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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 15 – NO. 18

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 16, 2017

District Votes to End the Indian; TFHS Students Stage Walkout

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – The Gill-Montague regional school committee voted Tuesday night, by a 6-3 margin, to discontinue the use of the Turners Falls High School team name, the “Indians.”

The vote came five months into a district-wide process, prompted by a request from residents, to reconsider the name. The committee chose to vote without waiting for the results of a non-binding resolution on the issue scheduled for Montague’s May town election. (See page A7 for full school committee coverage.)

On Wednesday, students at the high school who were unhappy with the decision organized a walkout. About 120, according to district of-

ficials, marched to the administration building at Sheffield School, where they demanded to meet with superintendent Michael Sullivan.

A student assembly previously planned for Wednesday, featuring high school alumni speaking against and in favor of the name change, was canceled following Tuesday’s decision. The high school student council had planned to hold a survey after the assembly gauging student opinion on the matter, and many participating in the walkout expressed frustration at the lost opportunity to weigh in.

“We didn’t think it was fair that none of our voices were heard,” said senior Wileshka Vega. “They canceled it because they already picked that they’re going to change our mascot.”

see WALKOUT page A6



After meeting with the superintendent, many students marched in the streets back to the high school.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Board Approves Second Phase of 1676 “Battlefield” Study Project

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard, at its February 13 meeting, awarded a contract to the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center to implement Phase 2 of the federal grant to study the Great Falls battle, or massacre, of 1676. The grant will fund archaeological research, mainly the collection of artifacts related to the battle using metal detectors.

The Pequot Research Center undertook Phase 1 of the project, which focused on collecting and interpreting written sources on the battle, as well as collecting oral histories from Native American tribes in the region.

Town planner Walter Ramsey told the selectboard that no other research organizations had bid for the Phase 2 contract. “It’s not for

lack of effort,” said Ramsey, noting that he had sent out notification to 15 research organizations. “There aren’t many in the area, so it’s not an attractive job for people, mostly because the distance – mostly because they are in major cities.”

Ramsey, who was accompanied at the front table by battlefield advisory committee chair David Brule, was asked about the disposition of objects that are found. Brule responded that if they are deemed related to the battle, they will be given to the National Park Service and put in a “certified museum, archival place, as close to the site as possible. So we are hoping down the line in a couple of years we’ll have a place like that.”

Artifacts not identified with the battle,

see STUDY page A5

The Week in TFHS Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

This week, the Turners Falls swim teams had career days at sectionals, the hockey squad dropped the puck against Greenfield, the boys’ basketball team celebrated senior night, the cheer team prepared for competition, the Lady Cagers continued to soar – and Turners Falls lost its name.

Swimming

On Saturday, February 11, at the Western Mass. Swimming Championship, several Turners Falls swimmers competed and some swam faster than they ever had before.

Jade Tyler swam her fastest 200-yard freestyle race ever, with a time of 2:12.44. She also finished the 500-yard freestyle in 5:56.99. Olivia Whittier also broke a personal record in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:15.45.

The Girls’ relay team of Melissa Hersey,

Allison Wheeler, Whittier and Tyler finished the 200-yard medley relay in 2:14.89 and the 200 freestyle relay in 2:01.30.

In the boys’ championship, Cameron Bradley swam the 100-yard butterfly in 1:02.42, shattering his personal record of 1:03.49. Nick Taylor also had his best time, finishing the fly in 1:06.00.

Bradley swam the 100-yard backstroke in 1:08.29, another personal best. The boys’ relay team (Ed Reipold, Chase Blair, Bradley, and Taylor) finished the 200-yard freestyle relay in 1:54.91.

Ice Hockey

Greenfield 4 – TFHS 2

On Friday, February 10, the Blue Tribe shot out to their usual early game lead, but Greenfield tied it in the second period with a goal of their own. In the third, Blue could only put one biscuit in the net, while Greenfield

see TFHS SPORTS page A6

TIMELESS BEAUTY



Elliot Levin shared this photograph he took of snow-covered barns on Montague's Meadow Road.

Fermentation and Fundraising: Local Breweries Do Their Part

By ALEX PETERKIN and DAWN MONTAGUE

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Earlier this month, two new beers were released by local breweries to benefit two area causes: a charismatic amphibian under threat, and a resurgent theater in Turners Falls.

If you were to eat a red-spotted newt – which you shouldn’t – it would taste nothing like *Newtonium*. *Newtonium* is the beer collaboration between Element Brewing Company and the People’s Pint, brewed and distributed to bring awareness and funds to a species of concern, the Eastern Red-spotted Newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*).

This highly poisonous creature is most commonly seen in its juvenile eft stage, wandering through the duff of the forest floor. The eft is the land roaming juvenile. The newt is the aquatic adult.

Although this high alcohol (9.6% ABV) cherry farmhouse beer does not taste like newts or efts, it does recall the tannic, microbial, and mycological aspects of the forest the eft calls home. It’s not difficult to imagine this beer flowing between the trunks of



Millers Falls’ Element Brewing and Greenfield’s People’s Pint collaborated to create *Newtonium*.

black cherries and oaks, picking up the flavors of decaying leaves and bark.

That mustiness of an ancient primordial

see BREWERIES page A8

NEWS ANALYSIS

Rep. Jim McGovern Pledges Support for Sister District Strategy; Ellison Chairmanship

By DAVID DETMOLD

NORTHAMPTON – Like elected leaders throughout the country, congressman Jim McGovern (D-Worcester) was called to account by a standing-room-only crowd at a town hall meeting held Saturday at the World War II Club in Northampton.

His constituents wanted to know what they could do – and what McGovern himself proposed to do – to organize resistance in his sprawling 2nd District, and in Congress, to the wrecking-ball administration of Donald Trump.

McGovern’s message to his constituents, delivered in ten minutes flat, included bromides like: “This is a time to listen. It’s part

of our job. People are nervous, are frightened, and they don’t know what to expect.”

He also said, “Watching the resistance grow across this country... because they love this country, and they don’t want it torn to shreds by a guy who is temperamentally unfit to be president... is inspiring.”

Pamela Schwartz of Northampton snapped the meeting to attention. “How can the Democratic Party, starting on the local level,” she asked, be converted to a tool “to organize and mobilize resistance and progressive change both now and in the future, and how do we build that vision? How can the Democratic Party, starting on the local level, fuel and support

see MCGOVERN page A4



McGovern’s town hall meeting packed the World War II Club last Saturday.

The Montague Reporter

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No Silver Bullets

Following the resignation Monday of national security advisor Michael Flynn, caught lying about his communication with Russian diplomats after the election, there has been an avalanche of giddy speculation among opponents of rookie president Donald Trump that his team's Russia connections could lead to his early undoing.

We shouldn't have to imagine some vastly important and nefarious criminal conspiracy to understand why the Russian state would want to give Trump a boost.

And we shouldn't pretend that nations operate in isolation – or imply that they should.

The fact of the matter is, throughout the 1990s, the United States intervened in the Russian economy and government to a degree that boggles the mind.

We funded and advised Boris Yeltsin against his rivals, particularly during his 1996 reelection. Directly or indirectly, the US also more or less wrote the policies that restructured the country, auctioning its public assets to oligarchs, converting it from the most equal to the most unequal economies on the planet, and feeding a sharp collapse in life expectancy.

In 1998, capital abruptly gushed out of the country and the ruble lost most of its value. Right around that point, the US got bored with helping out over there – and the foundation was laid for the kind of murky post-Soviet anti-Americanism we now associate with Putin and his circle of advisors.

It's easy to write off *Seinfeld*-era US interference in Russian affairs as an expression of *noblesse oblige* inspired by a hard-fought Cold War victory, but we bet the typical Russian citizen who lived through that tumult doesn't look at it quite the same way.

And this sure helps explain why Russians – whose polity and economy are still entangled with ours – may have been tempted to knock Hillary Clinton down a notch.

An October poll by WIN / Gallup International of 45 countries around the world found that in 44 of them, people would vote for Clinton over Trump. Her hypothetical margins of victory in these countries ranged from 9 points in China to 80 in Portugal.

The one exception was Russia. Among Russian respondents, Trump won that poll by 23 percentage points.

The bizarre fantasy held in some liberal circles that a patriotic

"deep state" will depose President Trump on the grounds of treason is, at best, misguided.

If indeed our heads of state are sinister secret allies, it would be better to seek common ground with dissenters in Russia than to encourage fearful saber-rattling. After all, our two countries control 93% of the global stockpile of nuclear weapons. It is in humanity's interest for us to work together toward nonproliferation and peace.

The Trump administration, and surrounding it, today's GOP, is a fragile organization, if only by virtue of being a newly minted coalition of convenience. For those who want to see the ideas the president touts fail, the resignation in scandal of a cabinet-level official less than a month after his inauguration may be thrilling.

But let's not let a faction of spy-agency bureaucrats, and the Beltway journalists who transcribe their leaks, be the vanguard of the resistance. And let's not let a modern nation of 144 million people be the scapegoat.

If Democrats – or some other force – intend to defeat Trump's political program, they should take aim at the content of his political program, which is out in the open.

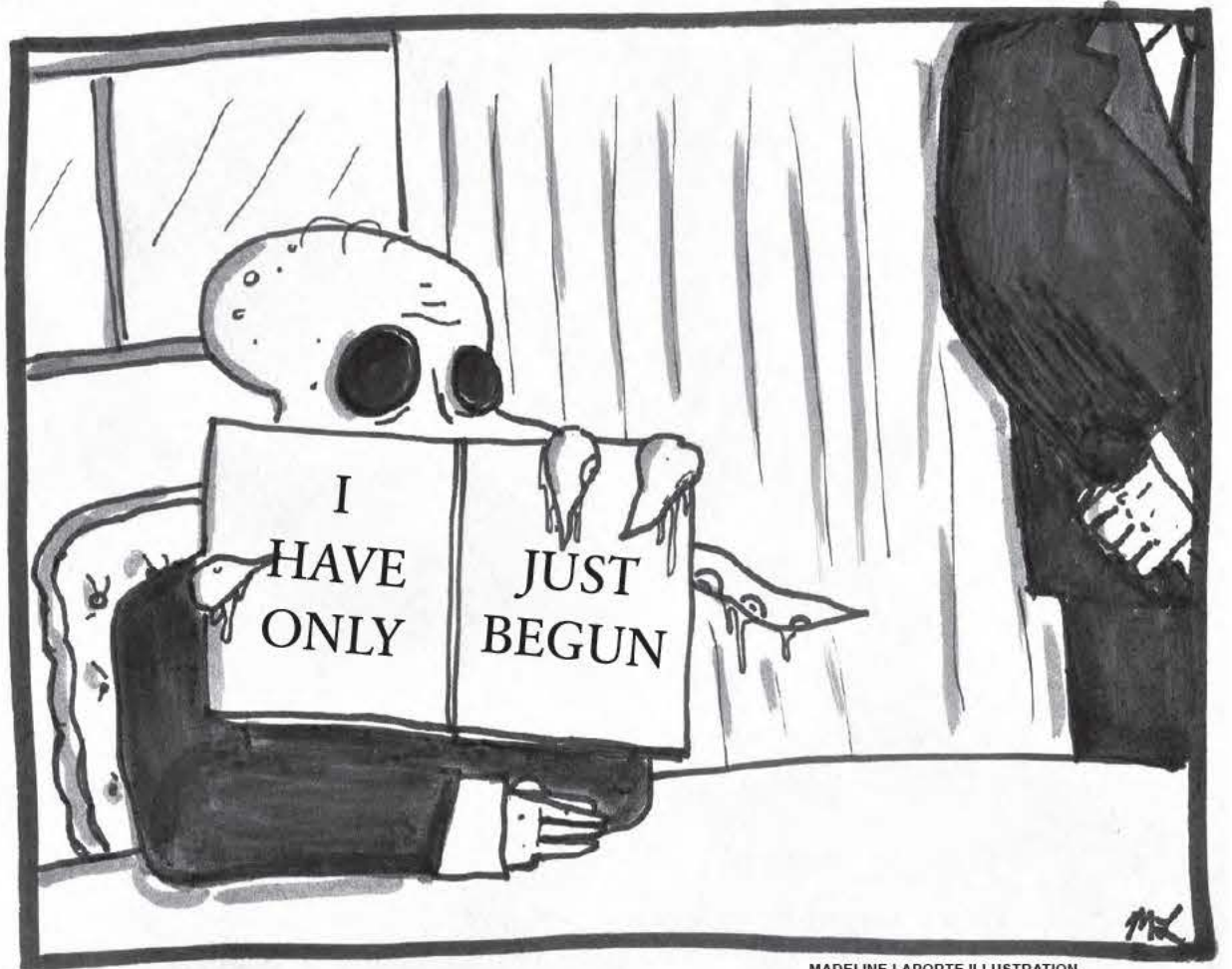
If they are to convince the populace that his value as a leader is compromised by conflicts of interest, the best place to start is with his conflicts that are, again, out in the open: his brand-name business empire; his family appointments; the entanglements of his various clubs and hotels with state interests; and his investments in pending international projects.

And if they really want to change the country's political culture, they should do so by organizing, at the grassroots level, direct support for all those squeezed out of an increasingly specialized labor market, isolated by poorly maintained infrastructure, excluded from expertise, alienated from science, and falling through the large holes in our safety net.

This will mean, in short, showing up, and showing people that power can be built directly – so that there is no longer such a temptation to cheerlead for spiteful strongmen, or gang up on the vulnerable.

So put down the pipe, finish up the popcorn, and close the Facebook browser tab. Leave the surveillance to the surveillance state.

There's a lot of people hurting in this country right now. And there's a hell of a lot of work to do.



MADLINE LAPORTE ILLUSTRATION

Letter to the Editors

It has come to my attention that the local issues may be incessant nonsense at times, such as the Mascot Issue.

The answer, in my opinion and in my experience, is that for a very long time Springfield had a hockey team that was called the Springfield Indians. Did we enjoy our hockey games less when they renamed it after the lovely Falcons that we all began watching on public television during no air show times? I think not.

To make it more opposition friendly, I really think we should demand a change in the name, to allow the community to start a contest to create the best new name for the Turners Falls High School teams.

Would the resistance to the name change continue if we initiated that challenge to the townies? I think it would be a welcomed and innovative way to solve the problem.

Amy J. Cawley
Turners Falls

THE TURNERS FALLS WATER DEPARTMENT ASKS THAT ALL RESIDENTS ASSIST IN THE CLEARING OF SNOW AROUND FIRE HYDRANTS NEAR THEIR PROPERTIES. EVERYONE'S ASSISTANCE IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

GUEST EDITORIAL

The Superintendent's Take

Members of the Gill-Montague school committee asked district superintendent Michael Sullivan to present his own views on the issue of the high school team name, as an educator. These are the comments Dr. Sullivan delivered at Tuesday night's school committee meeting.

By MICHAEL SULLIVAN

Before I share my thoughts about the logo/nickname situation, I would like to thank the school committee for having the courage to address this issue, knowing in advance that it would be controversial. The integrity and earnestness with which you have undertaken this process is admirable, and I am proud to serve you.

It also needs to be said that, given your knowledge of the district's communities, combined with the scores of hours you have put into listening to citizens and scholars and studying this matter, no one is better equipped and poised to make decisions about it than you are.

In terms of sharing my perspective on the "TFHS Indians," I would start by saying there is no doubt that the "Indian" is a symbol of tradition and pride to many, if not most, of the adult members of the district's communities, and we now know that

most of our students feel similarly.

We also know that those who support the "Indian" have no ill intent towards Native Americans.

But, because they bear no ill will, many supporters of the nickname and logo, particularly students, continue to ask "where is the harm in it?"

As the district's educational leader, I believe we need to help our students understand that there is harm in the status quo.

On average, each year, three of our students are Native American, and these students deserve and are afforded the same civil rights protections enjoyed by all students. According to our policies, these rights include learning in an environment free from conduct, symbols, and language that create a hostile, humiliating, intimidating, or offensive educational environment.

Over the last several months we have heard from over 50 area Native Americans, both at forums and in writing, who find the "Indian" to be offensive, humiliating, and harmful. These sentiments have been the clear consensus view of the Native American community in our region.

We have also learned that organizations with expertise in the social sciences have condemned the use of Indian mascots as harmful

and/or in violation of students' civil rights. These include the American Psychological Association, the American Anthropological Association, the American Sociological Association, as well as the US Commission on Civil Rights, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Congress of American Indians, and the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Our review process has shown that there is widespread interest in having students learn more about local history and Native American cultures. This is commendable, and will be acted upon.

But this will not be enough. Our review process has also revealed that Native American mascots have helped legitimize and perpetuate harmful racial stereotypes, and that these symbols exist within a context of historical oppression against indigenous people, including an act of tragic violence that occurred right in this community, only to be followed by centuries of ongoing assault, subjugation, and dispossession.

Understood in this context, it is logical to see the injustice of appropriating a name and culture see GUEST ED next page

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LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Clean off the roofs of your cars and trucks after a snowstorm!

"I must have counted at least 15 cars alone with snow piled on top," a Gill reader called us to report. "I'm flabbergasted at the amount of people just driving around, not cleaning their cars off."

If common sense isn't enough, failure to clear snow off your vehicle can result in a \$100 fine. Clear off your license plates, too!

While you're doing that safe public service, please **shovel your side-walks**, and leave a spot for your carrier to leave your newspaper!

And as you are outside with your snow shovel, take a look down the street to see if the **fire hydrant** has been cleared. Local fire departments are encouraging residents to lend a hand. It could be your home that needs the water.

Black History Month events continue at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls on Saturday, February 18, at 11 a.m. with a concert by Moonlight Davis and Morningstar Chenven.

Be entertained by this versatile and talented husband and wife duo.

Did a bank take your home by foreclosure? The Massachusetts Alliance Against Predatory Lending (MAAPL) is hosting a free legal clinic on Tuesday, February 21 in Turners Falls.

According to MAAPL, if you were foreclosed on before 2014, you have until February 23 of this year to file to maintain the right to reverse your foreclosure. (If your foreclosure was after 2014, you will have three years.) MAAPL offers free materials, support, information and guidance on simple steps to protect your rights.

The clinic will be held from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Brick House Community Resource Center, at 24 Third Street. For more information, email maaplinfo@yahoo.com or call (508) 630-1686.

Enjoy **"Armchair Nature for Seniors"** – or anyone who enjoys nature. Join naturalist Dawn Marvin Ward for a slide show and hands-on presentation of local fauna and flora in winter.

Explore tracks, skulls, and nature artifacts all indoors! This program will focus on some local animals that are active during winter and some plants in their winter state.

The program is held at the Leverett Public Library on Sunday, February 26, starting at 2 p.m. It is supported in part by a grant from the Leverett Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

On Monday, February 27, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Greenfield Community College, **Leaders OnBoard** will host Board Matching, a speed-dating style event for those interested in joining a board of directors.

"Many Franklin County non-profits are in need of new volunteers to help them with their important work serving our communities," explains program coordinator Amy Proietti. "We are excited to partner with the United Way of Franklin County on the Board Fair and board recruitment and development efforts."

Leaders OnBoard works with organizations currently searching for new board or committee members. The Board Matching event allows participants a chance to meet one-on-one with interested organizations.

The Board Fair is sponsored by Ramon Financial Services, Greenfield Cooperative Bank, and Franklin First Federal Credit Union. The event is free and open to the public. For more info please contact Amy at (413) 775-1103.

If you think you have what it takes to withstand the punishment and outlast the competition, then organize a team to test your stamina in the **9th Annual Franklin County Technical School Dodgeball Tournament**. This will be the final year of the tournament run by FCTS.

The public is invited to organize five-player teams to face off in double-elimination matches to be held at the school on Friday, March 3. Competition will begin at 6 p.m. at FCTS, located at 82 Industrial Boulevard., Turners Falls. The event will end when one victorious team is left standing.

Cash prizes of \$150 for first place, and \$60 for second place, will be awarded.

Teams must register by March 1 to be eligible to play. There is a \$30 registration fee per team, which is due at the time of registration. To register, contact Amber Crochier at 863-9561, ext. 231, or sign up at FCTS.

The public is invited to attend the tournament, and general admission is \$2. All proceeds from the tournament will go to the FCTS Athletic Programs.

The Episcopalian Diocese hosts **free lunch for veterans** every Thursday at the Greenfield Lodge of Elks, at the corner of Federal and Church streets in Greenfield, from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

Just a reminder that the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls is **open all of February school vacation week** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit www.greatfallsdiscovery-center.org for a complete listing of daily activities.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE TOWN CLERK

Montague: Nomination Papers Available

Nomination papers for the Annual Town Election, Monday, May 15 are now available at the Town Clerk's office until Thursday, March 23. They must be returned no later than Monday, March 27 by 5 p.m.

Potential townwide offices need to obtain 30 signatures of registered voters from the "town at large" to be placed on the ballot. Potential town meeting members need to obtain 10 signatures from registered voters of their "home precinct" to be placed on the ballot.

Offices are as follows: **Selectman, Assessor, Board of Health, and Parks & Recreation**, each for a 3-year term.

Library Trustees have three positions open, each for a 3-year term, and one position open for 1 year.

Soldier's Memorial Trustees have two positions

open, Veteran and Non-Veteran, each for a 3-year term.

Town Meeting Members are needed for all six precincts.

The annual town election will be held on Monday, May 15, 2017. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The deadline to register to vote is Tuesday, April 25.

Nomination papers regarding school committee seats are provided by the Gill-Montague Superintendent of Schools at 35 Crocker Avenue, 863-9324.

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

For more information please call the office at 863-3200, x 203.

2017 Annual Montague Town Census

Did you get your annual census/street list form? Montague's 2017 Annual Town Census/Street List forms were mailed out Friday, January 20.

Census responses are used as proof of residency to protect voter rights, veterans' bonuses, to assist the Council on Aging with service projections, and to assist the School with enrollment information and projections. Population figures are

also used by the state in calculating state and federal aid monies to the town.

If you are a registered voter and do not respond to the census, the Board of Registrars is required by law to move you to the "Inactive Voter" list and risk being removed from the voter registration rolls.

Please help us make the Annual Town Census as complete and accurate as possible. If you did not

receive a form you can download a form from the Town website www.montague.net or call the Town Clerk's Office at 863-3200 x 203, and we will send out a blank form.

Please fill in the information for all members of the household and mail the completed form to the Town Clerk's Office at One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

TF Fire District Nomination Papers Available

Nomination papers for the annual Turners Falls Fire District election are now available to all district residents from the District Office located at 226 Millers Falls Road until Monday, March 6. Papers must be returned no later than Wednesday, March 8. The District Office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

All potential candidates need to obtain 30 signatures from registered voters of the Turners Falls Fire District.

Offices are as follows: **Moderator**, for a three-year term; **Treasurer**, for a three-year term; **District Clerk**,

for a three-year term; **Prudential Committee**, for a three-year term; **Prudential Committee**, for a two-year term; **Water Commissioner**, for a three-year term.

The Annual Election will be held on Tuesday, April 25. The polls will open from noon to 7 p.m. District residents wishing to register to vote may do so at the Town Clerk's office located in Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

For more information, you may call the District at 863-4542.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Kitchen Coordination Gets Kinda Complicated

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard tentatively chose Saturday, June 3 as the date for the annual town meeting. Finance committee chair Doug Tanner met the board briefly and said that the process for getting budget requests from town departments is about a month behind its usual schedule, but selectboard member Dan Keller said that pushing the town's annual meeting later than June, its regular time, would put it into the next fiscal year.

Tanner also introduced insurance for Wendell's shared fire chief, Joe Cuneo. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich, also shared with New Salem, said the arrangement was made maybe 25 years ago, for a prior town coordinator, and her memory has it as a loose agreement. Board members agreed to meet with the New Salem selectboard to discuss the arrangement.

Three members of Wendell's kitchen committee met with the selectboard February 8. Myron Becker and Heather Willey were there at the scheduled time, but kitchen committee chair Mez Davis was delayed by a flat tire, and only caught the end of the discussion.

They said that use of the kitchen has started to increase, and looks like it will continue increasing. Becker said a licensed kitchen will be in high demand, and with the extra use, policies that had been left open will need tighter definition. The town does not allow commercial use, or use by someone with no connection to Wendell, without special consideration.

A person using the kitchen for the first time will need to be trained how to turn on the gas, run the dishwasher, serve safe guidelines, who to contact if a problem comes up, and other details. A printed guide would be useful, but not sufficient, so someone – probably the kitchen coordinator – will have to meet with any new user.

The coordinator will also need to check after each use to make sure the room is clean and nothing is missing, and keep track of detergent and anything else that may get used up. With the added work, the committee recommended, the coordinator should get paid.

They suggested paying the coordinator out of rental fees, but that would constitute a revolving fund, which neither the state nor the town accountant approves of. Any fee would go into the general fund, and the coordinator can be paid as a line item on the budget.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard asked for a job description for the coordinator. Willey had a written draft, and said she would email a finished proposal.

Becker pointed out that there is a gradation between "private" and "fully commercial" use: I could make jams for myself and my family, or for sale at Old Home Day, or for sale in the larger world. Becker said he himself has considered preparing food there to share, but also to make money. Someone offering a food preparation workshop, charging a fee to cover expenses and some payment for time spent, falls somewhere on that spectrum.

The policy for cleanup after rental is that the renter writes a deposit

check to the town maintenance person, and if cleanup is satisfactory, that check is destroyed. Other fees should be high enough to cover Wendell's expenses, but low enough to avoid discouraging potential cooks.

Without a track record of use, or any firm numbers, selectboard members decided to treat "commercial" use on a case-by-case basis, and left a fee schedule decision until after they get a description for the kitchen coordinator job. Willey mentioned that she just fell into the role, and it could get to be too much.

There are two physical details that need attention as well. The dishwasher drain hose has a kink, and the hole through which the gas line comes in also allows water to enter. The kitchen representatives were not sure whether a plumber was necessary for either repair.

Broadband Updates

Heard said she has spoken to members of both the broadband operations committee and the construction committee, which have been meeting jointly, and that they have been satisfied with the current arrangement. The selectboard appointed Ray DiDonato to the operations committee. Heard said they are trying to keep the construction committee small.

Keller warned that many towns would be trying to borrow money for broadband projects at the same time.

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser said a meeting would be held in Worthington February 16 with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, looking for comments on their request for proposals. "Personally," he said, "I could not keep quiet." Broadband committee members are drafting a letter for that meeting.

Other Business

Aldrich said the town's insurance for the house at 97 Wendell Depot Road is on hold for more cleanup. The collapsing rear of the house has been taken down and shrubs around the building have been cut back, but Heard said there are still mattresses and an old couch by the dumpsters.

Aldrich mildly suggested that if the insurance company had listed all the issues at once, the town could have dealt with them all at once.

Town resident Harry Williston has offered to pay for a solar light for the town's flag so that it may fly through the night and be illuminated. But that light would shine through the window of resident Apollo, and Pooser said that other people have objected to the overnight light pollution.

For now, Williston has taken the flag down. Keller suggested that it may be lit on special occasions, and that the selectboard should send Williston a letter of appreciation, but decline his offer.

MCGOVERN from page A1

and provide some cohesion to all that's coming at us in this time of national emergency?"

"Naturally," McGovern answered, "the Democratic Party needs to get its act together, and needs to understand where the energy is. And it needs to be a place where people can actually channel their energy so they think they are doing something positive."

Coming Right Up

McGovern told the Northampton audience he hoped whoever wins the hotly contested 10-way race for the Democratic National Committee Chair in the DNC election, scheduled for February 23 to 26, adopts a 50-state strategy for rebuilding on the local and state level, and a program "not just progressive, but aggressive as well."

As of Wednesday morning, McGovern had yet to join with Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders and Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren in endorsing Keith Ellison (D-MN) for committee chair, according to Ellison's website *KeithforDNC.org*.

Ellison is the first Muslim member of Congress, and is co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, of which McGovern has been an active member since he got elected to Congress in 1996.

Only DNC members can vote in the election for chair; 224 votes are needed to win, but the math is not simple with 10 announced candidates. One quarter of the DNC members are state party chairs and vice-chairs. Most of the rest are elected locally, except for 75 members nominated by the DNC chair and elected by the DNC at large. At the moment, Donna Brazille is acting DNC chair.

The current Massachusetts voting members of the DNC are: Gus Buckford, chair; Deb Kozikowski, vice chair; Leon Bathwaite, vice chair; Kate Donaghue, Mel Poindexter, Sue Thomson, Jim Roosevelt, Elaine Kaymark, David O'Brien, Deb Goldberg, and Virginia Barnes. All state committee contact information is available at *massdems.org/your-party/state-committee*.

Reached by phone on Wednesday evening, McGovern told the

Reporter: "I support Keith Ellison for Chair of the DNC. There are many other good candidates. Obviously, Keith has been my colleague and friend for a long time in the Progressive Caucus. He has the energy and the values I think will be good for the Democratic Party. He believes in grassroots organizing and a 50-state strategy."

Sister Districts

As the town hall progressed, a number of speakers backed McGovern up when he called on his constituents to reach out to friends and relatives who might live in swing districts or Republican-majority districts in other states.

Lauren Kaplan, a Leverett resident, closed the meeting with a rousing call to action, demanding McGovern take leadership in organizing resistance to the Trump administration through a revival of a tactic used in the early days of the American campaign for Black Civil Rights, what others in the room began calling the New Freedom Riders.

Kaplan, a longtime Franklin County social justice activist who was prominent in support work for the Sandinistas in Nicaragua and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front in El Salvador in the 1980s, identified himself to McGovern as a member of Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution (*fccpr.us*), a group formed by local Sanderistas after the election.

"This reminds me of Vietnam days," Kaplan said. "The party is chasing after the people again... Like others, I'm focused on 2018. It is not enough to resist. We have to do that, but we have to offer hope. We have to build towards the People's House becoming the People's House again. So your idea about reaching out to our relatives in other states is a great one. Can your office coordinate that?"

Kaplan urged McGovern and his Progressive Caucus colleagues "to take a stand and choose a sister district: to require of each other that any representative in a 'safe seat,' defined as having no opponent or one that was won by better than 60%, select a Republican seat and

see MCGOVERN page A8

Town clerk Gretchen Smith created a draft public records compliance policy in response to the new state public records law. The board accepted it with a unanimous vote.

Montague has asked for support for a letter that protests a gas tariff, and as a member of the Municipal Coalition Against the Pipeline, Wendell responded by signing and sending a supporting letter to the state.

Sodium levels in the Swift River School water have gone up, but not to the level that requires DEP notification. Wendell and New Salem have considered reducing sand in the parking area and driveway or replacing the salt melting agent with something else, but anything else would cost more money.


Pooser suggested that the sodium source has not been isolated, and without doing that, any correction taken might be useless. Keller suggested looking into a filtration system, and looking at the cost of other approaches.

Keller said he would draft an RFP for demolition of the shed behind the meetinghouse in exchange for the wood.

The draft warrant for Wendell's March 16 special town meeting so far has two resolutions that support immigrants in town, a zoning change offered by the planning board, an update on the town's wetland protection bylaw which has not been updated since 1988, a road acceptance, and bills from prior years.


RECYCLE

PAPER
Week of February 19
in Montague



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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Town Makes Part-Time Police Job Offer

By ROB SKELTON

The Leverett selectboard interviewed police patrolman candidate Timothy Blais and offered him the job, at its February 8 meeting, which was delayed a day due to snow. Blais is currently a part-time police officer in Southampton, where he lives, and Hatfield, where he's from. Pending a physical exam and a salary agreement, he will start his six-month police academy training June 19, after which he will work full-time for the Town of Leverett PD.

"Small town policing meets my personality really well," Blais said, iterating his technical competence and praising pro-active, friendly police work. He was backed at the interview by his wife and by Lever-

ett police chief Scott Minckler. Up until June 19, he will work as a part-time officer at the hourly pay rate of \$17.58.

The DPU hearing for Leverett's electrical aggregation via Colonial Energy will take place Monday, March 20, in Boston. Representatives from Colonial plan to be there, but any interested Leverett residents can also attend. Contact town administrator Margie McGinnis for more information.

The planning board intends to loosen "accessory dwelling" restrictions to promote affordability, and revise some solar bylaws, the selectboard noted.

The Shutesbury Road intersection in southeast Leverett is chugging along, with a meeting of the

stakeholders completed, as well as the ordering of three new STOP signs.

The conservation commission is down two members. Jono Neiger of Rattlesnake Gutter Road was mentioned as a good fit for the board that's been busy lately, chasing after unpermitted cuts made by crews from Eversource, and issuing DEP compliance orders.

Affordable housing information sessions are March 15 and 23, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the town hall. Applications are due May 1 and 19, and a lottery will be held at 5 p.m. on June 29 at the town hall. On the one hand is a deed-restricted mortgage buy-down; the other a down-payment assistance program.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Policies... and a Policy About Policies

By KATIE NOLAN

The February 13 Erving selectboard meeting was a treat for municipal policy nerds, as the board approved the drug-free workplace policy, read through the records access policy, discussed the charge to the personnel relations review board, and considered a draft capital planning bylaw and policy.

The board also approved change orders for construction at Riverfront Park, reviewed the FY'18 capital improvement plan and recurring expenses for FY'18, and set March 15 as the date for a third public hearing on future fire department staffing.

The drug-free workplace policy, as approved on Monday night, prohibits use of drugs or alcohol at work, outlines how supervisors are expected to respond to use by employees, and sets criteria for when drug testing is applicable.

Under the town's public records access policy, developed to respond to new state law that came into effect January 1, the town clerk will serve as the town's chief records access officer (RAO), and each department will designate a departmental RAO. The administrative coordinator is the "default" RAO. RAOs are expected to keep a log of requests for public records and of the town's responses.

Citing Chapter 40, Section 21B of the Massachusetts General Laws and a town meeting vote to establish the personnel relations review board (PRRB) in the 1980s, selectboard member Scott Bastarache said that the PRRB had "morphed" from a board established to hear employee grievances into a policy-writing group.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith said that, historically, the PRRB was active after being established by town meeting, then became dormant, then, more recently, was asked to work on revising policies by the selectboard.

Bastarache recommended the town pass a bylaw establishing how policies are made, and also develop a policy about how policies are made. He said that a selectboard working with the PRRB on developing policies could "bog us down."

Smith agreed that, as the selectboard has worked with the PRRB on policy development, the process was "read, edit, read, edit..." Bastarache said that, with a policy writing subcommittee, lengthy discussions of

draft policies could occur outside the selectboard meetings.

The board reviewed a draft for a capital improvement planning committee bylaw. The proposed committee, which could be formed after a town meeting vote, would create a ten-year capital improvement plan after discussions with department heads, then pass the plan on to the finance committee, the selectboard, and finally, town meeting.

The draft bylaw specified that the committee would be composed of one selectboard member, two finance committee members and two citizens. The town administrator would be responsible for developing a capital improvement budget calendar by August of each year.

Riverfront Park

The board approved \$7,817 in change orders for Riverfront Park construction. Extra work was required because of finding an unexpected foundation and abutment, and relocating a tank to the front of the lot where the park is located. These costs will be paid from the contingencies fund in the construction budget.

The park bid package included specifications for the basic construction package, including roadways, parking areas, wooded trails, a "Great Lawn" with a bandshell, and a patio area with a pavilion and environmentally-themed play structures. Alternate "add-ons" of water tower signage and an additional sidewalk were bid separately.

Mountain View Landscaping and Lawn Care of Chicopee, the low bidder for the basic package, began construction work this fall and will continue construction as weather permits.

The board had intended to add the alternate tasks if the basic package came in under budget. However, this week the board received a notice from the state attorney general's office stating that the board could not act on the alternate bids at a later date, but had to accept the low bidders for the alternate packages at the same time as accepting the low bid for the basic package.

In the case of Riverfront Park, Mountain View was the low bidder for the alternate tasks as well. So, the board looked at the \$68,000 left in the contingency funding, and decided to approve \$31,200 in add-ons, including painting the water tower, side-

walk work, and educational signs.

Administrative coordinator Bryan Smith told the board that the building inspector determined that painting the water tower constitutes installing a new sign, and it will have to be approved by the zoning board of appeals, even though the faded former water tower sign saying "Erving" is still visible. Smith said Usher Plant reuse committee chair Jeanie Schermesser is developing a graphic for the tower: a simple two-tone green circle with a blue strip representing the river, with the word "Erving".

The board also considered using money saved on Tighe & Bond's owner project manager (OPM) contract to fund installing electricity for the bandshell and pavilion. Smith was asked to contact Tighe & Bond about the extent of its additional OPM activities.

Budgeting

The board reviewed capital improvement requests and recurring expenses for FY'18, including funding for water department inspections, Erving Elementary School requests for parking lot maintenance, new classroom furniture and new windows, a new roof for the highway barn, and a storage shed for the senior and community center.

Selectboard chair Smith spoke about considering capital expenses holistically – for instance, by building one equipment storage shed for several departments, rather than many small sheds.

The board also discussed having the highway department include parking lot paving maintenance for town properties as part of its paving program, rather than having different departments repair pavement separately. The board asked administrative coordinator Smith to speak to department heads and get additional information.

Last Hurrah

Bastarache proposed "one last hurrah" at a final public hearing on a proposal to change the town's fire department, which now consists of a part-time chief and call firefighters, to one consisting of a full-time fire chief, two full-time firefighters, and call firefighters.

The meeting will be held March 15 at 7 p.m. in town hall. The board decided they should determine what the process for selecting a chief would be before the public hearing.

STUDY from page A1

stated Brule, will be "located, identified, and then covered [back] up."

Ramsey said all owners who agree to research on their property sign a consent form. "When they sign the forms," he said, "they are aware of what the archaeology process is like: what might be part of the project, and what stays with the property owner."

"If human remains turn up, everything shuts down," said Brule. "The Massachusetts Historical Commission appointees come out, along with tribal people, and they make a determination as to what's going to happen."

Brule announced that some members of the battlefield committee had been meeting separately to discuss the upcoming 400th anniversary in 2020 of the arrival of English settlers, known as "pilgrims," in what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts.

A tribal member associated with the battlefield group had been appointed a committee on the Plymouth celebration. When that group found out about the Turners battlefield study, "now they want to have a statewide tour, or itinerary, set up, and obviously Turners would be one of those destinations."

"There's going to be a year-long celebration, with thousands of visitors from all over the world coming to Plymouth Plantation," said Ramsey. "We want some of them to come over to western Mass."

The selectboard approved the contract with the Pequot museum, as well as memoranda of understanding with three tribes that have been participating in the Battlefield Project. These tribes, which include the Wampanoag of Gay Head, the Narragansett, and the Chaubunagungamaug Nipmuck, will have representatives present during the archaeological research.

Block Grants

The February 13 meeting began with a public hearing on the proposed 2017 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The grant, which is federally funded, passes through the state Department of Housing and Community Development.

Bruce Hunter of the Franklin County Redevelopment and Housing Authority, which administers CDBG grants for the town, began the hearing with a presentation. He began with updates on the past two years' grants, then moved on to the 2017 proposal.

Highlights of the application include \$160,000 dedicated to the rehabilitation of at least four housing units; \$98,891 for social service programs; and \$166,400 for "Design Activities."

The social service programs included funds for the Meals on Wheels program for the elderly; for a youth leadership program administered by the Brick House in Turners Falls; for a "peer to peer" women's economic support program administered by the Our Women's Network through Montague Catholic Social Ministries; and for a Turners Falls site for the Western Massachusetts Consortium's Recovery Learning Community.

One of the design activities in the grant was \$90,000 for "bid-ready plans and specifications" to remove approximately half the buildings in the Strathmore Mill Complex.

Town planner Ramsey noted that

four of the six buildings slated for potential demolition were newer buildings, and that older historic structures would be preserved for potential development.

He also stated that the town would seek a state MassWorks grant, or a future block grant, for any actual demolition, should it be approved by town meeting.

The other design activity was for bid-ready plans and specifications for the Rutter's Park improvement program in Lake Pleasant.

The town hall meeting room was filled with advocates for various programs in the grant. A number of audience members rose to respond to questions from the board and town administrator. The board unanimously approved the block grant proposal.

Procurement

Police chief Chip Dodge came before the selectboard to request approval for the installation of an ATM in the public safety complex on Turnpike Road.

Dodge portrayed the proposal as a service to elderly residents and others who lived in the vicinity of the police station. He said the Greenfield Savings Bank would cover the cost of installation, while the police department would pay for the electricity.

Dodge estimated the value of the space that would be taken up by the ATM at \$3,000 per year. The selectboard approved the proposal, although a contract with Greenfield Savings Bank still needs to be negotiated.

The Warrant

Next, the board approved the warrant for the March 2 special town meeting. This involved a dramatic reading of the entire warrant by selectboard member Michael Nelson, followed by a vote by the board.

The main item on the warrant – and the primary reason for the STM – is an appropriation for "roof and sprinkler repair, debris removal, securing the building and other related costs" at the Strathmore complex.

Appearing as Article 10, this appropriation responds to a recent order by the state fire marshal for safety and security measures at the building. No cost appears on the warrant for this work but, according to town administrator Steve Ellis, a figure will be included in the motions presented to town meeting.

The warrant begins with a report by the committee tasked with planning a new building for the public works department, proposed to be constructed on Sandy Lane.

Six other articles on the warrant involve new job descriptions for employees at the Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF). These have recently been negotiated with the appropriate employee unions as part of the recent WPCF reorganization plan.

Other Business

At the end of the meeting, Ellis announced he would be attending training sessions in March to learn about state procurement procedures.

He also announced a meeting of the town's broadband committee on February 27 at 5:30 p.m. in town hall to discuss Comcast's proposal to expand broadband to unserved homes in Montague.

The next scheduled board meeting will be on February 27 at 7 p.m.



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PUBLIC NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

PROJECT: Montague Solar Project

LOCATION: Intersection of Millers Falls Road
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PROPOSER: Eversource Electric Company

The undersigned is submitting an Environmental Notification Form ("ENF") to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs on or before February 15, 2017. This will initiate review of the above project pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act ("MEPA", M.G.L. c. 30, s.s. 61-62I). Copies of the ENF may be obtained from:

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978-977-0110 x 2332

Copies of the ENF are also being sent to the Conservation Commission and Planning Board of Montague where they may be inspected.

The Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs will publish notice of the ENF in the Environmental Monitor, will receive public comments on the project for 20 days, and will then decide, within ten days, if an environmental Impact Report is needed. A site visit and consultation session on the project may also be scheduled. All persons wishing to comment on the project, or to be notified of a site visit or consultation session, should write to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs, 100 Cambridge St., Suite 900, Boston, Massachusetts 02114, Attention: MEPA Office, referencing the above project.

By Eversource Electric Company.

WALKOUT from page A1

Sullivan said that the administration had not canceled the survey. "I encouraged them, 'if you're interested, you should still do it—I think it's meaningful information,'" he said.

"The school committee and I feel like the decision shouldn't be driven by what's most popular, but it's still of interest. Let kids have their voice. Or adults, for that matter, if they still want to do the referendum."

Sophomore Owen Darling said that he had been "pretty disappointed" when he heard the news of the school committee vote, and that Wednesday's walkout was the first protest action he had participated in.

At the request of school officials, Montague police supervised the students, who marched directly in the street behind a blue marching band banner emblazoned with a head-dressed Plains Indian.

Junior Zack Lastowski estimated that "35 to 50 percent" of the high school's population may have walked out. As of October, 231 students were enrolled at the high school.

"I hope they decide to change their minds about the mascot," said Lastowski, who was returning to class after the action. "But no one can really tell."

Vega described the scene when the students arrived at the administration building as "pretty hectic."

"The superintendent talked to us," she said. "I don't think it was fair, because we were never taught about what happened around here, but he wanted to put money into changing people's uniforms."

Sullivan met with the protesters in the largest indoor space in the building, the district's professional development room.

"They were really making a strong effort to ask thoughtful or respectful questions," said Kara McLaughlin, director of the Gill-Montague Community School Partnership, whose office is in the building. "Most of the time. There was definitely some bubbling up of frustration."

Protest Livestreamed

Parents and other community adults gathered at the building, but were asked to stay outside while students met with the superintendent. One student broadcast the conversation using Facebook Live,

allowing viewers to send comments as it was happening.

As Sullivan fielded the protesting students' questions, 64 online commenters, including many community adults and alumni, provided live feedback and guidance.

Many of their comments were hostile to Sullivan, who was called a "bitch," a "nerd," an "idiot," "racist," "Sue Gee all over again," a "clown," "an asshole," a "dipshit," a "douche," a "jackass," and a "rat."

"Hitler ass has to have it his way," wrote Dave Lewis of Turners Falls. "May he rot in hell."

James Andrew Stevens, who identified himself as a member of the class of 1986, wrote that onetime district superintendent Daniel Morrison "would have head butted this guy!"

"This guy needs ass kicking," wrote Billie Ann Hudson.

"He was stuffed in a locker when he was young," added Chris Perkins. "[P]ut him back in one!"

Generally, though, the comments were supportive of the students.

"Keep pressuring him kids!!!" wrote Lew Collins. "Pressure him to apologize. Ask him why he won't."

"This is what the Turners Falls Indians is all about. So proud of all of you," wrote Carolyn Murray.

In the actual meeting, students complained to Sullivan that they had not heard from local Native Americans who supported the school's keeping the team name, and that the school committee had held its meeting on an evening when athletic events were scheduled.

"We're not happy because the school committee made its decision before the town had its vote, and before we were able to get out our survey," said student council president Riley Wood.

One student told Sullivan that after news of the school committee's decision came out, her social media feed filled with "posts about how they are going to keep wearing their uniforms, they're going to keep referring to themselves as the Indians, and you can't take that away."

Something to Remember

"They were very respectful," said Sullivan of the students who met with him. "They don't feel that they've been listened to sufficiently, and they have some issues with how

some of the process has gone so far, which is kind of understandable."

"It's a pretty cool experience," Owen Darling said, as he marched with a contingent of about 50 students back down Montague Street to the high school after the meeting with Sullivan. "It's not good, what's going on. But it's definitely something to remember, so I thought I'd take part in it."

Darling said he felt the school had been unfairly singled out. "You go to Mohawk Regional High School, and they have a big Indian headdress in their gym. And it's like, you're going to do that to us, but we don't have any logos anywhere. All you see [here] is just the 'Indians' printed there... It's kind of irritating to me, that it's literally a half hour away and you can see that there."

"We didn't want to be the first class that didn't graduate as the Indians," senior Ricky Craver explained. "The principal said it was our right to protest, and our right to express how we feel, and that if we signed out, there wouldn't be a consequence for it. So we went for it today."

Craver said that teachers had been instructed to allow students back into class if they returned to the school. According to Sullivan, high school principal Annie Leonard, who declined to be interviewed, made the decision to allow high school students to sign themselves out, but required Great Falls Middle School students to obtain parental permission before walking out.

"When I came down from one of my clubs at lunch, people were surrounding us, saying 'you should come and walk with us,'" said one seventh grader. "I waited a long time to call to get permission, but it was worth it." She added that many of her peers had tried, and failed, to secure permission to leave the school.

As of press time, Sullivan was unable to report whether any students who participated in the walk-out were expected to face disciplinary consequences, but said he trusted Leonard was "going to make a good decision about that."

"As a superintendent, I cannot condone leaving school during the school day," he said. "But I also think what they've got to say, and their desire to do it, is commendable."



TFHS SPORTS from page A1

netted three.

Powertown outshot Green 26-25, with Bryan Baumann and Doug Haneski scoring the goals, assisted by Ethan Lafleur and Bryce Jordan.

Boys Basketball

Frontier 60 – TFHS 52
Pioneer 71 – TFHS 55
Hopkins 93– TFHS 56
Mahar 80– TFHS 61

Greenfield, Frontier, Pioneer. Turners won their first game against Greenfield back in December, but were beaten by 12 points in the rematch. They crushed Frontier by 20 points in their first meeting, but lost by 8 points on Wednesday. And Pioneer beat the Tribe by a mere 2 points in a very close game, but on Friday, Pioneer won by 16.

In fact, the Tribe from Turners Falls bolted out to a 7-0 record to start the season, but now sit at 10-8.

I have to disagree with my colleagues when they point to an academic suspension as the reason behind the slide, however. One player does not make a team.

And I also have to disagree that Turners will go "1 and done" in the playoffs. Turners has a wonderful

coach, and the team has played tough deep into most of their losses.

But one thing I will take away from this is: Student comes before Athlete in the title Student-Athlete.

On Wednesday, February 8, Turners fell to the Frontier Red Hawks 60-52. Turners seemed to have the game in hand in the opening period, but Red scored 5 unanswered points to close the quarter, and led 13-11 after one.

The Tribe regained the lead and stayed ahead for most of the second, but a late surge by Frontier put Red up at the half by 2 points, 26-24. Powertown outscored the Hawks 13-9 in the third, but in the fourth, it was all Hawks.

And as time was winding down, and after Frontier turned a 37-35 deficit into a 54-46 lead, the chants began: "Warm up the bus!"

Which was answered by the good-humored Turners fans with: "Who won the football game?"

On February 10, the Panthers of Pioneer beat Turners 71-55. Unlike their first matchup, which was a down-to-the-wire seesaw barn-burner, Pioneer pretty much had this game in the bag by the end of the third quarter.

At the midgame mark, Pioneer

held a 5-point lead, 29-24. They outscored Turners 23-16 in the third and 19-14 in the final period to win the game by 16 points.

And on Monday, Turners lost to the league-leading Hopkins Golden Hawks, 93-56. As in their first matchup, Blue played the Hawks tough early on, trailing by only 14-12, after a quarter. In the second, Gold came out on fire and stormed out to an 8 point lead, 20-12, but Powertown regained their composure and actually tied it at 26 all.

Hopkins retook the lead 31-28 with a minute-plus left in the half, and outscored the Tribe 8-2 in the closing seconds, which included a buzzer beating hoop way outside the 3-point arc. Hopkins increased their lead to 17 in the third, and panted on 29 points in the fourth to the Tribe's 9.

On Valentine's Day, Turners celebrated Senior Night, but lost to the Mahar Senators 80-61. Turners again kept pace early in Tuesday's game but were outpaced in the middle quarters.

Blue led 18-16 in the opening period, but Mahar tied it up with 55 seconds left. Then they hit a 3-pointer as time ran out, and led 21-18 after one.

The Senators increased their lead to 11 in the second quarter and went up by 19 points after three. Turners matched the Senators' 16 points in the fourth, and dropped the match 80-61.

Girls Basketball

TFHS 43 – Ware 32

Back in January on Friday the 13th, the Turners girls' basketball team squeaked out a win against the 6-1 Ware Indians.

At the time, it was seen as an incredible upset because Ware was a top 20 team while Turners was struggling to stay at .500. But since then, the Powertown Ladies have improved immensely and Monday's contest between the upstart 11-5 Powertown and 10-5 Ware was anything but a sure thing for Ware.

I spoke to Coach Ted Wilcox before Monday's game about his surging basketball team and his postseason aspirations. He said his team could beat Ware, "if we show up." And as far as the playoffs, he wants to play Lee again. Lee is currently ranked 16th in Western Mass, has a record of 15-2, and beat Turners by 3 points in the season opener.

On Monday, Turners Falls did indeed show up against Ware, and

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NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Committee Votes 6-3 to Retire “Indian,” Will Next Discuss Team Name March 28

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – The district’s school committee voted Tuesday night, by a 6-3 margin, to discontinue the use of the Turners Falls High School team name, the “Indians.”

The vote came five months into a districtwide process, prompted by a request from residents, to reconsider the name, which is believed to have been first adopted in the 1930s and has been variously used as a team name, logo, and costumed mascot since.

The committee chose not to wait for the results of a non-binding resolution on the issue scheduled for the town of Montague’s May election, when three of its members are also up for re-election.

The issue has provoked controversy and accusation since September, and on January 30, the committee voted to scrap its plan to devise criteria for the team name before deciding whether it would need to change. Tuesday’s meeting was held in the high school auditorium to accommodate a large audience, who arrived anticipating a vote.

Public Input

A number of speakers were allotted one-minute general comments as the meeting began.

Jasmine Goodspeed, who identified herself as Nipmuc, spoke first. “My ancestors fought and died during King Philip’s War – a war directly linked to the history of your town,” she said.

Goodspeed quoted two recent headlines from the *Recorder* newspaper: *Tool Town Braces for Indian Attack* and *Indians Invade South Deerfield Tonight*. “You think that we are honored by this,” she said, “but you directly mock us.”

“There’s good people in this town,” said Jeff Singleton of Montague Center, “and I’m very dismayed that the people who want to change this mascot don’t want to get out into this community and actually win people over.”

Singleton said that encouraging face-to-face campaigning was the “number one” reason he supported holding the May referendum in Montague.

“People caring is the first step,” said Amalia Four Hawks of Florence, pointing out that many Massachusetts communities have abandoned Native American-themed sports names in recent years. “With deep respect,” she said, “we ask you to join growing numbers of schools and institutions that are changing and evolving.”

“Our European ancestors nearly annihilated the Native Americans,” said Paul Voiland of Montague, “and over 100 years later, they sort of romanticized the legacy, and adopted it

for themselves to feel good.”

“This has been a difficult process on both sides,” said Alana Martineau of Turners Falls, “but it is still a process – I feel like a vote tonight would be premature.”

Martineau said she felt the committee should wait until after Montague’s referendum to reach its decision.

“People need healing,” said Anthony Melting Tallow. “We’re emerging, just as you are, from colonialism, and from a lot of the horrible aspects of history.”

Procedure

A majority of the committee – Sandy Brown, Heather Katsoulis, Jane Oakes, Christina Postera and Valeria “Timmie” Smith – invited district superintendent Michael Sullivan to share his perspective on the issue “from a pedagogical perspective.”

Sullivan spent about six minutes reading from a prepared statement (see page A2).

“In my opinion, there is no way to retain the Indians name that would not continue to present a civil rights problem, a pedagogical mixed message, and a misalignment with our mission and core values,” it concluded.

“That we did not understand these things in the past need not be anybody’s fault, but if we do not act upon what we understand now, it will be a lost opportunity to be our best selves. And that’s just what I think.”

Sullivan’s statement drew cheers and a standing ovation from one section of the audience, and stony silence from another.

Brown, Lesley Cogswell, Katsoulis, Marjorie Levenson, Oakes, Postera and Smith voted to reintroduce a motion that had been tabled at the January 31 meeting to vote to keep or change the Indian name, while April Reipold voted against doing so and committee chair Mike Langknecht abstained.

The committee then spent some time fumbling over parliamentary procedure before deciding the simplest way to move forward was to unanimously vote down, rather than amend, the motion, which would have charged the committee to vote at its “next meeting.”

At that point, Brown moved, and Smith seconded, a motion to “change the logo/name/mascot, and continue the process to find a new one.”

Deliberation

“I really think that we should wait until the town has a chance to have a say,” said Reipold, referring to a non-binding referendum planned for the Montague spring election ballot.

“Whatever the town decides, it would still come back to the school committee,” Brown argued. She recounted an email she had received

from an alumna of the class of 1970, a former drum majorette who “wore the war bonnet” at sports games.

“Now we have a different understanding – now she realizes that to wear a bonnet with feathers is a spiritual thing. It’s reserved for the elders,” Brown said.

She also cited a March 2007 referendum in the town of Natick in which 65% of voters expressed support for the Natick “Redmen” after the school committee there voted to abandon the name. The committee then upheld its original vote. “All it does is postpone it, tear the towns apart some more,” Brown said. “I think we have to start a healing process.”

“I’m not going to beat around the bush – let’s face it. There is a divide,” said Marjorie Levenson of Montague. “We’re supposed to help our students, and our district, move forward and learn.”

Langknecht said he would be voting against the motion. “You shouldn’t read anything into what my opinion may be on the mascot, because it has nothing to do with that,” he explained, saying he was concerned making a decision Tuesday would “shut off portions of the community from the decision-making process.”

“We should shoulder this burden a little longer,” he said.

“I keep looking for some part of this that will help people learn from each other, or become less polarized,” said Oakes, “and I don’t see that.”

Brown, Katsoulis, Levenson, Oakes, Postera, and Smith voted for the motion, while Cogswell, Langknecht and Reipold voted against it. The motion carried.

Next Steps

“Right now we are without a mascot, is my understanding of the process,” said Langknecht.

The committee discussed what its next steps might be. There was a general agreement that the community’s input should be sought, and that the committee itself should set criteria for a new team name; some suggested forming a “mascot committee” to lead on the issue.

“This has been – I think we all agree – a very divisive issue,” said audience member Warren Thomas of Turners Falls. “Maybe a suggestion is that the future mascot have some historical relevance, as we all thought, in our hearts, we had before.”

Ultimately, the committee decided to take a break from discussing the issue during its next two meetings, returning to the topic March 28. “We do have some pretty large agendas at this point,” argued Oakes. “The business of running the schools is a lot!”

Cogswell said she hoped Sulli-



Anticipating a large turnout, the school committee held its Tuesday meeting in the school theater, rather than the television room. About 65 members of the public attended.

van and high school principal Annie Leonard would work on “thinking about ways of healing, for the students – I think that’s going to be a real big challenge. The children are my number-one focus.... This is the time, now, to push that forward, and to really make some positive change.”

“I think you need to have counselors at the ready, because there’s going to be a lot of emotion,” Turners Falls resident Alana Martineau told Sullivan. “You’re going to have a lot of confused kids that you need to take care of.”

“I agree,” said Oakes. “The kids are always paramount... The district should be prepared for that, but I think, also, that’s where the families can be helpful.... I think as adults, whether things go our way or don’t go our way, we’re responsible for the children: all of us.”

Budget Discussion

Before its discussion of the team name – and in the presence of an unusually large audience – the board held a hearing on the preliminary FY’18 budget.

The district’s working “operating budget” of \$19,009,356, as discussed at the committee’s previous two meetings, amounts to a 1.5% increase over the current fiscal year – a target set to keep with member town’s “affordable” assessments – but requires \$459,952 in cuts from a “level service” budget. These would be accomplished with teacher and paraprofessional layoffs, deferred maintenance, and cuts in staff computer replacement and professional development.

“I realize that predicting the future is difficult,” said Montague finance committee member Michael Naughton, “but I’m not sure how much time we have.... I don’t want to be pessimistic, but is there any kind of sense of at what point the fruits of your efforts might be seen?”

Sullivan and business director Joanne Blier said that the net loss of tuition due to choice and charter, which doubled from around \$725,000 in 2012 to \$1.5 million in 2016, appeared to have “leveled off.”

Sullivan also pointed to strengthened governance and administration. “What moves the district is strong principals, and we have

some strong principals, and they are working very hard, and with good impact, good results, with their teachers. I think you’ll continue to see things turning around.”

In response to another audience question, Sullivan reported that a change to the high school team name would result in costs of \$3,500 to \$4,000 for new uniforms for the football team – the only ones that still bear the “Indians” name or logo – as well as \$3,000 to \$3,800 to replace the scorer’s table in the school gymnasium.

Policy Reform

Katsoulis, Oakes, and Reipold have been working as a “policy review subcommittee” to compare the district’s policies with recommendations proposed by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC). They had held three working meetings.

On Tuesday, they recommended nine changes in policy to the committee – mostly dropping or consolidating redundant policies, but including the replacement of a “student to student harassment” policy with one recommended by MASC concerning “bullying prevention.”

The school committee unanimously accepted all of their recommendations.

Other Business

The Friends of Hillcrest are seeking donations of books, which can be dropped off at the Hillcrest School through March 3. The district has gone out to bid for the stage rebuilding project at Hillcrest. Bid opening is scheduled for March 21.

The school committee unanimously voted to approve the district’s FY’16 annual report, and to officially state its interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for reimbursement for the potential replacement of the Gill Elementary School roof.

Sullivan and the committee discussed different ways to configure the 2017-18 school year calendar. The committee deliberated over a starting day and half-days, but did not take any official vote.

The school committee’s next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 28 at the Turners Falls High School.

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BREWERIES from page A1

forest shaded and speckled with sunlight, with red-spotted efts crawling on mossy buttressed trunks, on protruding islands of granite, and emerging, after the flood, from beneath beer-soaked leaves.

Newtonium fits well into the broad farmhouse style, with a hint of spiciness from the People's Pint saison yeast. The fruit is a deep cherry, bitter and tart. This beer has just enough sweetness to bring out the cherry flavor, but it has a refreshingly dry finish. It's more like chewing the bark of a cherry than eating the fruit.

There is a tinge of floral fruitiness from the cherry and the hops which perch gently on top of the slight malty sweetness. It feels rather like a wine on the tongue and puckers the mouth a bit. It was impressive how fully the cherry was integrated into this beer.

Poured from a can, Newtonium is a hazed gold, with the merest hint of red. The thick, pillowy head collapsed quickly, and the carbonation was a little low, for a saison. If only the beer could have been spotted like the eft!

It was a treat to drink a beer that captured the spirit of the Red-Spotted Salamander, and



The red-spotted newt.

DAWN MONTAGUE PHOTOS

seemed to be brewed with great consideration for the animal.

Newtonium is set to officially "premiere" at the Extreme Beer Fest in Boston on February 3, and according to the brewers, "a small donation will be made to the Conservation Trust of the DCR Massachusetts, directed towards the Wendell State Forest."

For a limited time, you can find Newtonium on draft at the People's Pint and Element Brewing, and a select few Massachusetts beer bars.

After drinking such an evocative beer as Newtonium, **Shea Theater's Rebellion** (also known as the Shea IPA) by Berkshire Brewing Company was a more pedestrian brew – and that's actually a point in its favor. There are many times that call for a beer that doesn't challenge the palate.

The Shea IPA is a clean, well-balanced crowd-pleaser of a beer. Even those who might otherwise be likely to shy away from something called an IPA for a fear of hops should not be put off by this one. It pours a cloudy darker gold, with a truly beautiful and lingering head.

The hops are certainly up front, but fruity and a little floral, and without much bitterness. As the beer settles slightly, the juiciness of the hops really emerges. We thought we detected a hint of sweet melon at the end there, which sets this apart from the sea of similar pale ales.

At 6.2% ABV this is on the strong side to be totally sessionable, but it was very easy to drink. It pairs well with a sandwich and good company. Only 500 cases of Shea Theater's Rebellion will be produced in the initial run, and it is now available in stores.

Twenty dollars from the sale of each case goes directly to support the continuing work of improving the sound and lights at the Shea, as well as toward the purchase of a large film screen and projector. The town-owned theater's new management group, the Shea Theater Arts Center (STAC), has said it hopes to install the projector in order to start hosting regular movie nights.



The Berkshire Brewing Company is selling cases of Shea Theater's Rebellion to raise money for the theater.

"When we had our grand opening last year," STAC founder Monte Belmonte told the Reporter, "Gary from BBC said he had an idea to help us pay for the new sound system that we were hoping for. We were honored and thrilled when he told us he wanted to brew a Shea beer. We're even more thrilled now that it's out."

The label design and printing were also donated in support of the nonprofit's mission: the design by Idea Collective in Easthampton, and the labels by Dion Label in Westfield.

We are lucky to live in a place where brewers collaborate rather than compete to bring us new and exciting offerings, and where businesses like Element Brewing Company, Berkshire Brewing Company, and the People's Pint are so willing to share their expertise and resources to lend support to such diverse causes as the arts and the newts.

MCGOVERN from page A4

commit real resources – money, staff, and organizational leadership – to win in '18!"

Kaplan's call, which culminated in an appeal to McGovern to "mobilize us!," brought deafening cheers from the room, and voices called out: "Freedom Riders! Buses!"

And McGovern replied, "I think that's an excellent idea."

McGovern responded to the idea in more depth, for the record, on Wednesday night. "I do think it's an excellent idea," he said. "And I'm going to pursue it. We need to figure out where those districts are, and we need a challenger" in each one.

"I will pass this idea on to the Congressional Progressive Caucus. If we can identify vulnerable Democratic candidates in nearby districts – like Carol Shea Porter in New Hampshire – or if we can work on toppling a Republican incumbent in a nearby state like New York or Pennsylvania, we will. And we will try to organize that."

Other topics discussed at the meeting included the March 10 march on Washington in support of the water protectors at Standing Rock (standingwithstandingrock.net), and the ongoing efforts of Northampton residents to welcome refugees to their city.

We acknowledge the work of Amherst Media (AmherstMedia.org) in providing access to the video of the town hall meeting, without which quotes in this article could not have been verified. Some quotations have been edited for length and clarity.

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A Visit to Cuba: A Unique, Modern Society

By FERD WULKAN

I had the good fortune to spend ten days in Cuba in January. The trip was organized with Bridges Cuba, a small tour company in Boston that I highly recommend. We had a bilingual guide and a driver and spent time in Santa Clara, Havana, Vinales, Cienfuegos and Trinidad. Five of us were in our sixties and three in their twenties.

It's an inspiring, rapidly changing, beautiful country that has survived U.S. attacks, assassination attempts and a devastating embargo for well over fifty years. Here are a few observations that might inspire you to go while you can.



"Viva Cuba": Patriotic signs like these are ubiquitous.

The Revolution

"A partir de Giron, todos los pueblos de America fueron un poco mas libres."

Translation: "After the Bay of Pigs, all the people of the Americas were a little more free." Seen on a large billboard near the Bay of Pigs.

While the Castros have governed Cuba continuously since 1959, the revolution has gone through numerous drastic changes. The early years saw the wiping out of illiteracy, the creation of superb free health care and education systems, a cultural renaissance, and the empowerment of the least privileged.

Still, with many professionals leaving the country, the impact of the U.S. embargo, inexperience and mistakes by the government, and over-dependence on the Soviet Union and, later, Venezuela, the revolution has been under constant stress and taken many turns.

Revolutionary monuments, memorials and museums are everywhere. The most moving part of the Che Guevara museum was his letter to Fidel resigning all government positions and announcing his departure to help revolutions in other

countries. He ultimately died in Bolivia, thanks to the CIA, and his remains were finally brought back in the late 1990s.

The highlight of the Museum of the Revolution was the totally irreverent "Corner of the Four Cretins" – giant caricatures of Batista, Reagan and two Bushes.

Gender and Race

"Cuban men dream of women who no longer exist. Cuban women dream of men yet to be created."

– Marta Nunez

The highlight of the trip was meeting with Marta Nunez, a Cuban sociologist who taught at the University of Havana for 50 years. Some of what we learned:

Women are 40% of workers (up from 13% in 1953), 2/3 of professionals, 63% of lawyers and doctors, 54% of scientists and 49% of the parliament.

But women do all the household chores, which are much harder than in the US – e.g. harsh detergents, no washing machines – and take care of the increasingly aging population. Nunez sees the society dealing with a "crisis of masculinity" in that men believe old myths

when in fact women are the primary decision makers and bread winners.

There is a long history of consensual divorce, generally asked for by the wife. Unmarried couples have the same rights as married ones regarding property, alimony, etc. so lots of couples don't marry.

Remarkably, the age of having a first child went from 18 in the 1990s to 27, just 25 years later. In 2013, a new labor code for public sector workers was discussed in workplaces and neighborhoods by 4,500,000 people. Despite nobody bringing it up, party leaders insisted on including language against sexual harassment.

Abortion has been free and legal since 1962, and birth control since 1964, for anyone over 16.

The start of private small business sectors has led to some gender bias since professionals, mostly women, work mostly in the public sector while blue collar workers are mostly men and work more in the private sector where pay is much higher.

Discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity was

see CUBA page B4

New Company in Town: Til Lalezar Theatre

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

TURNERS FALLS – Last summer the newly formed Til Lalezar Theatre Company quietly arrived in Turners Falls. Its internationally far-flung membership includes Tone Haldrup Lorenzen of Denmark, Vida Tayebati of Iran, and Grace Booth, who grew up at the Renaissance Community in Gill, after the end of its commune period. This Friday and Saturday they will perform their first production, *Happyland*, at the Shea Theater.

Til Lalezar Theatre is named for Lalezar Street in Tehran. Lalezar Street is known for being the first modern avenue in Iran, inspired by a trip that Nasser-ed-din Shah of the Qajar Dynasty took to Paris in 1873, where he was profoundly affected by the scale and ordered grandeur of the Avenue Champs-Elysees.

But today Lalezar Street is not remembered as a road built, as critics of Haussman's Champs-Elysees attest, to facilitate the ease of Napo-

leonic troops in defeating popular uprisings. It is instead remembered nostalgically as the street that, before the Iranian Revolution, was the center of the country's cultural life. Following the Revolution, most of the theaters, cabarets, and gathering spaces were shut down, and artistic expression became truncated by Islamic Law.

Tayebati describes Tehran's scene today: "There is legal, and there is underground. The Tehran underground includes 1,000 private venues." While artistic expression can certainly survive in secret, the civic benefits of vibrant streets, like Lalezar pre-1978, no longer exist. In naming their company Til Lalezar Theatre, or "Toward Lalezar Theatre" (which includes one word in Danish, Persian, and English), they want to create the feeling of taking back a space of freedom and creation.

Lorenzen, Tayebati, and Booth met at the Dell-Arte International School of Physical Theater in

see TIL LALEZAR page B5

IMAGE COURTESY TIL LALEZAR THEATRE



The troupe's members hail from Denmark, Iran and Gill.



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Old Man Winter

beach at Progreso.

Then later a trip to the real pyramid site, and the incredible Mayan meal of chicken mole, and the generous portions to sample the locally brewed tequila. And of course, the two waiters, Sleepy and Speedy, and the restaurant on the square. Speedy called us Ken and Barbie and thought it hilarious.

The unbelievably non-potable coffee at the hotel, which appeared to be a weak mix of instant grounds steeping all day in a huge urn. Our favorite evening waiter whose English was as bad as our Spanish, but who glowed with delight when we ordered margaritas and waltzed out to the kitchen, still dancing to the whirr of ice in the blender.

Then the week in Belize when we traveled most of the day with rest stops which allowed time only for the restroom or the purchase of food, but not both. We had foolishly left our Mexican visas in the hotel safe, and paid dearly for it at the border as we pled ignorance and foreign status. The soap opera characters at our hotel on the water, which turned out to be a B and B of sorts on the sea and fresh water combination of roily water paraded as waterfront. Traveling on Bluebird school busses donated to this poor country by the U.S. government.

Next, two seasons in Ajijic, just south and east of Guadalajara on a huge lake. The sweet little casita we rented for the equivalent of six

see GARDENER'S page B3

OYSTERGIRL'S guide to REAL LIVING

by Vanessa Query

#23: The Ultimate Tomato Sauce Recipe

TURNERS FALLS – Tomato sauce was one of the first things I got comfortable cooking and experimenting with. Maybe it was my upbringing in a heavily Italian-American region. Maybe it was because my first Food Network love was Giada De Laurentiis.

In the years I've been learning about and following a more ancestral health approach to my diet (paleo, primal, real food, whatever), I've discovered the wonder and magic of bone broth (or stock, or just plain old broth).

A few months ago, I shared with

you my methods for making homemade broths – meat/bone broths and vegetable broths from kitchen scraps. Feel free to email me at the address at the end of this column for a refresher!

I have a freezer well supplied with stock these days, and usually have a few defrosted jars in the fridge. One day, I was making a tomato sauce, but was low on tomatoes. I added some chicken broth. The sauce was watery, of course, so I reduced it. The final result? Heaven in a sauce.

So that's my secret, folks, for my ultimate tomato sauce: Add some

stock or broth to your sauce, and let it reduce to a savory dream.

Before we get started, an essential definition: Reduction.

Reduction is the process of thickening and intensifying the flavor of a liquid by simmering it (without a lid) until enough of the water evaporates.

This is an important part of making sauces and gravies, especially if you don't want to use a thickening agent – if you're avoiding grains and/or starches, for example; almost all thickeners are grain-based. Also, while thickeners tend to take away flavor, reduction intensifies it.

Tomato Sauce from Scratch

There are endless tomato sauce recipes. Most of them involve canned tomato paste. I got ambitious a few years ago and found this method of making tomato sauce from just fresh tomatoes and nothing else:

1. Get a lot of tomatoes.
2. Blanch the tomatoes. (Immerse them briefly in boiling water.)
3. Peel skin from the tomatoes. (The blanching makes this easy.)
4. Remove the seeds and slimy bits from the inside of the tomatoes, leaving just the firm flesh.
5. Dice the firm flesh (the pieces

see OYSTERGIRL page B8



Tomato sauce.

CREATIVE COMMONS IMAGE COURTESY DAVE MILLER

Pet of the Week

Hi, I'm Mary! Don't you wish there was a Kitty Constitution to spell out what cats want?

I'll take the mystery out of what makes me tick. Let me tell you up front that I am easily startled, so please don't approach me unexpectedly. I get all shook up (like Elvis).

Let me come to you for attention and we'll do just fine and dandy. Make sure you put catnip on your grocery list. Don't be rough with me when we play because I might reciprocate. So no tykes, please!

Instead, have a shopping spree and come home with fun interactive toys. See, I'm laying it all on the table. Oh, and I need my "me" time. Have I made myself clear?

Good, because I'll make a great companion to someone who understands my spunky, noble feline spirit. Come on down and talk to an adoption counselor about me.

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



"MARY VIP"

Senior Center Activities FEBRUARY 20 TO 24

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.

Wed-Thurs Noon Lunch

M, W 10:10 a.m. Aerobics; 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

Monday 2/20

8 a.m. Foot Clinic Appts.
Noon Pot Luck and Bingo

Tuesday 2/21

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

Wednesday 2/22

12:30 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 2/23

9 a.m. Tai Chi
1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 2/24

AARP Tax prep appointments only
LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or 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 2/20 CLOSED Tuesday 2/21

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
12:30 p.m. Friends Meeting

Wednesday 2/22

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs

Thursday 2/23

8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones

Friday 2/24

9 a.m. Quilting Workshop
9:30 a.m. Bowling
Movie & Popcorn

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

This week, check our website for a promo for the Gill Montague Education Fund's annual Gala. This year the Gala will feature David Lee's Elvis tribute, to commemorate Elvis's 40th anniversary year, as well as the high energy American rock-n-roll tribute, Joey Pucci and the American Longboards!

The Gala will take place on Saturday, April 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the

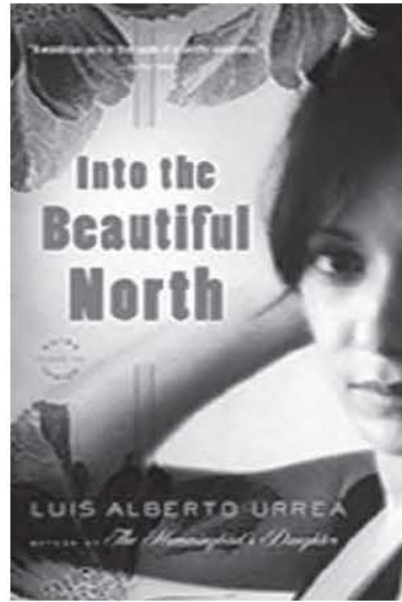


Turners Falls High School Theater, with a price of \$30 at the door. For more information on advance sales, preview the magic at <https://vimeo.com/203491104> or visit themgf.org. This is a great chance to support local students!

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, infomontaguestv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners Falls between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We'd love to work with you!

"Big Read" Needs Readers!



MONTAGUE - "The Big Read" is a community-wide read sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts. The idea is that many people reading and discussing the same book helps create community and bring people together, especially during the bleak of winter. The NEA recommends a dozen or so books to pick from, and organizers are to choose one for their community, and design related events around it.

Locally, Sheila Damkoehler of the Mary Lyon Foundation is spreading the word about the Big Read book *Into The Beautiful North* by Luis Alberto Urrea. The book discusses Latino culture and immi-

gration; the story begins and ends in a small village.

The US-Mexico border is not just a line on a map; it is a dream-like destination and departure point, surrounded by desperation and expectations. Urrea invites us to think of the border as more than a stark divide between nations: he reminds us that it is a place of convergence where meaningful conversations, and even love, between cultures begins.

"No one writes more tragically or intimately about border culture than this son of a Mexican father and Anglo mother," journalist Bill Moyers said of the author.

The Arms Library in Shelburne is a partner with this Big Read, as are the libraries of Montague, and Turners Falls RiverCulture will be the local organizer for related events to this book. One privately organized book group is reading it presently, but everyone is encouraged to read the book (alone or in connection with a group) by picking up a copy at one of the libraries. Study guides and other resources are on the NEA website: neabigread.org.

There is a public book group forming at Greenfield Community College that will meet for the first time on February 23 at 12:30 to discuss the first twelve chapters, followed by two March meetings. If interested, please contact Leo

Hwang hwangl@gcc.mass.edu.

Urrea is scheduled to appear for author's talks at Holyoke Community College on April 11 at 7 p.m., and at Greenfield Community College on April 12 at noon.

A RiverCulture-sponsored event will be planned for April, with input from readers, explained RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto, who received a small grant from the Mary Lyon Foundation to cover any related expenses. "I am definitely thinking about a Mariachi band, since there is one that figures prominently in the book," said LoManto.

Pick up a copy of *Into the Beautiful North* and come up with your own ideas to pitch for an event or other happening.



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was February 15, 2007: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

GMRSRC Reverses Course On Closing Hillcrest

Sticking their finger in the wind, the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee voted on Tuesday to rescind their decision to partially close Hillcrest Elementary School. Turners Falls resident Kristin Boyle brought the motion forward, and it carried by a 6-3 vote.

Consequently, both Hillcrest and Montague Center Elementary School will remain open, for now, while the school committee gathers more detailed and comprehensive data for a more widely acceptable reconfiguration plan.

Montague selectman Allen Ross recommended that the school committee rescind their decision. He stated "There is a widespread perception" the committee's decision did not represent the consensus of the people of Montague, which has engendered great tension between the school district and the town. He

went on to say that the plan does not allow enough time for students, families, and faculty to transition without unreasonable disruption.

A letter from selectboard member Pat Allen, also expressed concern about the lack of information regarding capital improvement costs that would be necessitated by the committee's decision.

The room was stirred by discussion of the petition signed by over 1,100 people in favor of closing the Montague Center School. The committee conferred about the legality of the petition, and were informed by superintendent Sue Gee that it has resulted in a non-binding referendum that will allow citizens to voice their opinions, "so that the representatives voting know the will of the people."

Broadband Access Meeting Draws Forty

Over 40 people attended a meeting of the joint Wendell-Shutesbury-Leverett broadband committee meeting Tuesday night at the Shutesbury town hall. Broadband

committee members and interested residents from New Salem, Warwick, and Royalston also attended.

Jessica Atwood, director of Pioneer Valley Connect, a project of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, and Maggie Bergin, the new manager of PVC's Underserved Communities Project, gave a presentation and answered questions about new initiatives they are working on to bring high-speed internet access to underserved towns in our region.

The lack of broadband access is a major problem in western Massachusetts, with one-third of the 101 communities having no cable or DSL broadband internet access, and another one-third having only limited access.

The primary reason is that private companies such as Verizon and Comcast have decided it is simply not profitable enough for them to make the investments necessary to upgrade the internet infrastructure to serve people outside of major towns and cities: the vast majority of western Massachusetts.

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GARDENER'S from page B1
hundred a month. This friendly small town where we walked to everything: market, bazaar, shops and restaurants, and unbelievable nightly sunsets. And the embarrassment of sharing language with some of the English speaking expats who spoke to the locals as if they were not only deaf but cretinous. And the special resilience of the Mexican people, who with little or nothing to brag on were happy, good natured, and full of fun. Those weekly parades and fiestas full of joy and music.

Then, two seasons in northern Florida, where we rented a cabin at a bass fish camp. Our noisy but cheerfully friendly neighbors the "loud brothers" who, because of deafness from years of travel in beefy engine motor boats, talked and played music or television at high volume. These passionate fishermen also brought us the sweetest, freshest caught bass filets we will ever eat.

We hiked all of the local state parks in the area, as well as some in the Ocala National Park, despite being hugely put off initially by a sign, to wit: "Don't Worry. Stay on the trail. Area populated with poisonous snakes, panther, and bear." Abandoning this offering, we moved onward and discovered the sweet trail to the historic settlement

which inspired Marjorie Rawlings' novel *The Yearling*.

We saw also our first alligator, walked out every day in a light sweater and sandals or sneakers for hiking, ate fresh fish and seafood, eschewed every imaginable fried vegetable including pickles and enjoyed some of the best seafood gumbo imaginable. And everything delivered in an upbeat southern twang which changed Ken's name to Kin and my nickname to Liindaa.

This past Sunday's big storm today dawned bright with an apricot sky over an absolute winter wonderland. Now the wind roars as the storm pulls away. But it can't last, as we are steadily turning the corner into spring. The days are bright and appreciably longer, the sun is higher in the sky, the birdsong more insistent.

In a short matter of two weeks we will start the tiny tomato seeds for next season's garden. It doesn't seem too long to wait.

Spring

*Sun and moon divide the sky,
Fragrance blooms on pear wood bones:*

*Earth awakens with a sigh,
Wanderer revels on the path alone.*

— Ancient Chinese poet



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Stove Explosion; Basement Fire; Mystery Noise; Siren Error; Stuck Trucks; Sheer Ice; Smash 'n' Grab; Stab 'n' Dash

Sunday, 2/5

4:08 p.m. Assisting Erving for male and 1-year-old child who have fallen and hit their heads.

7:54 p.m. Lake Pleasant Road caller states mother's black and white border collie is missing.

9:38 p.m. Vehicle rear-ended on Fourth Street. Citation issued for failure to take care while starting.

11:05 p.m. Turners Falls Road caller reports vehicle struck a telephone pole and left the area. No description of vehicle. Responders found pole snapped and wires down; Eversource notified and road barricaded to one-way traffic at Dell and Avenue C.

Monday, 2/6

2:31 a.m. Officers made contact with male party on Millers Falls Road at request of Greenfield PD who was making threats to female in Greenfield. Advising to stop contact with two involved females.

8:21 a.m. Animal complaint on Oak Street, large black lab loose. Unable to locate.

1:37 p.m. Report of unwanted persons who brought belongings to apartment on K Street and have been staying without permission. Advised.

4:44 p.m. Accidental 911 dial from town hall.

8:57 p.m. Dog barking and howling, vicinity of Elm Street. Could not locate.

9 p.m. Assistance requested with unwanted parties at K Street apartment. Subjects left prior to arrival of officers. Advised of options.

11:38 p.m. Motor vehicle stop on L Street. Suspended license; officer request for assistance.

Tuesday, 2/7

8:06 a.m. Report of past breaking and entering at Red Fire Farm on Meadow Road.

8:40 a.m. Detective observed vehicle at Unity Park several times during a 20-minute period, request on record in case there are further issues.

10:36 a.m. Tractor trailer stuck at Turnpike and Walnut Street. Gone on arrival. DPW en route. Roads slick.

11:51 a.m. Request for assistance from Greenfield PD to divert traffic at Montague City and Greenfield roads. Tractor trailer stuck in underpass at Cheapside. Mountain Road also impassable. Request for barricades from DPW; cancelled.

2:04 p.m. Main Street caller would like to speak with an officer re: an ongoing issue with his neighbor. Most recent incident was

earlier today when he was plowing his driveway and his neighbor came outside and yelled at him. Advised.

2:22 p.m. General disturbance, possible fight on K Street. Call received from person who clears the snow at her rental property and aware that there have been people staying in this apartment that are not on the lease, and believes they may be involved in the altercation. Unable to contact leaseholder by phone.

9:25 p.m. Davis Street caller reporting that her electric stove "exploded," with a bright blue flash, and when that happened the power shut off in the apartment. She is also reporting that her eyebrows were singed and she may have small burns on other places of her body. Fire department investigated, MedCare cancelled: no injuries.

11:34 p.m. Female reporting loud noises from apartment above her on Fourth Street; noise has been going on since 1 a.m. Officer spoke with third-floor tenant; mother and child home and no loud noise from that apartment. Officer could hear loud noise in caller's apartment, but was unable to locate the source.

Wednesday, 2/8

3:28 a.m. Assisted motorist stuck in alley between Fourth and Fifth streets.

1:40 p.m. Suspicious person at Scotty's Convenience Store on Unity Street. [redacted] arrested for disorderly conduct.

2:14 p.m. Caller to speak with officer regarding ongoing bullying that has been happening to her daughter.

3:07 p.m. Caller from K Street reports seeing a white male with a [redacted] trying to stab another white male wearing a [redacted] shirt. She did see a knife and it did not look like horseplay.

[redacted] later arrested for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and disorderly conduct.

3:44 p.m. Female keeps calling and demanding that an officer come to her house on Greenfield Road due to her husband trying to put her back in the hospital. Female states no one is injured and her husband is not on the scene, however she wants an officer to speak to. Advised of call volume delay; officer on scene and advised of options.

field side of the bridge; Greenfield PD notified.

4:47 p.m. West Chestnut Hill Road mini-schnauzer ran away.

4:57 p.m. Safety hazard around the paper mill up to Third Street; kids in back of black pickup truck are throwing ice balls at cars in the area.

7:55 p.m. CO alarm going off on North Street.

8:07 p.m. Central Street caller states when would like officers to watch her vehicle, a gray Scion TC. No vehicle showing in RMV. She thinks her neighbors are unlocking her doors, but when asked if she has witnessed anyone tampering with her vehicle she says she has not and maybe no one has. Advised.

8:50 p.m. Twelfth Street caller says she would like to speak with a sergeant because the previous night around 4 a.m., an officer used his siren while attempting to locate owners of a vehicle in the way of plows. Female states that the siren woke up her 1-year-old and there has to be a different way to handle the situation. Officer accidentally hit siren button in that location.

Thursday, 2/9

8:48 a.m. Motorist lockout at Food City.

11:05 a.m. Minor accident, no injuries, at K and Seventh streets.

12:46 p.m. Report of breaking and entering on Meadow Road, separate from incident reported on previously. Advised.

1:03 p.m. Multiple reports of a tractor trailer or delivery truck stuck by Scotty's on Unity Street.

3:32 p.m. Caller reports disabled motor vehicle in front of his Montague City Road home. Moved off main road to change flat tire on Sherman Drive.

11:32 p.m. Male 911 caller reporting that his friend's vehicle was broken into. This was discovered when three males returned to the vehicle after work; multiple items taken and one window smashed.

Friday, 2/10

3:24 a.m. Caller reporting that she and her children have been disturbed in middle of the night tonight and previous nights by the town DPW clearing snow in the rear of her apartment building. She has left a message for DPW regarding noise level of the work.

9:50 a.m. Mail truck is stuck on G Street. Driver said it is due to a maintenance issue, and has already contacted his supervisor. All set.

10:40 a.m. Walk-in requesting to speak with an

officer regarding potentially missing person. Subject is homeless and last contact was a couple of months ago. Cross-agency check yielded no involvement with surrounding departments for over a year. Officer advised, BOLO issued.

11:54 a.m. Officer assisted motorist stuck on Hillside Drive.

11:59 a.m. Hit-and-run accident at Food City Plaza.

1:10 p.m. 911 call on West Main Street, smoke in basement. Ashes were dumped on deck and parties believed they had extinguished them, but there is smoke visible in basement. Fire Department advised.

2:35 p.m. Female on L Street wants to be on record that her boyfriend has been sending her harassing text messages re: an issue which took place in Connecticut involving their dog. Advised of options.

6:54 p.m. Caller on Eleventh Street states that ex-girlfriend called to say her other ex was unwanted at her home. Officer contacted female, who stated male was not on scene.

8:15 p.m. Caller reports road by the church on K Street is sheer ice.

Saturday, 2/11

1:37 a.m. Vehicle winched out at Unity and Park streets. No damage, driver given ride home.

6:05 a.m. Caller reporting dog left outside neighbor's house for approximately an hour and barking. Owner contacted, dog will be brought inside.

10:13 a.m. Report of a single car accident at Rtes. 47 and 63 crossover. Caller reports one vehicle off the road into a ditch; second caller reports vehicle off road into a tree. Montague Center Fire Department located a car through a field into a ditch area, vehicle unoccupied, footprints in the snow leading to a residence. Resident advised operator got into another vehicle and left toward Montague Center. Operator of that vehicle gave crashed vehicle operator a ride to the Bookmill. Officer spoke with operator at Bookmill, and father en route to pick her up. No injuries. Vehicle pulled out, air bag not deployed.

2:23 p.m. Two male youths acting suspiciously at Sheffield School. Subjects looking around as if to see if anyone was watching them, then went out of sight into the alcove at rear of building. Both wearing blue hooded sweatshirts. Units clear. No damage at school in the area where the youth were. Youths located and mother spoken with.

TV ANALYSIS

A Showcase of Black History

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

Sometimes movie studios and TV networks release things in connection with certain events. I believe it helps with them doing well with the public. This was the case with the movie *Hacksaw Ridge*, which arrived in theaters on November 9 due to Veterans Day being in that month.

That is what some TV channels did for February, airing programs that featured things like Civil Rights and famous black individuals, because it's Black History Month.

One special was aired early on cable: *We Have a Dream*, which featured stories about Black Americans who would inspire others to achieve the American dream because they have. Some of them are quite well known, such as Senator Cory Booker.

The BET network did another thing involving a famous black person in connection with the month. That was a three-part miniseries called *Madiba*, which involved the detailed story of Nelson Mandela starring Lawrence Fishburne and premiered on February 1.

Mandela was a huge black historical figure, due to all the work he did trying to stop the apartheid system that South Africa had, and ending up being that country's first democratically elected black president.

I think karma rewards certain people because of their actions, with a long life. To me, Mandela is an example of one. Also maybe because of his accomplishments people keep making films featuring him — two being *Color of Freedom* and *Invictus*.

Of course, on the History Channel they also did something in connection with February being Black History Month: *10 Days That Unexpectedly Changed America*. Episode 9 of this documentary TV series focused on Freedom Summer, which connects to a chapter of Civil Rights

movement that led the Voting Rights Act to pass, making it easier for minorities and poor people to vote.

Another series on the History Channel, *10 Things You Don't Know About*, also focused on the Civil Rights movement. In this episode, the host looked at the actions of Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Lyndon B. Johnson, and all the unheralded people involved.

It's appropriate for the History Channel to show again their remake of the famous miniseries, *Roots*, about one man's history, starting with his ancestor. If *Roots* doesn't scream black history, I don't know what does.

Surprisingly, to me at least, the PBS channel showed specials featuring African-Americans in a historical aspect. One, for example, involved black people who were the first in medical fields, such as Claudia Thomas, the country's first black orthopedic surgeon. Another, called the *Rise of Black Pharaohs*, was about black Pharaohs in a tiny part of Egypt. There was one on the *Black Panthers*. (My surprise comes from the fact that I characterize PBS to be more like the Discovery Channel, because it shows reality programs.)

I also think it's not a coincidence that *Pearl Harbor* aired on AMC in early February. I say that because it featured a real-life black sailor named Doris Miller, a petty officer at Pearl Harbor, who acted very courageously by managing a machine gun until it ran out of ammo. Definitely an important black person for the history books.

Beside the fact that TV networks generally broadcast certain programs in connection with holidays and other events, I believe the networks do this during Black History Month because they have great respect for African-Americans whose actions have made them an important part of our history.

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CUBA from page B1

discussed in 2010-11 in neighborhoods, unions and schools. While these were not considered that important at the grassroots level, the party passed strong guidelines anyway.

Homophobia in the media, party and education have dramatically decreased. It still persists, mostly as jokes behind the backs of gay men (lesbians are mostly ignored and not harassed).

Gays and lesbians do not openly have kids, and same-sex marriage is not yet legal. There is an effort to address this by changing the family code (including perhaps allowing more than two-person unions).

Nunez analyzed 17 years of Cuban soap operas and found them to be very positive regarding LGBTQ characters. May 17 has been Gay Pride day since 2007 with parades all over Cuba, and evening performances in the biggest theaters and on TV. While gays are widely accepted, Cuban women still transmit a macho (and homophobic) culture: boys are overprotected, do no household chores, have to play sports and prove they are macho. Santiago, the second largest city, is still more homophobic and TV star Maria la Castro went there in 2009 with new non-macho conga lyrics and got people to dance to them.

People's gender (on ID cards) is based on their genitals. Only if someone changes those can they

change their gender. There is an effort to change this. Most trans people are women becoming men. There is a trans woman parliament member.

Since 1959 the constitution says there can be no racial discrimination, with equal access to health, subsidized food, education, and a ban on discriminatory language. There has never been anti-semitism or xenophobia. Since everyone is mixed race, racism is less prevalent than in the US.

One example: kinky hair is considered "bad" and many women want to look like Beyoncé. African roots are seen in music, dance, sense of survival and rebelliousness. The census asks for color, not race, and Cubans characterize themselves as whiter than they really are, so sociologists can't correlate census data with employment, housing, etc.

But Nunez knows the worst homes have more dark-skinned inhabitants, while higher-up managers (closer to hard currency) are more light-skinned. Most people who left Cuba are lighter skinned and since they are sending money to relatives, this has led to some race-based inequality.

Cuba's stew of mixed races, called Ajiago, has been brewing since 1492 with immigration by Spaniards (often with Arab blood), Africans, Haitians, North Americans, Chinese, and some Nazi refugees. Cuba has only 1,500 Jews, down from 15,000 in 1957.



The highlight of the Museum of the Revolution was the totally irreverent "Corner of the Four Cretins" – giant caricatures of Batista, Reagan and the two Bushes.

The Economy

"Farmers have to sell 90% of their produce to the state.... and they get to keep the other 20% – that's called farmers' math."

We heard the quote above at an organic tobacco farm where we learned the details of the two-year process of making cigars, and had a chance to sample them.

It is very hard to grasp exactly how the economy works as it is changing quickly, with the state sector shrinking (still over 70% of the workforce, down from 98%), new openings for capitalists, and, as is true everywhere, people finding creative ways of circumventing the rules. Even before the recent changes, there were ways around the

rules – for example, if you wanted to sell a car, you could divorce your partner, marry the person you want to sell to, get divorced, leave the car to the intended buyer in the divorce settlement, and then remarry.

According to our guide, those people who were already a bit better off are able to take advantage of recent changes – e.g. open a restaurant in a building they own – but not so for others, thus leading to greater inequality.

We had a long meeting with a young hard-working Cuban economist who expects, like many Cuban professionals, to have no more than one child – to the distress of her parents. She works on a state commission charged with redesigning the entire Cuban economy. The people in her group disagree about a lot but are all committed to preserving state subsidies that provide free health care and education (K-grad school) as well as a safety net that ensures there is no homelessness.

But at the same time she believes in the need for more or different incentives, so that people work harder, and so that even without more capital investment, efficiency can be increased. However, she worries more that changes will go too far, than not far enough. She supports both existing regressive consumption taxes and progressive income taxes, and thinks Cuba has always been too dependent on another country – USSR, Venezuela – and she worries China may be next.

According to Marta, incomes were fairly equal ("pretty utopian") from 1959 to 1990, and good social

policies from then persist. But since the collapse of the Soviet Union, there has been more inequality.

With increased reliance on foreign capital and dependence on foreign remittances, those closer to hard currency could improve their living standards.

Getting Around

We stayed in "casas particulares" – rooms being rented by home owners, licensed by the state. These, together with restaurants and small shops, are the main signs of the expansion of small-scale capitalist enterprises.

The interiors of the homes were in many cases lovely, while from the outside, the buildings were a mess. Similarly, we were sometimes taken through the shell of a dilapidated building, up a few flights to a fancy restaurant. Tourism has quickly become a vital part of the economy.

The food was excellent, varied, and, while not cheap, less expensive than at home. The highlights were the delicious fruit drinks, eating flan every day, and the prevalence of lobster (even lobster pizza!).

Sometimes you see large numbers of young people sitting close together on a square for no apparent reason. It means you've found a rare new wifi hot spot. I managed without internet service for 10 days!

The roads were fairly good, but there seems not to be much maintenance. One out of six cars are American from the 1950s (with horrible exhaust). There are clearly a lot of creative mechanics in Cuba! There are also a lot of Russian cars, and newer ones from China.

People are friendly without being overbearing. The young women in our group felt safer on the streets than at home. There is little violent crime. We saw a very few people begging, to the great distress of our guide who said this is a new phenomenon, the ugly side of capitalist development.

If you want the feel of old European cities, with narrow cobblestone streets and beautiful architecture, go no further than Old Havana, Cienfuegos and Trinidad.

And if you want to get some idea what a topsy-turvy blend of socialism and capitalism can look like, go to Cuba before Trump reimposes a ban.



Organic farming in Vinales.

TURNERS FALLS HIGH SCHOOL
Second Quarter Honor Roll

Grade 9

First Honors

- Mirela Cioclea
- Josy Hunter
- Shelby Jordan
- Juliet Keefe
- Joseph Kochan
- Alyson Murphy
- Dabney Rollins
- Vy Sok
- Maily Torres-Beanvenutty
- Brody Trott
- Abigail Waite
- Allison Wheeler

Second Honors

- Spencer Blair
- Hailey Bogusz
- Cameron Bradley
- Chelsea Curtis
- Liam Driscoll
- Kody Fisher
- Joshua Gaulin
- Eliza Johnson
- Katlyn Miner
- Anthony Peterson
- Anastasia Romashka
- Lyuba Sankova
- Jaclyn Thibeault
- Luis Vinton
- Lydia Wright

Third Honors

- Willmarie Bones
- Jakob Burnett
- Dylan Carlo
- Karissa Fleming
- Mason Kucenski
- Trevor Lapinski
- Brian Murphy
- Lucy Spera
- Glen Sumner III
- Lindsay Whiteman
- Mackenna Whiteman
- Jaden Whiting-Martinez
- Madeline Williams

Grade 10

First Honors

- Cailyn Gobeil
- Jenna Jacobsen
- Anna Kochan
- Mireya Ortiz
- John Putala
- Holly Tetreault

Second Honors

- Samantha Bocon
- Ryan Campbell
- Kyle Dodge
- Rebecca Harrell
- Dizarre Lopez
- Sarah Studlien
- Will Turn
- Hannah Welles
- Cassidhe Wozniak

Third Honors

- Dylan Allen
- Alazay Bauch
- Reilian Castine
- Katherine Garcia
- Jacob LaBelle
- Garrett Martel
- Marissa Poole
- Summer Rain

Grade 11

First Honors

- Hannah Bogusz
- Samantha Kolodziej
- Snejana Lashtur
- Skylar Thompson

Second Honors

- Chase Blair
- Branden Chapin
- Madison Chmyzinski
- Amanda Cooke
- Noah Courchesne
- Sienna Dillensneider
- Chloe Ellis
- Peyton Emery
- Hannah Graves
- Tabitha Hamilton
- Maya Hanock-Pezzati
- Destiny Hubbard
- Kyle Kucenski
- Abigail Loynd
- Teala Luippold
- Kylee Mason
- Kayli Messinger
- Emma Miner
- Kirsten O'Brien
- Aliyah Sanders Madison St Marie
- Nicholas Taylor
- David Tricolici
- Alexis Wickline

Third Honors

- Alora DeForge
- Adrianna DiMaio
- John Driscoll
- Tallyn Shaw
- Rachel Tucker
- Riley Watroba
- Javoni Williams
- Samuel Yolish

Grade 12

First Honors

- Tionne Brown
- Savannah Donahue
- Jordyn Fiske
- Melissa Hersey
- Tess Hunter
- Alexandria Soucie
- Nicole Thibeault
- Riley Wood

Second Honors

- William Doyle
- Madelyn Johnson
- Bryn Kruzlic
- Zachary McDaniel
- Ian Moriarty
- Owen Ortiz
- Will Roberge
- Patrick Salls
- Emily Watrous
- Jeremy Wolfram
- Jordan Wyman

Third Honors

- Artyom Bocharnikov
- Richard Craver
- Nicholas Croteau

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TIL LALEZAR from page B1
Humboldt County, California. The school is located in Blue Lake, outside Arcata, which is also a town of 1,000 people with an alphanumeric street grid. The school is very small, with a student body of around 50.

But despite its diminutive population, it holds an important place in the world of physical theater.

HAPPYLAND at the SHEA

TURNERS FALLS – What happens when three young women from around the world meet up to create a resonant work of theatre that is visceral, athletic, and engages the mystery underlying all experience?

Eggtooth Productions is proud to present that result. The show is called HAPPYLAND and was born out of an M.F.A. thesis project at Dell'Arte International School in Blue Lake, CA where Vida Tayebati of Iran, Grace Booth of Gill, MA, and Tone Haldrup Lorenzen of Denmark found each other while pursuing their MFA.

HAPPYLAND, which will be offered in tryout form on February 17 and 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Shea Theater, pits the Poet against the Dictator in the wild world of a wrestling match. Tickets are \$15 and available at brownpapertickets.com/event/2806332 and at the People's Pint on Federal Street in Greenfield.

The women have created a comic, surreal, gender-bending drama in which the scrawny fists of Hope must battle the shadow of the System. In the development of HAPPYLAND, the three ask these questions "What is the effect of Poetry on a land subdued by Fear? How do the dreams of an Outsider cause a Regime to destabilize and crack?"

Created during the rise of Brexit and Donald Trump, HAPPYLAND mirrors a social reality with themes of individualism, fear of the elite, gender wars, and late-stage democracy.

Til Lalezar's graduating class of ten people represented six different nationalities. Physical theater, the style of acting taught at Dell-Arte, is a kind of theater that emphasizes movement as its means of expression. Clown, mime, and dance, as well as the eponymous *Commedia dell'arte*, are all types of physical theater. "The body is the way we communicate," explains Tayebati.

Commedia dell'arte is a 16th-century Italian form of theater that was brought to America by Dell-Arte's founder, Carlo Mazzone-Clementi in the mid-20th century. *Commedia* is known for being an early semi-improvisational comic form that relies on three basic character types: the servant, the master, and the lover. Each character is exclusively motivated by food, sex, or money.

Like a certain genre of feel good kid's movies, such as *Labyrinth* or *Peter Pan*, and also every single episode of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *Commedia* always employs a circular story arc – an unlimited amount of drama and role-reversal can occur, but at the end, every character is ultimately unchanged, back where they started.

It also is the first form of theater in which women were permitted to perform. Because it's a style that relies on exaggerated, basically simple characters, its emphasis on gesture and movement is influential in physical theater to this day.

Tayebati believes one reason for its continued life is the characters and their wants: "Maybe it still survives because they are universal." Lorenzen concurs: "You put them in a different place and give them a different language but we all know them."

Mazzone-Clementi, the founder, was part of a small group of artists who reinvented *Commedia* in Italy following the second World War. As part of this renaissance of the Renaissance, Mazzone-Clementi did an American tour that resulted in teaching positions around the country. Eventually settling down in rural Humboldt County, Mazzone-Clementi and his partner Jane Hill founded the school in 1975 in a former Odd Fellows Hall.

Til Lalezar, influenced by *Commedia*, writes plays using a communal, improvisational process. To begin the undertaking of writing, each player brings an image or an idea to the group. Like a photograph of an enormous woman fighting a very small man, for example. They then use this as their jumping off point for movement and narrative. "We go on the floor and explore," says Lorenzen. "Through improvisation we find a story."


This methodology is what puts their plays on the level of the phantasmagorical. "It's not exactly a linear style," says Booth. "It's a collage and a collision of different things. There are surreal moments."

Til Lalezar, with members coming from three different continents, draw from the creative potential that comes from the tension and union of international dislocation and human universalism.

"Part of living in a different country is having a new freedom," explains Lorenzen. As outsiders in America, the style of composition that they learned at Dell-Arte, which is based on observation and interaction with the outer world, gives them perspective to see space here differently than those born here. "You are like a child," explains Tayebati.

The conscious knowledge of their different but overlapping realities, and the exploration of this multiverse, is a source for much of their work. "It's the idea of breaking down borders," explains Lorenzen. "We put worlds next to each other and create a new language together."

Knowing each other, while coming from such different parts of the planet, reinforces the idea of an essential unity that they see in humanity. Says Tayebati, "And then through it all we know that we are all the same."

In addition to writing *Happyland*, Til Lalezar has been building out a storefront at 12 Federal Street in Greenfield to use as a studio and community space. On the 24th of February they will have an opening event, followed on the 25th by a workshop that they are co-leading with Silverthorne Theater called "Creating Character." 

MISS STEMPLE RECALLS THE PAST

Part IV (May 28, 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.

(Miss Stemple's column last week described the facile style that characterized the writings of the late C.T. Bagnall, editor of the *Turners Falls Reporter*. She continues this week with other information about Mr. Bagnall and his effect on this community. Ed. Note.)

What angered so much the victims of this man's humor and sense of the ridiculous and merciless exposure of that which it was striven to hide, was the fact that he was always right. He was invariably absolutely certain of his facts and the truth and accuracy of every statement he made in print. He couldn't be caught napping and he never had to apologize for anything he said.

His memory was phenomenal and to the day of his death he could tell everything about the town and its citizens and what had happened from the day he arrived. He was a walking encyclopedia of Turners Falls history and so recognized by even his enemies.

Naturally such a man working in a raw field such as Turners Falls was in its early days, fared ill in many respects. The circulation and advertising of the new paper was all that could reasonably be expected for the first decade or two but not large enough to provide an adequate livelihood for the eager spirit at its head.

Mr. Bagnall early recognized this and enlarged the job printing department, furthermore going far afield for printing orders. He soon became one of the leading bank printers of New England, filling orders from banks and large businesses and institutions from all

sections. In this way he became financially independent of income from the *Reporter* and locally.

He carried on the newspaper for most of the half century of its existence at a distinct financial loss and simply as a public service to the community.

Too proud to explain all this, few Turners people realized that the publication of the newspaper was really an act of charity on the owner's part, though I am aware that the rank and file of the town's citizens supposed he was getting rich from the weekly and such printing as the town furnished.

Consequently whenever they took offense at something which was printed in its columns or when something they wanted to see was not there, they imagined they were getting even when they stopped their subscriptions or dropped their advertising.

In glancing over the files of the *Reporter* one gets a comprehensive picture of what pioneer Turners Falls life was like. Of course a large part of the matter had only a local or timely value and much of its significance and savor is not apparent to present day readers.

It is amazing to note, however, with what outspokenness the news is handled. Much of what was printed in the early days would not be tolerated today. The libel laws assuredly would not permit such frankness as then prevailed.

But the news as formerly handled added to the gaiety of life. Turners Falls readers of those times certainly had much to laugh at and over.

United Arc Hosts Support Groups for "Grandfamilies"

FRANKLIN COUNTY – You may ask, just what are Grandfamilies?

Grandfamilies is the name used to describe families that are created when a relative or friend rises to care for other relatives children. This happens for a multitude of reasons, with the occurrence on the rise. There are even great-grandparents parenting again!

Along with the satisfaction of helping and the joy, there are many difficulties that also surface. Among them: grief for the child, the parents and yourself; financial strain on your budget; lost independence for you and your family; and perhaps the need to change or leave your employment.

We at the United Arc believe that this is often too hard to navigate on your own. To help alleviate your difficulties and added stress, we offer support groups where you are welcome



to come, to learn about resources, to share and be heard.

Talking with others who are in the same position, and possibly experiencing similar problems, can provide great relief. Our groups are relaxed, friendly and supportive. We invite you to join us at any one or all of the groups listed below.

If you are unable to attend a group, but would like someone to talk to, we can meet or speak on the phone.

Greenfield: at the Community Action Family Center, 90 Federal Street.

First Mondays, 5:15 to 6:45 p.m., unless there is a Monday holiday, when it is moved to the

second Monday. Dinner served, children welcome. Next meeting: March 6. Third Wednesdays, 12:30 to 2 p.m. Lunch served, children welcome. Next meeting: March 15.

Turners Falls: at the United Arc, 294 Avenue A.

Second Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., with snacks. Next meeting: March 14.

Fourth Mondays, 6 to 8 p.m., dinner served. Children welcome! Next meetings: February 27; March 27.

Self-care is very important, and too often, you are the last to make time for. Make this a priority for you and join us! Just drop in. Childcare is provided at each group; please call to reserve.

For additional information, please contact Pat Keith, United Arc Grandfamilies Resource Coordinator, at patkeith@unite-arc.org

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Secret Service Afoot; Pig Report Unfounded

Tuesday, 1/17

7 a.m. Assisted DCF with investigation at W Gill Road residence.

10:55 a.m. Assisted US Secret Service with investigation of subject on Main Road.

Wednesday, 1/18

10 a.m. Welfare check of subject on Highland Road.

4:10 p.m. Firearms issues with resident on Boyle Road.

Thursday, 1/19

9:25 a.m. Medical assistance to resident on Grove Street.

3 p.m. Main Road resident for past A&B complaint.

Friday, 1/20

6:45 p.m. Reported very large pig running loose on Bascom Road. Unfounded.

7:55 p.m. Reported fire in woods behind Stoughton Place. Located and

cleared.

9:42 p.m. Assisted subject at Mobil station with keys locked inside their motor vehicle.

Saturday, 1/21

12:10 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle parked at business on Main Road, same checked ok.

9:35 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with arrest.

Sunday, 1/22

2:10 p.m. Medical assist at Stoughton Place.

Tuesday, 1/24

4:15 p.m. Medical assist on Walnut Street, resident transported.

Wednesday, 1/25

11 a.m. Tractor trailer unit reports front windshield broken from passing truck on Route 2.

Thursday, 1/26

6:45 a.m. Alarm at NMH; resident error. 8:25 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle in the area of

Boyle Road. Checked OK. 10:30 a.m. Located dog running loose on West Gill Road, returned same to owner.

Friday, 1/27

8:20 p.m. Located suspicious motor vehicle and persons in motor vehicle at elementary school. Checked OK.

Sunday, 1/29

5:40 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Route 2. No injuries reported.

Monday, 1/30

10:30 a.m. Welfare check on female party walking on Main Road. Checked OK.

11:30 a.m. Past motor vehicle accident reported on Main Road.

3:40 p.m. Arrest of resident on Mountain Road, court violations.

9:30 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with restraining order.

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The Children's Page

YONDERNOD ILLUSTRATION

Would you have fun helping with the children's page? Your newspaper crafts, children's drawings and favorite activity suggestions would be a wonderful addition! Contact Beverly Ketch at kidspage@montaguereporter.org.

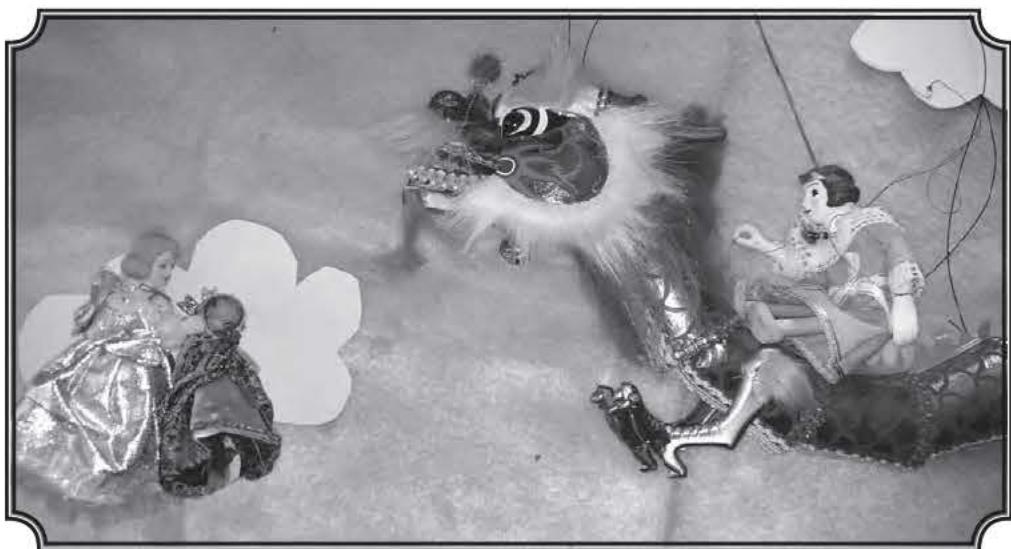
The Happy Reunion

Story and pictures by
BEVERLY KETCH

Señor Cat's dinner made the children suddenly very tired!
"Sing us our favorite lullaby, Embla!" they begged.
"Of course I will," she told them.
And here is what she sang.

*The sweetest things can happen in your dreams
Your dream friends wait for you to fall asleep
A leprechaun is floating on a boat full of pillows
beneath the lazy branches of the weeping willows
an elf is in a field with magic shoes
which make each step a bounce so high you touch the moon
It's there your teddy bear can talk to you
so fall asleep, you have so much to do...*

They were all sound asleep before she even finished singing.



Meanwhile, Junebug had a big surprise while flying over the sea!
She and Percy the dragon happened upon their friend, flying through the air.

"Hello, Christmas Tree Angel! How wonderful to meet you way up here! Who are you with?"

"This is my cousin, Noël Angel! She is coming home with me for a visit, but what in the world brought you here? You are flying on such a spectacular dragon."

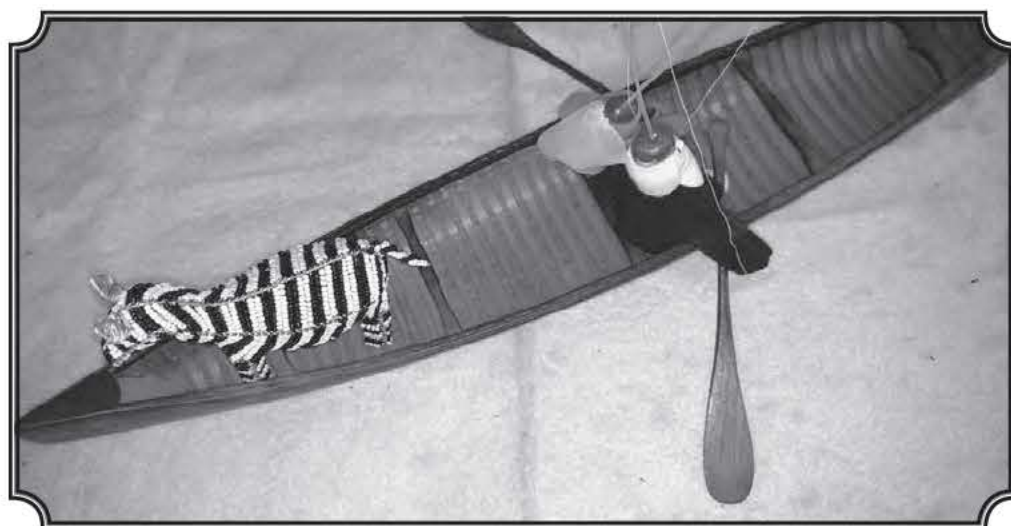
"This is my new friend Percy. I am pleased to introduce you and your cousin to him. We are searching for Mr. and Mrs. Magician, who seem to have disappeared while using a travel spell."

"Nice to meet you both," said Percy, "but I can't hover forever. We'd better go!"
"Farewell," said the two angels, "and good luck!"



On the way back, they all discussed the mishap with the travel spell that had left the magicians stranded, and future precautions that they intended to take with travel by magic.

Percy agreed to learn a special magic call they could send when they needed him in the future.



After flying for many miles, Junebug and Percy saw a boat being rowed on the sea below. They flew down to see who it was, and behold! It was none other than Mr. and Mrs. Magician, rowing with all their might.

All were very happy to see each other. "Oh, how thrilling to be rescued from this arduous rowing!" said Mrs. Magician.

"Yes, indeed," said Mr. Magician. "But can we fly back with our new pet Zebra? We are bringing him back so our children can ride him!"

"Oh, yes!" said Percy. "For me, you all weigh very little. But I will have to come back for the boat."



When they all finally got home, although it was the middle of the night, they went straight in to see the kids. They even brought their new pet Zebra right into the bedroom!

It was a very happy reunion. Embla was contentedly smiling with relief, but she was very tired, too.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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.

MONDAYS

Starting February 20, Greenfield Harmony Spring Session; come join the community chorus. No auditions. 6:45 p.m. Contact mcbass@vermontel.net for location and details.

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.

FIRST THURSDAYS

Gill Tavern, Gill: *Trivia Nlght*. 8:30 p.m. \$

Underdog Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Open Mic*. 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.

EVERY FOURTH FRIDAY

Community Yoga and Wellness Center, Greenfield: *Greenfield Circle Dance*. 6 to 8 p.m. \$

FIRST SATURDAY MONTHLY

Dickinson Memorial Library, Northfield: *Harry Potter book discussion*; trivia, activities and a snack. Each movie will be shown the following Friday evening. 1 to 3 p.m.

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

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

SpringfieldCulture, Springfield:

Looking for local artists proposals to exhibit and sell their works in 3 spaces in Springfield Art Stop pop-up gallery program. Details at SpringfieldCulture.Org/artistresources.

EXHIBITS:

Artspace, Greenfield: *2017 Annual 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.

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.

GCTV, Greenfield: *Alice Thomas's "Whispers" series*; paintings about endangered and extinct species in nature. Through March 28.

EVENTS:

All Week at Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Montague Favorite Places Investigation Station*. Come make a map or a drawing that will be exhibited at the Discovery Center in March and April. Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through February 26. Also School Vacation Investigation Station topics: Saturday 2/18 to Monday 2/20: Mammal adaptations. Tuesday 2/21 to Thursday 2/23: Indoor Birding. Friday 2/24 to Sunday 2/26: Dinosaurs.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Cameron Winery, Northfield: *Northfield Library presents Trivia Night*. 6:30 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Karaoke Revival with DJ Dee*. 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Long-fellows*. Funky blues. 8 p.m.

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

Arts Block, Greenfield: *The Equalites*. 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.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Allysen Callery, Rob Noyes, Frank Hurricane and Joshua Burkett*. 7 p.m. \$

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

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Franklin County Sweethearts*. 8:30 p.m.

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

Art Block, Greenfield: *Wiki Good*. Hip-hop. 9 p.m. \$

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *William Apress, Standing Rock, and the 1833 Mashpee Resistance with Professor Drew Lopenzina*. Co-sponsored by the Nolumbeka Project and DCR. 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Northfield Mt. Recreation, Northfield: *Family Fun; Snowshoe and Campfire*. 1:30 - 4 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Shokazoba with JAM-ATAN*. 7 p.m. \$

Mt. Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: Local artist, *John Sheldon*, will present a new show based on his trip to Standing Rock with a "focus on the value of life-giving water." 7:30 p.m. \$

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

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Khalif Neville*. Jazz. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The B-3s Rock Trio*. Late '60s-early '70s classic rock. 9 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Live & Dangerous*. One night tribute to Thin Lizzy. 9 p.m. \$

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Brattleboro VFW, Brattleboro VT: *Brattleboro Winter Carnival Country Western Jamboree with Playin' Possum, Night Riders, Zydeco Connection, Colt 45*. 1 to 5 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Sing-along with Carrie Ferguson and Shelley Hines*. 6:30 p.m. '

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Klezperanto*. 7:30 p.m. \$

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *School Vacation Week: Favorite Places Art and Pizza Party!* 11:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Movie Night - Mel Brooks*. 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

New Salem Library, New Salem: Book discussion, *Invention of Wings*, by Sue Monk Kidd. 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open Old-time Music Session*. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope!* This week it's bears! 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Adynkra*. 9:30 p.m.



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Friday, 2/17 - 9 p.m.
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Saturday, 2/18 - 9 p.m.
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OYSTERGIRL from page B1 don't have to be tiny or uniform).

6. Add your seasonings: salt and/or pepper, fresh and/or dried herbs, garlic and/or onion... (Actually, you might want to add herbs, especially fresh ones, later in the simmering process.)

7. Cover and heat in a saucepan over a medium-high heat until it boils. Having a lid on while it's getting to the boil is optional, and helps it come to a boil quicker.

8. Lower the heat, remove the lid, and simmer until it reduces to your preferred saucy thickness, stirring often.

Sometimes I do it halfway – just peel the tomatoes and get out most of the seeds, that sort of thing. It's ok if it's watery, if you have the time and patience to reduce it long enough.

The Ultimate Tomato Sauce

However you choose to make your tomato sauce, add your broth before it's been fully reduced. Reduce the tomato sauce and broth together. This intermingles the flavors into one beautiful chemical reaction of flavor and satiety.

When I did this by accident that first time, I used chicken stock. I have since used other kinds of meat broths, in addition to vegetable broths. The meat broths give it a hearty savoriness while the vegetable broths complement and complicate the tomato flavor.

Add your finished sauce to boring old pasta, or get creative and cook chicken in it, or meatballs, or use it to make pizza, or chili, or use it more like a gravy for meat and vegetables.

How will you use your ultimate tomato sauce?

Vanessa Query, a.k.a. Oystergirl, digs all things local and sustainable. She writes about real food, natural movement, ancestral health, and more at theycallmeoystergirl.com. She welcomes responses and questions at oystergirl@montaguerreporter.org.



LEVERETT – The Nasty Women Art Show opened last Friday evening to overflow crowds who came out to support the fundraiser at the Leverett Crafts & Arts gallery. Organized by Nancy Paglia, the event was part of a nationwide response to the remark by Donald Trump to his opponent Hillary Clinton during the third debate (he called his opponent Hillary Clinton “such a nasty woman.”)

“I think Trump would have said the

SCENE REPORT

The Nasty Women Art Show at the LCA

event was a YUGE success!!!” said Paglia after the show, which raised over \$7000 for the Abortion Rights Fund of Western Massachusetts.

“I was delighted with the turnout; I had a feeling it was going to be a good sized crowd, but was overwhelmed when I saw that many people in attendance on Friday evening at the reception. A few folks came back on Saturday because they said they couldn't really see the artwork on the walls, because there were so many people the night before.”

All the artworks in the show were donated by local and regional artists. There may be another Nasty Women show held in the spring in Northampton.



Above: Mixed media piece, donated by Greenfield artist Whitney Robbins.

Left: Paper collage, donated by Turners Falls artist Barbara Milot.



A crowd checks out donated art works at the “Nasty Women” art show and fundraiser at Leverett Crafts & Arts last Friday night.

NINA ROSSI PHOTOS

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