told suspect to cease and desist.

8:33 p.m. Report of outside fire in the woods off of Lake Pleasant Road, with people around it. Based on description given, it sounds like a cooking fire or bonfire at the Ramblers Club. Fire Department and officers advised.

**Saturday, 2/4**  
9:55 a.m. Female caller concerned about suspicious vehicle parked in her lot, a two tone pickup truck with New Jersey plates. Turns out to be a vehicle rented from out of state last October. Enterprise Car Rental to follow up on Monday.

3:13 p.m. Lake Pleasant Road caller states train in the area has been parked since Thursday idling. Pan Am contacted, states train will be moved around 10 p.m.


4:18 p.m. Male caller wants to speak with an officer. He states he and his girlfriend have broken up and she has taken all her things and moved to her mother’s. Would like information about what he can do if she attempts to come back to the home. Advised of options.

4:39 p.m. Caller reports two young males in the area of Third and L streets wearing black and playing chicken with oncoming traffic by jumping out from behind a parked vehicle. Both appear to be 11 or 12 years old. Officer spoke to kids, who stated they were playing football in the area. Advised to stay out of the road or head to the park for safety.

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!  
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NINA ROSSI PHOTO

“Pastoral”: This wall painting by Kara Walker is a good example of the ambiguous qualities of the silhouette technique she uses.

**WALKER** from page B1

history....”

Figures of pickaninnies, mam-mies, sambos and other brutal stereotypes have continued to be represented in her work over the years; they are both beautifully executed and deeply offensive, while forcing viewers to confront the devastating legacy of slavery.

The use of black silhouettes in her work references nineteenth century folk artists, and is her chosen method to present these racial stereotypes because their empty forms can hold many preconceptions and imaginations within their borders. Their qualities are both precise and ambiguous, with great amount of detail at the periphery contrasting with the void of the interior.

I went to see Walker’s work on view at the University Museum of Contemporary Art at the UMass Fine Art Center this past weekend. Entitled “Emancipating the Past:

Kara Walker’s Tales of Slavery and Power,” there are sixty works in the exhibit, all on loan from the Jordon Schnitzer Collection.

It was a difficult and disturbing experience to confront her graphically violent and often powerfully sexual images that expose the underbelly of the history of this country: the exploitation of the labor of slaves, and the institutionalization of racial discrimination.

The figures are all black (and sometimes white) silhouettes. There are several mediums at the museum show: prints, lino cuts, steel sculpture, wall painting, and a short film created by the artist. I found viewing these grotesque characters very painful, and wondered how the artist could bear working with these images for so many years on end. The introduction of graphic sexual imagery penetrates into the psyche at an even deeper level, and yes, this combination can be extremely disturbing.

One of her themes involves the use of large lithographs from *Harper’s Pictorial History of the Civil War (Annotated)*. Silkscreened black silhouettes in the foreground bring to life much darker realities than the Reconstruction-era mythology confected in the *Harper’s* scenes beneath them: the maimed bodies and figures signaling distress and dislocation, expose a sinister and surreal Southern universe of suffering.

Walker found in the use of black silhouettes a perfect receptacle for racial stereotyping. The exhibit catalogue contains a history of this art form, which began during a time of unrest and instability in France as an inexpensive alternative to miniature portrait paintings, and then became an illustrative tool used by Johann Lavater, a nineteenth-century “physiognomist” who claimed that there were direct correlations between a person’s appearance and their intelligence and moral character.

The unknowable character contained within the horrifyingly familiar borders of these caricatures is a perfect metaphor for racial stereotyping. The viewer is forced to “fill in” from their interior visual vocabulary. That one’s vocabulary begins at the cut edges, the brutally exaggerated lips and distorted bodies of racial caricature, forces an interior questioning process.

Oregon collector Schnitzer, who has loaned this exhibit, admits that “her work grabs me and shakes me to my inner core, as it should. While I believe I don’t hold any stereotypes or racial prejudices, I feel compelled to question my inner values when I view her work.”

One room is filled with a series of large silk screen prints, titled *The Emancipation Approximation*, that incorporate the story of Leda and

the Swan to illuminate white erotic power in the master/slave relationship. In the Greek myth, a mortal woman, Leda, is raped and impregnated by the god Zeus in the guise of a swan. Renaissance artists explored erotic themes through the use of this imagery, which was thought at the time more acceptable than showing a man and a woman together; some of those artists even depicted Leda as an enthusiastic participant, rather than a victim.

Walker’s white swan embodies the power of the slave master to rape and impregnate his female slaves. The images are at once graphic and ambiguous; it is not always clear what is happening, only that we are being invited to assume something that must come from deep within us as we try complete the meaning. A white shape on top of a black woman’s back is at once a large hoop skirt, a cloud, and a bale of cotton; the torso emerging from the top of this whiteness might be assumed to be a white woman with a pinched waist and daintily posed arms and hands, but on closer examination the outlines of her face and hair would indicate she is not white.

There is a collection of sculpture in a case that is labeled “Burning African Village Play Set with Big House and Lynching.” These black silhouettes are cut out of steel, each about ten inches high, and form a hideous tableau of violence, from burning African huts and villagers on fire, to the deceptive beauty of plantation architecture and trees that serve as backdrop to more persecution and death. The idea of “play set” is violated even further by including obscene power figures equipped with erections.

However difficult and dangerous these works on the wall and in the

case were to look at, an even worse experience is to view vintage advertisements with racial stereotypes that were presented in a slideshow on a tablet placed on a podium. If one is unfamiliar with exactly where some of the silhouettes come from in the artwork, there they are as gory, full color artifacts.

There is a video in a small side room that is fourteen minutes long, but seems much longer because it is a nightmare. Taken from the archives of the US National Archives on the War Department’s Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, the story presented in this short film entitled *Six Miles From Springfield* is that of a Tennessee family that was attacked and had their home burnt to the ground. It is acted out with shadow puppets manipulated on strings and sticks by Walker and other actors. Casting aside the content of the story is impossible as we view it; we are forced to consider the amazing ability of these paper silhouettes to reproduce authentic human movement and emotion, in the depiction of scenes of great cruelty.

Walker herself will not be visiting the campus, but there are quite a few YouTube videos of her talking about her work. She currently teaches at Columbia University in New York City. A mosaic portrait of Kara Walker, designed by Chuck Close, was installed at the 86th Street subway stop on the new Second Avenue subway line that just opened in January.

A series of related events, running to the end of April when the show comes down, are scheduled on the UMass campus; all are free and open to the public. Visit [umass.edu/umca](http://umass.edu/umca) for more information.



**TF SPORTS** from page B1

Blue kept up the pressure in the second quarter, out-hustling the Eagles and sending Gold’s best player to the bench courtesy of three fouls. By the time the halftime buzzer sounded, Powertown was up by 10 points 34-24.

The Gold team didn’t even go to the locker room at halftime. They just sat in the gym, their backs against the wall, while the winning team jogged down the stairs.

But like that football game four days later, the team with the huge halftime lead lost the game. Using scoring streaks of 6 and 7 straight runs, Hopkins outpaced the Indians 47-20 in the second half, and took the game 71-54.

Smith at Turners: On Friday, in another preview of Super Bowl LI, the Falcons lost – in this case, the Smith Academy Purple Falcons.

Because Smith had only a single win coming into Friday’s game, Turners Falls coach Gary Mullins was able to showcase some of his younger players while not jeopardizing the result.

Smith jumped out to a 10-6 lead at 2:45 of the first quarter, but Blue stormed back, courtesy of Anthony Peterson, Ian Moriarty, and especially Tionne Brown, and Turners led 19-13 after 1.

It wasn’t until the third quarter that Powertown really hit their stride. In that period, they smothered Smith 18-7, and after three periods, Turners led 59-38.

In the fourth, Turners showed their customary good sportsmanship by not taking shots on their last possession, settling for a 77-49 victory.

**Swimming**

This Saturday, February 11, four members of the Turners Falls swim teams – Jade Tyler, Olivia Whittier, Cameron Bradley and Nick Taylor – will compete in the Western Mass. Individual swimming & diving competition. (Good luck to all!)

**Ice Hockey**

*Belchertown 7 – TFHS 3*

Last Saturday, the Turners Falls Ice Hockey Indians fell to the Belchertown Orioles, 7-3.

The first score of the game came off a Chris Urgiel breakthrough. Urgiel took the puck at center ice, raced past the blue line, and went 1-on-1 with Belchertown’s goalie.

The second goal was a group effort for the Tribe. The puck kept ricocheting off defensemen and the goalie’s stick until Cassidhe Wozniak finally slapped it in, giving Powertown a 2-0 first period lead.

Then the Orioles scored seven unanswered goals. Michael McGoldrick scored a third-period goal for Blue to make the final score 7-3.

**Football**

On February 2, the MIAA realigned the high school football divisions, moving Turners Falls from Division 4A to division 8, along with fourteen other Western Mass teams.

And yes, the Patriots won the Super Bowl, 34-28.

**Girls Basketball**

*TFHS 49 – Smith Academy 26*

*Turners Falls 67 – Southwick 38*

Turners Falls at Smith Academy: On Thursday February 2, in what would become a trifecta of Falcon defeats, the Turners Falls Lady In-

dians defeated the Purple Falcons of Smith Academy, 49-26.

The first quarter wasn’t pretty. Both teams made mistakes and missed shots, so after one period, the score was only 7-4. But in the second quarter, Turners sank some key shots, made steals, forced jumps, and blocked shots. By the half, they led 21-7.

In the second half, the Tribe eased up on the press and focused more on offense, outscoring the Falcons 28-19 en route to a 23-point victory, 49-26.

Southwick at Turners Falls: What a difference a month makes. On Monday, exactly one month after they lost to the Southwick Rams 35-15, the Lady Indians defeated those same Rams by 29 points.

One significant thing that happened before the game was the announcement that Stash Koscinski was back. And there he was, sitting in his usual seat next to Mr. Bush, waving to the crowd. You may know Stash. He is a 1959 graduate of Turners Falls High School, and has gone to just about every home game in the last 60 years until he was sidelined late last year. (Keep the faith, Stash, and keep wearing blue!)

There was a collective sigh of relief 46 seconds into Friday’s game when Maddy Chmyzinski hit a 3-pointer. In their previous matchup, Turners didn’t score in the first quarter and only put up 1 point in the entire first half against the Rams.

But that was then. In the first half of this game, Turners was hitting the outside shots and in the process, drawing fouls. They ran away in the first half, using smart passes to the open man on offense, and going for



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Franklin Tech’s Colin Gould surpassed 1000 career points as the Franklin Tech Eagles defeated the Westfield Tech Academy Tigers 75-51 on the Eagles home court.

steals on defense, and by the time the half ended, they led 40-13.

But unlike the big game in Houston one day earlier, there was no miraculous 20-plus second-half comeback. Turners played the Rams even in the third quarter, and took the fourth by 2 points for a 67-38 win.

**In Other Sporting News...**

On Friday, February 3, Franklin Tech’s Colin Gould scored his thousandth point, in a game against Westfield Tech. Mr. Gould continues on his scoring tear, and as of February 6, he had 1,050 points.



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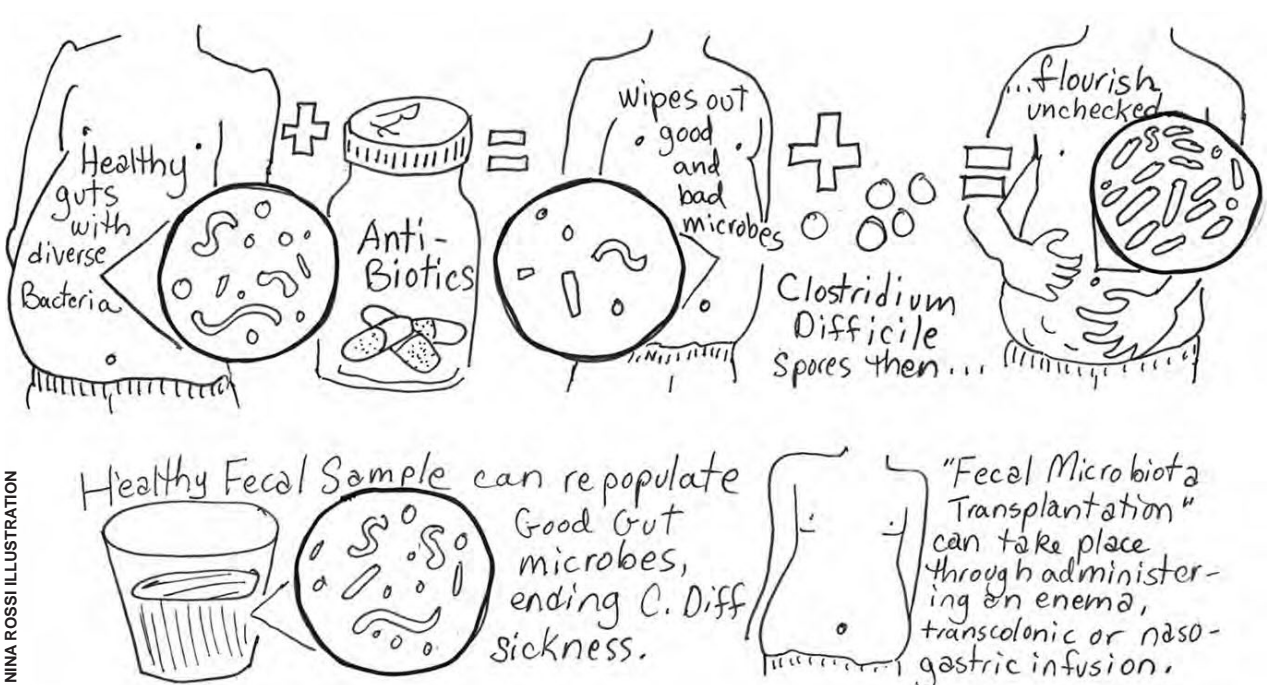
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ECOLOGY from page B1

target a few troublemakers. Not only is *Clostridium* an opportunist, but it is particularly difficult to eradicate from the body and from hospital surfaces. Some strains are antibiotic resistant; all can form spores – capsules capable of resisting chemical treatment and which can lay in wait for months for just the right conditions to go forth and multiply.

To combat Tim’s infection, doctors prescribed a course of metronidazole (Flagyl). It seemed to do the trick. But as soon as the drug left his body, the *C. diff* returned. Next up was Vancomycin, a drug of last resort. In many cases it is the last weapon in the antimicrobial arsenal.

Tim was on and off “vanco” for over a year. But the resilient bug held its ground. After each ten-day course, *C. diff* returned.

“Tim is in a wheelchair on ventilator,” says Karen, “and he’s tolerated the treatments and the ongoing *C. diff*. He’s tough.” But as the infection dragged on, Tim and Karen became more desperate for an actual cure.

Tim isn’t alone. The bug causes nearly half a million infections in the US alone, with nearly thirty thousand patients succumbing within a month of diagnosis. Most affected are the elderly and immunocompromised, but cases are increasingly occurring in the very young who have had no prior antibiotic exposure. In the industrialized world, the pathogen is the leading cause of hospital-acquired diarrhea and colitis.

*C. diff* is on the rise, and we are to blame. When we destroy a functioning and diverse ecosystem, we cannot expect it to rebuild itself as it was. Yet, that is what we do every time we use broad spectrum antibiotics.

We pay little attention to these casualties, the harmless and beneficial bacteria lost alongside the pathogens. Plenty of us pull through just fine, eventually recolonized by survivors or other sources of bacteria. Some of us may benefit from probiotics: mixtures of living bacteria, able to reseed the bacterial turf.

And then there are others, like Tim, for whom the cost of disrupting this microbial ecosystem can be life-threatening. Roughly 70 years ago, we began using antibiotics on an industrial scale. Yet we are only now realizing the destruction we have wrought upon our own vital ecosystems. How can that be?

First described as part of the “normal intestinal flora” in infants in 1935, *C. diff* rose to prominence in the 1970s, when physicians recognized its role in antibiotic-associated diarrhea. Toxin-producing strains can wreak havoc on cell structure and function, caus-

ing bloody diarrhea, intense pain, and in severe cases, wholesale destruction that requires surgical removal of damaged bowels. As Karen described, it may seems as if your whole colon is coming out.

In 2011, nearly half a million Americans suffered a *C. diff* infection, at least a quarter of them acquired while in the hospital. Twenty-nine thousand died within thirty days of diagnosis. While Tim may or may not have harbored a resident population of *C. diff*, it is likely that his repeated visits to the hospital didn’t help. And, after a year of treatment, it became clear that vancomycin was not the solution.

Repopulating

More than a century after Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch forever altered medicine by linking pathogenic microbes to specific diseases, the role of our beneficial microbiota now headlines the news, as one study after another reveals that our bodies and our minds are in cahoots with hordes of microbes.

We are becoming increasingly aware that-all out warfare against bacteria has a downside. From movement to memory, our so-called “microbiome” influences our physical and possibly even mental health. We have become so obsessed that my husband wonders how long before someone claims the microbiome defense: “My gut was out of whack, so I couldn’t stop myself.”

Microbes are the cure *de jour* – with varying degrees of success – for anything from diarrhea to obesity to mental health. There is talk of probiotics for the gut; mental health; vaginal health; and for skin. But probiotics are like a Wild West of cures. As all-natural dietary supplements rather than drugs, they are subject to little or no regulation, including testing for efficacy.

In 2010, when Tim had become infected, fecal transplants (which are pretty much as they sound: the transfer of stool from a donor to the gastrointestinal tract of the patient) were not standard treatment in Western medicine, but nothing seemed to be helping.

“We were willing to do anything,” recalls Karen. “We did some research. There were stories from a gastroenterologist who told of people who’d lost fifty pounds [because of infection], who were cured almost instantaneously.”

At the very least, it was worth a shot.

Because the treatment at the time wasn’t FDA-approved, the procedure had to be done under the hospital radar. “We couldn’t tell anyone what we were doing,” says Karen. “The hospital thought it could be dangerous – they didn’t

want it performed.” But, she says, their doctor was an outside-of-the-box kind of thinker. A renegade.

Close relatives – a parent, sibling, or child – make the best donors, so for Tim, Karen was the obvious choice. Unfortunately, family members may be hosting their own pathogens: if not *C. diff* then others like HIV, hepatitis, or common ailments of the digestive tract, from pathogenic *E. coli* to Salmonella.

“We did a lot of testing,” says Karen. Then came the training. “You have to perform on the spot; the transplant was at 11 a.m., I had to produce at 10:50.” Karen’s donation was strained, processed, and administered through an endoscope – the same instrument many of us have experienced by way of colonoscopy. There were no guarantees. And even if it did work, Tim would likely be treated again and again with antibiotics. Could a newly implanted community hold up to such abuse?

Within 24 hours, Tim’s severe diarrhea disappeared, replaced by perfectly formed stools.

Invoking a sentiment associated with antibiotics nearly a century earlier, Karen says the outcome was miraculous. And, in the five years since, Tim’s new flora has managed to fend off *C. diff* even through repeated bouts with infection and antibiotic treatment.

Tim is only one of thousands. Increasingly studies are confirming that fecal transplants work. Notably, the treatment can be more effective than vancomycin, by a long shot. Yet even as antibiotic-induced *C. diff* infections are on the rise, the curative power of antibiotics cannot be shelved. “My father’s mother died of pneumonia because they didn’t have antibiotics,” reflects Karen. “People died of pneumonia all the time.”

A few years later, in 2013, the FDA became involved, stating that the agency would treat fecal transplants as an experimental drug requiring doctors to submit research applications. Essentially, the agency threw cold water on the practice. But thanks to an onslaught of protest, highlighting the dire need for transplants, the agency backed off within weeks, allowing treatment pending informed consent, need, and full disclosure of risks.

Teach War No More

Even as this elegant solution proves to be life-saving, we still fail to recognize it for what it is: an act of ecology. After a study confirming the curative power of fecal transplant versus vancomycin was published, one blog devoted to evolution posted an article with the headline: “Fecal transplants shown effective – no mention of ecology or evolution.”

If ever there was a time to men-

MISS STEMPLE RECALLS THE PAST

Part III (May 21, 1941)

In browsing the archives of the Turners Falls Herald (1940-1942) we were delighted to find the paper had tracked down Antonia J. Stemple, who had worked in various escalating capacities at the Turners Falls Reporter (1872-1922), and encouraged her to submit a regular column of her recollections. We'll be reprinting that column, which ran irregularly in the Herald over an eight-month period under the title "Looking Backward," in our own pages.

– Montague Reporter eds.

To read the locals and humorous paragraphs as well as the lead articles of the *Turners Falls Reporter* was like a tonic. The *Reporter* was decidedly different and the style of writing of the editor bore no resemblance to that of anyone else. Mr. Bagnall had such a pronounced sense of humor and such a remarkable wit that he made the recording of even the common-places of village life intensely interesting and challenging.

His highly original writing style, which, had he chosen to exercise it in a wider field or indulged in it more often, would undoubtedly have brought him fame and fortune. Even as it was, his humorous paragraphs in the *Reporter* won him recognition and made the name of the paper well known far afield.

His paragraphs were copied and commented upon by some of the leading publications of the country, with credit given to their source. In one instance a returning traveler told of reading a quip from the *Reporter* which had been reprinted in a newspaper published in India.

Mr. Bagnall was a friend of and carried on a correspondence with such humorists of his time as James E. Bailey, “The Danbury News Man”; Charles Follen Adams of “Leedle Yawcob Strauss” fame; Artemus Ward, Samuel Bowles and Edward T. Whiting of the *Springfield Republican*; Henry Clay Lukens, R.E. Criswell and others.

He was an honored member of the Humorous Paragraphers Association of America and more than once was offered flattering positions on metropolitan newspapers. But by this time it was apparent that Fate had corralled him for Turners Falls and under the circumstances he remained on.

Perhaps it is really not to be wondered at that the Turners Falls of the early days did not understand or know how to take a free soul such as was the editor of the *Reporter*. He absolutely refused to kowtow or bend the knee to a living being no

matter how highly placed or influential. In common parlance he appeared not to know or care which side his bread was buttered and so he acquired the enmity of some who were used to being treated as though they were little gods.

He could not be bribed or cajoled into coloring the news or suppressing anything which was news. Only his conscience was his guide. He made fierce and loyal friends but he made more fierce and vindictive enemies. That did not disturb him however. The man had a positive genius for searching out hidden motives, especially if they were ulterior, and of discerning the naked truth, often unpleasant, behind the flossiest words and most plausible pretenses. He could not be deceived and his nose for news was so keen that he easily discovered it no matter how skillful the attempts to hide it.

But his most amazing and perhaps most disconcerting quality was his ability to hold up to ridicule and to see the fun in the most ordinary village happenings. What a sardonically humorous twist he could give to the most innocent remark!

And how he delighted to deflate the bubbles of four-flushers, the codfish aristocracy and the high and mighty airs of the residents of the Shiretown, who from earliest times were wont to habitually practice a very patronizing and superior manner to anybody and anything which came from this side of the river.

And how he could render *hors de combat* an opponent who had the temerity to engage him in an argument or to challenge him in any manner! He did it in a very few words or lines but such words or lines were so much to the point that they not infrequently became bywords or the theme of wisecracks on the part of the villagers, who extracted oceans of fun from them – provided they did not provide the texts.

Next: Working in a Raw Field...

tion the importance of either, this would be it. Fecal transplants are the ultimate ecological solution. Over the past few centuries, we have sought cures to beat nature, but that is an impossible task. Nature is *us*.

As we come to grips with the microbial world within us and around us, we are beginning to recognize that we have far more allies than enemies. “Our most sophisticated leap,” wrote Nobel winner Joshua Lederberg, observing that our collective genomes are “yoked” together, “would be to drop the Manichaeian [dualist] view of microbes – ‘We good: they evil.’”

Instead, we must accept that we are interdependent. Twentieth century technology isolated us from nature, but now twenty-first century technology is repairing the rift. Advances in genomics, computer sciences, analytical chemistry, and other new technologies will lead to

better health.

Using new technologies informed by ecology, we can work with the natural world rather than against it. And when there are no other options except to attack, at the very least, we can manage microbes more strategically, targeting the harmful while leaving the larger community intact.

Had Tim’s initial infection been treated with antimicrobials able to zero in on pneumonia-causing bacteria, perhaps he would never have spent a year on vancomycin fending off *C.diff*.

We can do better.

The above is an excerpt from toxicologist Emily Monosson’s forthcoming book, *Natural Defense: Enlisting Bugs and Germs to Protect our Food and Medicine* (Island Press, 2017), which will be available in May or June of this year. The author lives in Montague Center.



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# Aquí se habla español

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



## Noticias del Mundo Hispano

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO

### Colombia

El gobierno colombiano se enfrenta a un nuevo problema en el proceso de paz debido a las disidencias en el grupo de las FARC. Los disidentes prefieren dedicarse al narcotráfico y a la minería ilegal que a dejar las armas. El porcentaje de disidencia es de un 5 por ciento. El acuerdo de paz entre el presidente Juan Manuel Santos y las FARC (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia) se llevó a cabo después de un conflicto que dejó unos 220.000 muertos.

### Cuba

El gobernador del estado de Colorado, Hickenlooper, viajó a Cuba con una delegación empresarial y manifestó que el gobierno cubano se encuentra esperanzado ante la posibilidad de seguir colaborando con el presidente Trump. El presidente Obama reanudó sus contactos diplomáticos con el gobierno de Raúl Castro en 2014 después de más de 50 años de no relación entre los dos gobiernos.

### Ecuador

El próximo 19 de febrero se celebra la primera vuelta de las elecciones en Ecuador. El actual mandatario, Rafael Correa, se presentó como un hombre de San izquierdas aunque ahora defiende el sector privado. Las encuestas dicen que la intención de voto está con el vicepresidente de Correa, Lenin Moreno, aunque no contaría con los votos necesarios para ganar en primera vuelta. El segundo en intención de voto es Guillermo Lasso que podría conseguir otros apoyos y ganar a Lasso en la segunda vuelta. Si este último ganase las elecciones, intentará conseguir todas las inversiones extranjeras posibles. El voto en Ecuador es obligatorio.

### Guatemala

Rigoberta Menchú, galardonada en 1992 con el premio Nobel de la Paz, dijo que era necesario dar acceso a las mujeres a la tierra para mantener la paz y luchar contra la desigualdad económica. Según Menchú unas 20 familias controlan el uso de la tierra en Guatemala. Mejorar el acceso de las mujeres para poder obtener tierras en propiedad mejoraría las condiciones de desigualdad a las que se enfrentan las mujeres en Guatemala.

### Méjico

Los abogados de Joaquín Guzmán, más conocido como el Chapo Guzmán, encarcelado en una prisión de los Estados Unidos se quejaron de las condiciones en que se encuentra encarcelado y que no le son autorizadas las visitas de su esposa. Chapo Guzmán escapó con anterioridad de dos prisiones mejicanas de alta seguridad y se encuentra actualmente en un centro carcelario de Manhattan.

### Perú

El actual presidente peruano, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, acusó al expresidente Alejandro Toledo de corrupción y de recibir millones de dólares a través de sobornos. El gobierno peruano ha lanzado una orden de detención contra Toledo que la semana pasada se encontraba en París, pero en estos momentos se desconoce su paradero. Se da la casualidad de que Kuczynski fue ministro de Economía durante el gobierno de Toledo.

Fuente: Agencia Reuters.



Vista aérea de Macho Picchu, Perú.

## Las tres primeras semanas del huracán Trump

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO

El presidente Trump a la hora de publicar estas líneas lleva menos de un mes en su cargo. Durante estas tres semanas ha desarrollado una frenética actividad no solamente firmando órdenes ejecutivas, sino también usando los 140 caracteres de Twitter a los que tiene tanta afición. Sus ocupaciones como presidente del país más poderoso del mundo no le impiden publicar a razón de dos o tres tweets diarios en su cuenta privada de la que se jacta manejar personalmente.

En este artículo voy a concentrarme únicamente en las leyes que atañen de un modo u otro a la comunidad latina. La primera medida que afecta a nuestra comunidad es la desaparición de todo rastro del idioma castellano en la página de la Casa Blanca. Suponemos que se trata de algo provisional, pero hasta el momento la oficina del presidente no ha hecho ningún comentario al respecto.

Concentrémonos ahora en las órdenes ejecutivas. En primer lugar, debemos hacernos una pregunta: ¿Qué es y qué significa firmar una orden ejecutiva?

Una orden ejecutiva es una herramienta de gobierno que permite al presidente tomar decisiones de forma unilateral. Es decir, que estas leyes no deben ser refrendadas por el congreso ni por el senado.

Claro, dicho así parece bastante arbitrario, aunque por supuesto en un estado democrático tienen que existir unos mecanismos que impidan estos conatos de autoritarismo. Es por ello que las órdenes ejecutivas no pueden ser contrarias a ninguna otra ley que haya sido refrendada por el congreso y por el senado anteriormente.

Obama durante sus ocho años de gobierno firmó más de 250 órdenes ejecutivas que ahora pueden ser derogadas por Trump. Así pues, una orden ejecutiva es una especie de *ley en el limbo*. El presidente Obama las utilizó principalmente cuando alguna ley se quedaba atascada en el congreso al perder el partido demócrata la mayoría en dicha cámara.

Una de las primeras decisiones tomadas por el recién elegido presidente fue poner en cuarentena todas las últimas decisiones tomadas por Obama hasta que estas fueran revisadas por su gabinete. Por lo tanto, muchas de ellas pueden ser derogadas. Especial preocupación presenta el llamado **DACA** (Acción Diferida de Llegada de Menores), que permite a los inmigrantes que cruzaron la frontera cuando eran menores de edad recibir un estatus de inmigración especial.

Otra decisión que atañe directamente al mundo hispánico es la retirada del Acuerdo Transpacífico de Cooperación Económica. Trump no está a favor de los tratados internacionales de comercio ya que considera que no son buenos para los intereses estadounidenses. Este acuerdo, firmado por Obama y otros once países además de Estados Unidos, nunca llegó a ser refrendado por el senado, así que nunca entró en vigor.

Afectando directamente a México tenemos la idea de renegociar el tratado de NAFTA con México y Canadá. En estos momentos la relación entre Méxi-



Presidente Donald Trump firmando una orden ejecutiva.

co y Estados Unidos no se encuentra en su mejor momento.

Trump ha amenazado al gobierno mexicano con establecen un impuesto de mercancías fronterizo, así que el gobierno mexicano se muestra cauteloso a la hora de negociar las nuevas condiciones del tratado. Productos como maíz, leche en polvo, gasolina y trigo son importados de Estados Unidos y en el caso de la gasolina, México importa alrededor del 50% de la que consume de su vecino del norte.

Respecto a México también, Trump se ha apresurado a cumplir una de sus promesas electorales: la de levantar un muro entre la frontera estadounidense y la mexicana y que dicha construcción fuera pagada por el gobierno mexicano. Parte del plan es construir más centros de detención y contratar mayor número de agentes dedicados a las fronteras. Así mismo hasta ahora los inmigrantes indocumentados que eran detenidos podían quedar libres, pero a partir de este momento serán deportados.

Otra orden ejecutiva firmada por Trump impide la entrada a Estados Unidos a todos los refugiados procedentes de cualquier país y a ciudadanos de siete países con mayoría musulmana, aunque estos posean visados

de entrada o tarjetas de residencia. El sábado 4 de febrero el departamento de estado revocó dicha orden ejecutiva temporalmente debido al mandato de un juez que la considera inconstitucional. Un juez rechazó el domingo la apelación presentada por el gobierno de Trump. El juez dio de plazo hasta el lunes 6 de febrero para presentar otras alegaciones que sustenten esta medida de emergencia.

Otra de las medidas es frenar el envío de fondos federales a las llamadas ciudades santuario y permitir a las autoridades locales que ejerzan como autoridades en materia de inmigración. Esta medida afecta a Miami, una ciudad tradicionalmente de inmigrantes hispanos, que ha dejado de ser una ciudad santuario por decisión de su alcalde, Carlos Giménez. Otras grandes ciudades como Nueva York, Chicago o San Francisco se han mostrado abiertamente en contra de esta decisión.

Por último, Trump ha recuperado la ley impuesta en los ochenta por Ronald Reagan en la que se prohíbe subvencionar con dólares organizaciones en el extranjero que practiquen o estén a favor del aborto. Esta ley fue llamada en su tiempo *Operación Ciudad de México*.

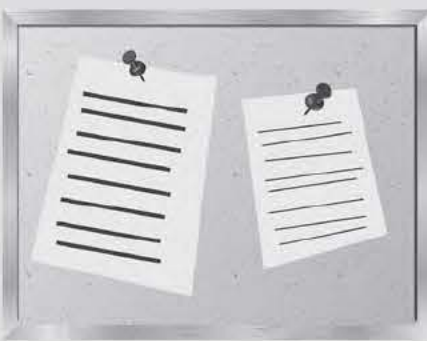
## Tablón de anuncios de la comunidad

• La clínica dental de *Community Health Center de Franklin County (CHCFC)* ofrece un Nuevo servicio para el tratamiento de caries llamado *Silver Diamine Fluoride*.

Se trata de una solución acuosa compuesta de plata, fluoruro y amoníaco y que se aplica en la zona afectada sin uso de agujas. El tratamiento es totalmente indoloro.

• *Center for New Americans* celebrará su segunda gala anual *Voces inmigrantes: Una celebración de artes* el 8 de abril en Shea Theater en Turners Falls. La organización está buscando artistas que quieran colaborar en la gala para compartir su talento.

Si usted es músico, cantante, bailarín, poeta, o contador de historias, y quiere colaborar debe ponerse en contacto con



Laurie Millman en [laurie@cnam.org](mailto:laurie@cnam.org).

Los artistas tendrán una sesión obligatoria de ensayo el 11 de febrero en Shea Theater en Turners Falls.

• El grupo de conversación de la biblioteca de Leverett se reúne cada martes de 4 a 5 p.m. Todos los niveles son bienvenidos. Es gratis.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



The newly renamed Goodfellows, featuring Tommy Filiault, Klondike Koehler, and Doug Plavin and guests are at the Deja Brew on Thursday, February 16 at 8 p.m.

## ONGOING EVENTS

### EVERY SUNDAY

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

Underdog Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Jazz Night*. 6 p.m.

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

### FIRST SUNDAY MONTHLY

Franklin Community Coop/Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *Co-op Straight-Ahead Jazz*. Balcony. Afternoons.

### EVERY TUESDAY

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

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

Dickinson Memorial Library, Northfield: *Story Hour with Dana Lee*. For pre-schoolers and their caregivers. 11 a.m. to noon.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Homeschool Science. Hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)* activities for

homeschoolers of all ages, with Angela or special guest. 1 p.m.

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

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

### 3rd WEDNESDAY MONTHLY

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Roots at the Root Cellar*. Reggae DJs mixing up roots, dub, dancehall, steppas and more. 9 p.m. Free.

### 1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAY

Arts Block (4th floor), Greenfield: *Creacion Latin Big Band & Late Night Open Mic JAM*. 20 piece ensemble play son, salsa, chacha and much more. 8 p.m. Open Mic starts at 9 p.m. Free.

### EVERY THURSDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers invited. 10 to 11 a.m.

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

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Franklin County Pool League*. 6 to 11 p.m.

The People's Pint, Greenfield: *Derek Bridges*. Live acoustic guitar. 7 p.m.

### 2nd AND 4TH THURSDAY

Hubie's Tavern: *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.

### EVERY FRIDAY

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

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

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

### EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

Element Brewing Company, Millers Falls: *Brule's Irish Band*. Food carts supplement the local beer. 6 p.m.

## EXHIBITS:

Artspace, Greenfield: *2017 An-*

*nual Franklin County Teen Show*, an exhibition of works by local teens. Through February 19.

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

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

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

Oxbow Gallery, Northampton: *Diane Harr, Whimsy II, the Rhythmical World of Key West* in gouache and acrylic. Opening February 10, 5 to 8 p.m. Through February 26.

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

Sawmill River Arts Gallery: February show *Small Works Art Exhibit and Sale*. No entries are larger than 6" x 6". Non-juried community show. Through February 27.

Shelburne Arts Co-operative, Shelburne Falls: *Art Attack*, group show. Through February 27.

## EVENTS:

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Eugene Mirman* and an evening of comedy with special guest *Maeve Higgins*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Doug Plavin All-Stars*. This month featuring special guest Richard Chase. 8 p.m.

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope!* This week it's Bobcats. *See On-going, Every Friday*. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Dickinson Memorial Library, Northfield: *Make Valentines*. Also can watch *A Charlie Brown Valentine*. 2 to 3 p.m.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Coffeehouse presents the Bork, Tinen, & Kahn Trio*. Contemporary acoustic/ electric music. Monthly fundraiser by the Friends of the Discovery Center to support educational programming at the Center. 7 p.m. Donations.

Dickinson Memorial Library: Movie *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. Open to 4th to 6th graders and adults who attend discussion on previous Saturday. 7 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne

Falls: That droll classic *Fargo*. Perfect for a winter's night. Music by *The Dinner Collective* at 7 p.m. Movie at 7:30 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *7 Below - A Tribute to Phish*. 8 p.m. \$

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Big Plastic Finger, Hollow Deck, Omeed Goodarzi, and Matt Robidoux*. All ages. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Shadow Twisters*. Classic '60s & '70s Rock. 9 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Fortified Blues Band w/Tommy Filiault, Doug Smith & Friends*. 9 p.m.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *The Creature Teachers present the Nature of My Backyard!* 1 to 2 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *The Indian Talking Machine*. (See story, page B1) 5 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Open Mic Night #9*. Big town performance art in a tiny village. 7 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: That droll classic *Fargo*. Perfect for a winter's night. Music by *Abdul Baki* at 7 p.m. Movie at 7:30 p.m.

Wendell Old Town Hall, Wendell: *Full Moon Coffeehouse presents The Nite Caps*. Honky-tonk fun, to benefit *The Swift River Historical Society*. 7:30 p.m. Donations.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Viewer, PG Six, Rob Mills, and New Parents*. All ages. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*. Hypno Boogie Blues. 9 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Cold Harvest*. 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Static Age/Rebel Bass*. 9:30 p.m. \$

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Who do you love? Valentines for Wildlife*. All ages. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

New Salem Public Library: *Intro. to 3-D printing*. Pre-register. 1 to 3 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Crow's Rebellion*. Warped Americana. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 9:30 p.m.

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Debut of *Scotty's K's Open Mic*. 8 p.m.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Longfellow's*. Funky blues. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half-Shaved Jazz*. 9 p.m.

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Discovery Center, Turners Falls:

*Kidleidoscope!* This week it's porcupines! 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Happyland*. A new physical theatre piece produced by Eggtooth Productions. 7:30 p.m. \$

Memorial Hall Theater

POTHOLE PICTURES

Friday & Saturday  
February 10 & 11, 7:30 p.m.

FARGO

Music before the show, at 7 p.m.: Friday: *The Dinner Collective*; Saturday: *Abdu Baki*

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**WEST ALONG** from page B1 carries far to the ears of other woodpeckers. The first faint, tentative *fee-bee* of a chickadee has whistled through the frigid air.

Not far away, the eagle took up his perch overlooking the river. A puff of his breath floated out, picked up by the early sun, as he basked in the warming first rays.

That day I headed out to join the eagle by the west-flowing river, but kept my distance, following my own private rules about not disturbing creatures who are visiting this special place. The pup leaps and bounds along the icy shore down river from the eagle's perch. He has been finding so many skins of smallmouth bass the river otter has left behind, that he doesn't bother eating them anymore. That otter is back this winter and is surely fishing in the swift water.

He unexpectedly popped up just offshore to have a look at us one evening. He quickly dove only to resurface briefly, his curiosity getting the best of him. He repeated this activity several times before being satisfied that the dog was not going to follow him underwater, and that the two-legged creature with the binoculars was no danger and no big deal.

Farther downriver, where the Millers joins the Connecticut, a lone diving duck, a *goldeneye*, fishes the edge of the ice sheet. Just above the French King Rock, the river is frozen probably most of the way up to its origins in the Connecticut Lakes up near the border of Québec.

This northern duck echoes the winter colors, black and white, like the tree trunks and snow, dark river and white ice. He's eking out a meager living just at the edge of the ice in a familiar Arctic Circle-like riverscape.

The chill wind here whips down the long valley from the North, causing ice shards to glint in the sun and pivot in the currents below the French King.

*He was a winter wind,  
Concerned with ice and snow,  
Dead weeds and unmated birds,  
And little of love could know...*

Late February afternoon has become for me the time for an agreeable chore. I've taken to cutting windfall branches lying about the floor of the woods along the river. Oak, birch, maple, hophornbeam often lose branches in any storm, in any season, are great for the woodstove.

In late winter, under sometimes golden sunsets, sometimes salmon-pink skies, other times gray and darkening woods, I can work quietly with my bowsaw. Fragrant sawdust falls on the snow, I can stop after several strokes and enjoy the silence. This evening, the furtive flight of a reclusive winter wren, the only one this winter so far, caught my eye as it dove from bush to bush and blow-down root tangles in my clearing.

I catch myself blowing puffs of breath into the sharp air, much like our eagle visitor this morning. The

eagle will have no trouble staying warm this night with his great bulk, but the wee wren, and the tiny kinglet will need to eat continuously to keep their small bodies of a few ounces from freezing before dawn. I'm hoping that the winter wind won't draw away vital body warmth from them during this coming dark night.

*The wind sighed upon the sill,  
He gave the sash a shake,  
As witness all within  
Who lay that night awake.*

*Perchance he half prevailed  
To win her for the flight  
From the firelit looking glass  
And warm stove-window light.*

And as for me, I can head back home, with the living room window throwing its light out on the snow, the day's last chore done. I toss a glance at that window to be sure that the February hyacinth is still there. It is.

Warm in the glow that wood-cutting effort and the sense of accomplishment provide, I can settle into an outdoor chair, sip a glass of icy vodka that I have earned, and watch the stars come out.

As far as the *Wind and the Winter Flower* are concerned:

*But the flower leaned aside  
And thought of naught to say,  
And the morning found the breeze  
A hundred miles away.*

— Robert Frost



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