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# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 15 – NO. 19

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 23, 2017

## The Week in TFHS Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

This week in Turners Falls sports, the girls' basketball team won a pair of 30-point victories and then fought Pioneer for playoff position; the boys got back on track, defeating both Athol and Mohawk; the hockey team tried to break the goose egg; and the community began dealing with their loss.

Because of the recent school committee vote, I will no longer use the title "Indian" in my columns when referring to Turners Falls sports teams. However, I will continue to use indigenous titles for those schools that retain their Native American identities.

As for the other titles used for Gill-Montague sports teams, the word "tribe" can refer to Indo-Europeans, Hebrews, Africans, Asiatic clans, and Aboriginal Australians as well as Native Americans. The word "Blue" is of Germanic origin. "Power" is from the Greek word meaning *true sense*, and "town" comes from the German word for fence. "Turner" is a surname, and "Falls" means downward flow of water.

It's Week 2 of the post-Indian era, and in an effort to smooth feathers as it were, I want to address some of the comments I've heard and read. Someone posted "We won!!!! Turners Falls is changing their mascot!!!!" in all capital letters and followed by nine exclamation marks.



Turners Falls' Abby Loynd goes up for a shot as Pioneer's Brianna Jobst and Olivia Rowe defend. Turners Falls defeated Pioneer 40-36 in the final regular season game.

tion marks. This doesn't help people to heal. Instead it's divisive, and perpetuates feelings of anger and loss.

On the other side, the school committee's decision was not made out of hatred or malice, and to quell another rumor, they did not plan their vote to coincide with the anniversary of

see TFHS SPORTS page A4

## Special Town Meeting Will Discuss Strathmore Spending, DPW Project

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – It may be that the special town meeting, which will take place next Thursday, March 2 at 7 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School, will be brief and to the point. There are only ten articles on the agenda, and six of them involve the same topic – the reorganization of the town's Water Pollution Control Facilities (WPCF) staff.

But the warrant, recently approved by the Montague selectboard, goes well beyond the simple "housekeeping" measures that often

dominate "specials," as they are called. The agenda will include a report of the committee tasked with planning a new garage for the Department of Public Works, proposing to spend \$11.5 million on the project, as well as a large appropriation to stabilize the Strathmore Mill complex in response to an order from the state fire marshal. The WPCF reorganization may impact the future of the innovative "Montague process," which has generated significant revenue for the department.

The first article on the warrant is "to see if see MONTAGUE STM page A7

## Let It Ride: Third Street Skateshop Reopens Under New Ownership

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – Mike George remembers well when the building we are standing in was Chick's Garage.

"My dad grew up with Chick," he says. "They fixed up a couple of my first cars. I used to wash my Datsun 280Z right here, when this used to be the carwash, after they painted it up for me... It was like 25 cents."

Life is funny sometimes. George is now the manager of the newly opened Let It Ride Skateshop, after his wife Lisa Garbiel and his cousin Charles Waryasz bought out



Left to right: Charles Waryasz, Mike George, Lisa Garbiel and Christian, the new crew in charge of the skate shop.

the former Playground Skateshop, an indoor space with a half-pipe ramp a stone's throw from Unity Skate Park. George, who grew up in

Greenfield and skated until he was about 17, started up again last year when Unity opened – bringing along his see RIDE page A8

## MADE IT TO THE TOP



Leverett selectboard members Julie Shively (left), Peter d'Errico (center right) and Tom Hankinson (right) welcome newly-sworn police chief Scott Minckler at their meeting Tuesday night. See meeting notes, page A5.

## Helping Students with Disabilities Prepare to Thrive in the Workplace

By MICHAEL REARDON

TURNERS FALLS – When Jennifer Mitchell first came to Franklin County Technical School, she was so shy that all she would do in class was sit with her chin on her chest and her hat pulled low to hide her face.

Mitchell was in the school's Pre-Employment Program (PEP), a unique program designed for students with physical or cognitive challenges. By the time she graduated in 2014, she had "blossomed," according to her teacher Charles Choleva.

"Jen was so quiet and shy when she got here, and then she opened up," he said. "She became comfortable with herself and found that learning could be fun."

The Pre-Employment Program is a small but effective program that works on educational and living skills with students, aged 14 to 22 years old, with developmental or cognitive delays. Academic skills such as reading, pre-algebra, and critical thinking are practiced daily. Life skills, such as cooking, laundry, and shop trade skills like auto detailing, recycling, laundry, and office technology give students a better chance for fu-



PEP graduate Kyle LaCoy washing a car at Enterprise Rent-A-Car in Greenfield.

ture independent living and job placement.

Mitchell, a 21-year-old Leverett resident, is one of a number of graduates from the program that have successfully gone on to find

see STUDENTS page A7

GILL SELECTBOARD

## Board Tackles Broken Plow Truck; Contested Easement; Housing Grant

By ANNA FORBES GYORGY

The meeting of the Gill selectboard this Tuesday night opened with an announcement that Gill residents could now sign up for the CodeRED community emergency notification system. The system, which the town has been in the process of installing for the past year, is now live. Administrative assistant Ray Purington noted that the website has had 50 hits, and 70 different emails and phone numbers have been enrolled in the program after the town posted a notice on its Facebook page last Friday.

"This feels like a very useful tool," said Purington. "It's something that I wish I had a week and a half ago, to put out the notice that trash and recycling collection had been delayed by a day. Those kind of notices are just as useful to put out as the emergency ones."

A food concession license for Ken's Roadside Diner was approved by the board. Board member Randy Crochier added that "in future years, this license should require a food license as well." All other town officials have signed off on the location, and weather permitting, the Diner will open in early April.

see GILL page A5

## Group Aims to Reduce Pain Through Weekly Peer Support

By JOE KWIECINSKI

GREENFIELD – Imagine yourself in chronic pain. Your nervous system sends out feelings of aching, tingling, stinging and/or burning. The pain may be sharp or acute.

Imagine you're also feeling alone: suffering from isolation, alienation, depression, demoralization, and other emotional and social reactions to that continual, unremitting pain.

Thanks to the Pain Pals of Franklin County, a program of the YMCA in Greenfield,

fellow chronic sufferers can help you feel better. Pain Pals is a peer-to-peer group that enables afflicted people to gather and share their experiences; make suggestions as to what can be useful in pain reduction; and gain physical and emotional support.

see PAIN page A5



Pain Pals meets weekly at the YMCA in Greenfield.

# The Montague Reporter

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Lunchtime at the 2nd Street Baking Co. in Turners Falls on Wednesday.

## Safe Communities: Where Does Stan Stand?

If it wasn't clear before this week that Massachusetts' proposed Safe Communities Act (HD.3052 / SD. 1596) would be one of the most important bills going before the state legislature this session, it is now.

Boston's own native son John F. Kelly, Secretary of Homeland Security, has issued memoranda fundamentally altering how Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) approach their jobs, asserting that undocumented immigrants collectively "routinely victimize Americans" – despite widely available data showing they are on the whole *less* likely to commit crimes than the rest of us.

The federal government's plan is to hire 10,000 additional ICE agents, build new detention centers, and, bizarrely, send some people to be held prisoner in Mexico even if that's not where they're from.

The feds also seek to breathe new life into the controversial 287(g) program, under which Homeland Security may deputize state and local police into immigration enforcement "task forces," as well as file "detainers" ordering departments not to release residents picked up for minor infractions such as traffic violations.

No more selective enforcement, in other words; no more of the hard-fought political and economic stalemate that kept 11 million immigrants firmly at the bottom of the American workforce, but within it. It seems that they are now more useful as fodder for a new sort of jobs program – which makes sense, because they're how the guy at the top got *his* job.

The feeling locally, at least officially, is that nobody's anxious to help round up their neighbors.

Leverett's town leaders, we read elsewhere in this edition, are "not looking to make headlines" on the issue, nor to have their police intrude in residents' business. Gill's deflected a request for a "sanctuary" ordinance over concerns about the possible loss of federal grant money. Wendell voters will discuss the matter at a special town meeting March 16.

On January 29, the Gill-Montague school administration publicly affirmed its "policy of providing equal access to undocumented students," as well as to "all children... regardless of the status of their parents/guardians."

Admirably, this message was reposted online by Montague Police

Chief Chip Dodge, who promised his own department would "provide only the best police services to and for any resident of the Town of Montague regardless of your immigration status."

"We have not received any orders to do otherwise and we don't want anyone to think they won't have help available to them in their time of need," he wrote. "We are a strong community when we work together, let's increase our strength during these difficult times."

Amen to that! But it's not quite clear – in any of our towns, or statewide – what will happen if new and different orders start to come down from the top. And given the fiscal fragility of rural town governments and school districts, we hope we are not called to take riskier stands in isolation, town by town.

Fortunately, we have regional political representatives who understand the complexities of our local communities – and economies – and are willing to do what's right.

In our January 26 edition, Franklin County Sheriff Christopher Donelan told the *Reporter* that – though his own county jail does contract out a pod of beds as an ICE detention site – he feels it is "not good for America to have all these people living in limbo."

"I have no interest in my deputies being ICE agents," he told us.

And in our February 9 edition Steve Kulik, who represents Leverett and Montague in the state house, called for a "rational discussion... of how we deal with federal immigration policy at the local level."

Kulik has agreed to co-sponsor Safe Communities, which would guarantee due process for detainees and prohibit state and local law enforcement from being deputized by Homeland Security for immigration detentions and raids. If passed, this would be a great relief to local towns, local law enforcement, and the local families who live in fear of being torn apart by deportation.

We ask you to turn your attention to Stan Rosenberg, whose state senate district includes all five of this newspaper's coverage towns.

As senate president, Stan won't cosponsor SD.1596 because it originated from outside our district. But other senators can still sign on, and many look to him for leadership.

So what does he think about it? He hasn't said. Email [Stan.Rosenberg@masenate.gov](mailto:Stan.Rosenberg@masenate.gov), or call (617) 722-1500, to ask him yourself!

**Published weekly on Thursdays.**  
*Every other week in July and August.*  
*No paper last week of November, or the Thursday closest to 12/25.*

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## Letters to the Editors

### Kudos!

Kudos to the editor and staff at the *Montague Reporter*! You do a great job putting out a great local paper.

Every week brings another round of up-close reporting about goings-on and derring-do among officials and artists and other contributors to and residents of the communities that make this part of the world a special place to live.

And, on top of all that, editorials that bring a global picture into focus, somehow simultaneously far away on the other end of the scale of life and government... and right on the edge of where we live – "where the rubber meets the road."

Thanks also to the advertisers who support this great effort with their catchy ads and good deals!

Best to you all,

Peter d'Errico  
Leverett

### Saddened by Decision

I am saddened by the decision of the Turners Falls community to change the "Indian" logo.

For many years, the "Indian" was printed on many t-shirts and uniforms at the school. Students were proud to wear them and represent the different sports that the school offered. So many times, the local newspapers touted the words "Indians Won."

There are other notables: the Indian Head pennies, the Buffalo and Indian Head nickels, the Sacajawea dollar coin. I pray they won't be deleted – it's part of history.

Here in Florida, we are surrounded by East Bay Indians (high school) and Ruskin Elementary School – "Braves Today, Chiefs Tomorrow." There is a well known football team, the Seminoles. Years of unity and pride in their "Indian" logos have survived in these communities.

There's been a lot of sadness in the Indian – Native – history. When

immigrants arrived on the American shores, they were welcomed. They were searching for a better life.

That doesn't mean it was always harmonious – not since Adam and Eve – since the beginning of time. Through the generations, our country has changed and prospered because of sharing knowledge, talent, and innovations.

Through the years, I have filled out applications and resumes, and have checked (ethnicity) Mohawk Indian – it's a fact! The "minority" part, I have to ponder on that one.

To my many children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and also great-great grandchild:

Carry on the torch! Be proud of the word "Indian"!

Anna Jarvis  
Erving  
Gibson, Florida

## California's Weather: An Ominous Sign?

The heavy snows of winter 2017, following on the heels of the extreme drought and wildfires in 2016, have happened before, and the circulation pattern driving these dramatic changes has negatively shaped America's history: a history that may soon be repeated.

Similar great fires in 1910 all along the West Coast, and the effort to bring them under control, are detailed in Stephen Pyne's book "Year of the Fires, 1910." Pyne's work is fascinating, but what the author didn't cover was that the drought of 1910 was followed by heavy snow, just like what's happening now. In fact, in January 1911, the Tamarack weather station near Lake Tahoe in California recorded more than 390 inches of snow. By March 1911, 454 inches – almost 38 feet – of snow had fallen, the most snow measured anywhere in the world at the time!

Of greater interest is that the fires and snowfall of 1910-11 were a prelude to one of the strongest El Niños of the 20th century. The prevailing atmospheric circulation that gave rise to the fires of 1910, and to the heavy snowfall in 1911, also created this very strong El Niño. An El Niño circulation generally drives a lot of

ice into the North Atlantic from outlet glaciers along the west coast of Greenland. The especially strong El Niño led to a lot of ice in the North Atlantic in 1912. That ice sank the newly commissioned steamship Titanic, taking thousands of passengers to their watery graves.

California's recent heavy snow suggests a developing strong El Niño. If it comes to pass, food prices will be going up, probably dramatically. During an El Niño, India, Indonesia, Australia, China and Ethiopia all witness searing droughts.

Ethiopia's drought leads to a wider problem; the source of the Nile is in the highlands of Ethiopia. During past El Niños, the water at Aswan Dam on the Nile was just barely above the water intakes for the power turbines. A protracted Ethiopian drought might halt power generation at Aswan, and low water would lead to diminished crops in Egypt. Among their major crops is cotton – clothing prices will almost certain rise, too.

Other impacts of El Niño can be seen in Northeastern Brazil, where they grow a lot of coffee and soybeans; both are likely to spike in price in the year or so ahead. During the strong but short-lived

El Niño of 2015-16, coffee prices went up dramatically.

Heightened soy oil prices will also elevate the prices of all cooking oils; your French fries will be more expensive. Brazil also grows a lot of sugar cane, and during some past El Niños, the amount of sugar on the market diminished, quickly escalating its price. During an El Niño, Peru experiences heavy, crop-destroying rains, and the anchovy population along the west coast of South America virtually disappears. A significant volume of anchovies is used in animal feeds.

The American Midwest also experiences odd changes of weather, including drought in the Ohio Valley. Corn is a staple crop on Midwestern farms; it will cost more. Local dairy farmers will need to carefully husband their corn and hay crops.

The short-lived El Niño of 2015-16 was so strong, it was dubbed the "Godzilla El Niño." If the weather we're seeing this year is any guide to the future, the El Niño of 2017-18 might well be named the "God Help Us" El Niño. Stay tuned.

Jim Gildea  
Bernardston

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

The Franklin County Bar Association is pleased to announce its third annual **Art for Scholars silent art auction** this Friday, February 24, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Arts Block in Greenfield.

This free event will feature a silent auction of fine arts and crafts donated by local artists. There will be a musical performance by the Stoneleigh-Burnham School Chamber Music Ensemble and food donated by the Greenfield Co-Op, Mesa Verde, People's Pint and Magpie. A raffle will feature Red Sox and Patriots tickets, among other items. Cash bar. Optional donations accepted at the door.

All money raised will benefit the Thomas W. Merrigan Scholarship Fund for local high school students attending college. For more information, call the Bar Association at (413) 773-9839.

Erving Elementary School is once again hosting their annual **Dr. Seuss All-Ages Birthday Party** next Friday, March 3, from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m.

The centerpiece of the evening will be author, storyteller, and teacher Jennifer Swender's high-energy, 40-minute presentation

which involves the audience with reading, singing, movement and make-a-book activity.

Swender and her husband Paul Jacobs, who live in Shutesbury, have published eight picture books since 2004, and perform around the country at libraries, book festivals and literary events. They have two new books recently published in their "Animal Inn" series: *A Furry Fiasco* and *Treasure Hunt*.

Swender's performance is supported by a grant from the Erving Cultural Council, and is co-sponsored by the school library and PTO. After the presentation, everyone is invited into the school cafeteria to decorate a birthday cupcake.

This event is free and open to the public. All families are welcome, especially those with children ages 4 to 10 years old.

Belinda Lyons Zucker's **doll art collection** is on view at the Turners Falls branch of Greenfield Savings Bank, from now through Tuesday.

Stop in during lobby hours to view Belinda's personal collection of character dolls and the stories they tell. The presentation is part of the bank's celebration of Black History Month.

A snow date has been announced for the postponed **Eugene Mirman comedy show** at the Shea Theater: Friday, March 3. If you still have tickets, they will be honored, and tickets are still available through Brown Paper Tickets.

On Saturday, March 4 from 10 a.m. to noon at Greenfield High School, there will be a free **"Dress Drive,"** open to all students in Franklin County. If anyone has a donation, they can drop it off in the main office of the high school. There will be prom gowns in all sizes, and a small selection of male semi-formal wear.

Join in the **biggest game of Candyland** you have ever played at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, March 4, starting at 10:30 a.m. Enjoy sweet treats and have fun!

Designed for children of all ages and their caregivers.

The UMass Arts Extension Service (AES) invites artists of all mediums to a free, evening-long **"Introduction to the Public Art Process"** workshop on Wednesday, March 15, 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Public art projects, whether they are free-standing artworks or community engagement projects, are excellent opportunities for western Massachusetts artists to expand their vision, be paid to make art, build their portfolio, and have their work seen by a diverse audience within our region and beyond.

Turners Falls RiverCulture is sponsoring the workshop, which is designed to provide a broad over-

view of the skills and steps required to create a competitive public art project application at the local and national level.

Open to anyone interested in creating public art projects. Admission is free, but **pre-registration is required**; contact [aes@acad.umass.edu](mailto:aes@acad.umass.edu) or (413)545-2360. Light snacks and beverages will be served. The Discovery Center is located at 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls.

It's hard to believe that the annual **Franklin County Spring 5k** will be here in just a two short months. But warmer weather is on the way, and organizers are gearing up for their 4th annual race!

After the 2016 race, the group was able to make a donation of \$2,000 to the Shea Theater Arts Center. Without the support of their sponsors and community, that amount would not have been possible.

The 2017 race, to be held on April 22, will raise money to benefit the Stone Soup Café in Greenfield: [www.stonesoupgreenfield.org](http://www.stonesoupgreenfield.org).

Sponsorship packets were mailed to local businesses last month, but organizers are also reaching out to make sure no one misses out on the chance of securing a limited Title Sponsor spot, or any other 2017 sponsorship opportunity. The **sponsorship deadline is Tuesday, February 28.**

As always, do not hesitate to contact us with any questions. We are available by email at [FCSpring5k@gmail.com](mailto:FCSpring5k@gmail.com) and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fcspring5k](http://www.facebook.com/fcspring5k).

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

## GUEST EDITORIAL

By ALI WICKS-LIM

I am writing as a Montague resident and parent. I want to express my gratitude to the School Committee for taking action and voting to change the TFHS mascot.

When I became aware of the mascot and the controversy surrounding it, I was deeply uncomfortable with the cultural appropriation of Native people. It was shocking to me that there was an argument against changing the mascot, but I tried to understand. I sat at a forum one night and listened to people explain why they felt entitled to the Indian mascot, how it was part of their culture, part of their tradition.

I wondered what those people were being taught about culture and tradition that made them so protective of their own, and so willing to cast aside the much longer held, deeply rooted cultures and traditions of Native people.

At the same forum I heard people claim that the Indian mascot is a respectful tribute to Native people. I had hope that if the choice of mascot truly came from that place, then surely once it was understood that Native people were finding it offensive, they'd change it willingly. I tried to imagine this as just a big misunderstanding. I didn't want to learn that I live in a place where the problem is deeper than that.

Then I saw a video of the "Tomahawk Chop," which was so blatantly offensive that I thought it would end the whole debate. Surely this was not behavior any of us want to be teaching our children, I thought.

But the debate continued.

Last week I heard about a local effort to create a referendum in which the (mostly white) majority would vote on whether or not these depictions of a minority group are OK. I found this shocking, because both history and the law support that leaving issues of civil rights up to a popular vote is unjust and detrimental.

You simply cannot allow the will of the majority to dictate the rights of a minority. I was certain our selectboard would recognize this. I was hopeful they would also understand that even a non-binding vote on this issue would create a hostile and divisive environment here.

A few days later, there was a selectboard meeting, for which many showed up to express their concerns about the referendum. I was surprised that, with virtually no process or consideration of alternative viewpoints, it was passed.

I began to worry about a system of government that would allow for this, but was reassured by the fact that the School Committee had been doing the work of gathering information about this issue, and the decision was clearly and appropriately theirs to make. I was confident that those charged with creating a safe and inclusive learning community for Montague children would vote to change the mascot.

And they did! When the School Committee voted to remove the mascot I felt grateful for their work and for the stand they took. That night, I was proud of my community and happy to live here.

The next morning, though, I watched in horror as people reacted with fear and rage at having something taken from them. I read hateful, racist comments, vicious personal attacks, and bullying on social media.

I heard false claims that there was no opportunity for voices to be heard. There were multiple community forums where voices could be heard. Many people wrote letters, made phone calls and showed up at meetings to express their opinions about this issue. What people didn't get was an opportunity to vote on the civil rights of Native people. That is not about depriving people of voice — it's about taking a stand against institutional oppression.

Claims have been made that no Native people have been involved in the effort to change the mascot, but anyone who has attended a single forum would know that they have. It is easy to find the truth, and yet many continue to spread and believe these falsehoods.

Plans to protest the School Committee's decision unfolded quickly. A student walkout. An organized effort to wear the shirts with the Indian on them, and do the Tomahawk Chop at athletic events. Attacks on the School Committee for doing their jobs. Attacks on the Superintendent for advocating for a safe space, and better education about civil rights, for all of the students in this district.

It became clear to me that keeping the mascot was never about a respectful tribute. It was about people feeling entitled to keep what they wanted, rather than let go of something because it was hurting others.

## Week's Events Prove Need for Change



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TFHS SPORTS from page A1

the 1929 massacre. Furthermore, I'm not aware of any "outsiders" who purposely want to demoralize Turners Falls in an effort to have them lose in sports. In fact, in every single game since the Indian was dropped, adult fans from opposing schools have voiced their outrage to me over the name change.

That said, let's review what happened this week in Turners Falls sports. By the way, Blue-town went 6-0 this week.

Girls Basketball

TFHS 58 – Mohawk Warriors 25  
TFHS 69 – Pope Francis Cardinals 31  
TFHS 40 – Pioneer Panthers 36

A shout-out to the Mohawk players and fans. It's tough being 0-17. To put on your game-face and try your best, only to lose every single time. But the Mohawk Ladies kept their heads up and continued to battle and their fans went along for the ride. By the way, they did get that first W a day later.

Another shout-out to the Turners Falls fans who dispensed with their usual give-and-take with the opposing fans, and although one kid wanted to start the chant, "warm up the bus," the rest of the student fans ignored him and instead cheered supportively.

One last shout-out to Turners Falls. Losing your identity can be demoralizing. But the Ladies on the floor, and the fans in the stands, never let their school spirit flag.

In the Mohawk game, played Wednesday, February 15, the Warriors keyed on Maddy Chmyzinski, putting one player in her face while ignoring the ball. This freed up Turners' other four girls, allowing every starter to score in the first quarter.

Maddy did not get an uncontested shot until the third period, but this didn't stop her from scoring 17 points in her quest to reach 1,000.

Eight other ladies scored for Powertown: Aliyah Sanders notched 9, Emma Miner and Lexi Lacey each pumped in 6, Chloe Ellis had 5, Taylor Murphy and Abby Loynd both put up 4, and Dabney Rollins added 3.

A day later, on February 16, Pope tried a variant on Mohawk's defense. Instead of getting in one person's face, and playing four on four, the Cards concentrated on the outside, trying to block long-distance shots or going for the steal.

This led to Chloe Ellis lighting up the boards. After passing around the horn a few times, drawing the defense out, if there was no clear shot, someone would bounce a pass to Ms. Ellis in the paint. As a result, Ellis was a monster under the basket, tapping in 16 of her 19 points from underneath.

Two other ladies hit double digits for the Tribe: Sanders (15) and Chmyzinski (14). Also scoring points were Loynd (5), Kylie Fleming (4), Lacey (4), Murphy (3), Hailey Bogusz (3), and Rollins (2).

In a fierce battle this Monday, the Blue Ladies defeated Pioneer with last-second heroics. The ladies on both teams felt the pressure on the court. This was the game – the other two this week were just warm-ups. This was the game that mattered. The game which would decide who would be ranked higher in the postseason, and be granted home court if they meet again in the second season.

Pioneer came out on fire, and their defense swallowed up the Blue O. They were in everyone's face waving their arms and legs. This led to blocked shots, intercepted passes and steals. On the other end of the court, Pioneer missed a lot of shots, keeping the score in single digits after an entire quarter, 6-8.

The Panthers opened up the lead to 14-

6 early in the second, but their in-your-face aggressive style led to multiple fouls, and the Tribe chipped away at the lead one point at a time. In fact, the game was so physical that two different Pioneers fouled out.

With seconds left in the half, Pioneer was leading 15-11 and going for the last shot when Turners wrestled the ball away, and Loynd hit a 3 to make it a 1-point game.

The game seesawed along with neither team taking more than a 3-point lead as blocks, and steals continued, and girls were beginning to hit the floor and slam against each other. And the fouls continued to pile up. Then at the end of the game, with the score knotted at 36 and only 12 seconds left, Loynd drove to the hoop and scored the go-ahead basket. Turners intercepted the long inbound pass and Chmyzinski was fouled again, and sank two freebees to give Blue the win and a step up in D-IV.

So, the Turners Girls basketball team is in the playoffs for the second straight year, have cracked the top 20, probably for the first time since the Cournoyer era, and sport a record of 15-5. But the Blue Ladies are a different team than they were last season.

Last year, Chmyzinski averaged over 19 points per game but this year she is averaging 15. This is no slight to Ms. Chmyzinski however. The Turners Falls Ladies have evolved into a team with many weapons, and Chmyzinski doesn't need to score 20 points a game anymore. In the first two games this week for example, every single Powertown player scored points.

But be assured that Chmyzinski will reach her 1,000. (By my count, she currently has 954.) Whether in the postseason or next year, Maddy 9-Cs will soon have the title Maddy 1-K.

Ice Hockey

TFHS 8 – Mt. Everett Eagles 3

They did it! They broke the goose egg!

On Tuesday, the Blue Tribe from Turners Falls skated to their first win. It's tough being 0-18, and even harder when your first few losses were by single goals and in some of the later losses you gave up leads. But like the Mohawk girls and the Athol boys, they never gave up.

Turners shot out to a three-goal first period lead, and this time, they didn't give it up. Powertown doubled up the Eagles in the second, 2-1 and matched them in the third 3-3.

Bryan Baumann scored three of Blue's goals and gave an assist. Doug Hanieski also chalked up 4 points, with a goal and three assists. Mason Whiteman got 3 points on a goal and two apples. Cassidhe Wozniak scored her second goal since returning from injury, and Ethan Laffeur and Bryce Jordan also put biscuits in the basket.

Aurel Pydych, Camden Barnes, Alec Jordan, Adam Coffin and Zach Smith gave assists, and Jordyn Lavallee made an amazing 40 saves.

Boys Basketball

TFHS 66 – Athol Red Raiders 29  
TFHS 69 – Mohawk Warriors 58

First of all, hats off to all those Turners Falls fans who trekked down the Mohawk Trail to watch the Blue Boys play Athol. There were some quiet whispers about the Chief Wahoo-like cartoon Indian holding a spear which adorned the scorekeeper's table, every program, and was plastered on the side of the high school.

When feelings are hurt, it's easy to lash out, but the True Blue Faithful didn't telecast "we lost our identity, why shouldn't they?" Instead, they gleefully cheered on their team,



Turners' Anthony Peterson goes up for a shot between Athol defenders Evan Salsa (left) and Tyler Lutz (right) as Turners Falls defeated the Red Raiders, 66-29.

and quietly applauded for the Red Raider Cheerleaders – whether it was because they didn't want the same thing to happen to Athol that happened to Turners, or just because they truly weren't offended by a high school using a Native American symbol.

Athol was a welcome relief for the weary and title-shorn Boys in Blue. Coming into the Friday, February 17 game, Blue was riding a four-game skid and had lost 6 out of their last 7. The Raiders, on the other hand, came into the game with only one win.

Powertown set the tone early in Friday's game, putting up 25 in the first quarter while holding Red to just 9. Tionne Brown, who is usually tasked with specializing the opponent's best player, had a field day. He used his amazing vertical leap, where his knees just about touch his elbows, and his dead-eye shooting to tally 16 points for the Blue Tribe.

Anthony Peterson worked the boards on both ends of the court, and ended with 16 of his own. Nick Croteau scored 8 points, James Vaughn put up 7, and Jeremy Wolfram had 6. Also scoring for Turners were Tyler Lavin (3), Ricky Craver (3), Kyle Bergman (3), Javonni Williams (2) and Kyle Dodge (2).

"As the Mohawk Warriors host the Turners Falls ... Boys." This was said during the Monday's Frontier/Mahar girls' game to promote Tuesday's broadcast. It seems even the radio is having some difficulty adjusting to Turners'

non-moniker. And before Tuesday's game, the announcer made a faux pas, introducing Turners as "the Indians," to the loud approval of the visiting fans.

Mohawk was a good opponent for Turners' last regular season game. Powertown was on the ropes for the last half of the season, and needed a confidence builder to propel them into playoffs. Not to mention, a win could earn Blue the home court advantage in the first round of the postseason.

The mood on the court was competitive, and in the stands, it was playfully rowdy. It seemed that all the kids knew each other, as students from both schools called each other out by name. The constant hum of kazooos coming from the Mohawk section was matched by cheering and screeching from the Turners section.

It was Senior Night for the Warriors, and they started five seniors, but when Powertown jumped out to a 9-1 lead, they sent in their regulars. They pulled to within 2 points, 12-10, with a minute and a half left in the first, but that's as close as they got.

The Blue Tribe expanded the lead to 18 by the half, retained the 18-point advantage after three, and coasted to an 11-point victory.

Next Week: Round 2: The Playoffs!



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### PAIN from page A1

The organization meets every Wednesday in the 'Y' Conference Room at 451 Main St. from 3 to 4 p.m. Open to the public, there is no charge and no registration is needed.

Kathy Rimby of Northfield is the group leader of Pain Pals, which started last June. "I was invited to join," said Rimby, "and after a little time passed, they asked me to facilitate, and I accepted."

"Pain Pals is a terrific gathering of people who not only serve as sources of information and exchanging ideas and feelings surrounding the art of pain management, but also as a place where we share everyday life problems. Talking with others can really help when you're stressed out. We're able to discuss anything that relates to any kind of pain, physical or emotional."

Rimby notes that people might be concerned with confidentiality issues as they contemplate joining. "All members must agree that who you see, and what you hear, must stay in the conference room. The door is always shut and opens when the meeting is over. Latecomers, of course, can knock on the door and enter the meeting."

Pain Pals, which began in June of 2016, features a weekly guest speaker. Rimby works hard at arranging the appearances of experts in the field of pain management. One speaker gave a presentation on how to reframe negative thoughts

while experiencing various levels of discomfort.

Another presenter focused on the use of meridian points to help alleviate pain. Tapping on these points located throughout the human body and saying affirming statements, according to Rimby, can help reduce pain levels.

Kathy points out that one of the many things she's learned from the group is that each person perceives and feels pain differently. "The importance of the group," said Rimby, "is many-sided. I myself never realized that others were suffering as much, or more, than I was. People in chronic pain feel alone. Any ongoing pain is a serious thing that affects your entire life. Sure, there's big pain and not so big pain, but this isn't a competition of pain levels. The thing for us to remember is that, with our group, we're not alone anymore."

Pain Pals is sponsored by the Opioid Task Force, an alliance dedicated to helping people stop abusing opiates. "I have to fight to get legitimate pain medication to cope with my crushing pain levels," said Rimby. "That's because of the very real epidemic of abuse in our society. Our group, meanwhile, is about sharing, caring, and how we can live our lives with a little less pain. And, believe it or not, that's a big thing."

"Pain, and coping with it, is a very trying experience that people in general don't realize. Just the slightest ray of hope can keep a person on

track in their pain management."

For Kathy Rimby, her odyssey of coping with ongoing distress stems from a series of operations on both knees, both feet, back, and right shoulder. Originally from South Berwick, Maine, she worked as a chef for 33 years but couldn't continue due to the necessity of standing on cement floors.

Rimby noted that her pain level is constantly from 5 to 10 on a 10-point scale. She uses her well-developed sense of humor to get her through a lot of tough situations.

"There are good days," said Kathy, "and there are bad days. On a really bad day, I just sit in a chair with my feet up and watch movies. Pain medication just takes the edge off. I swim Monday through Saturday at the YMCA, and that is a big help. It gives me a total workout. I've lost 21 pounds since last summer, and I'm not on a diet. Being in the water feels so good that I'm praying that I can turn into a mermaid."

"I get a lot of overall support for my pain from fellow members at the Y. I really love the people there — both professionals and members — who are like a supportive family."

The YMCA also provides classes in yoga for chronic pain, water therapy, and a 16-person hot tub for pain relief, according to staff member Jayne Trosin. For more information on Pain Pals of Franklin County and these three other offerings, please call Jayne at (413) 773-3646, x. 448.



### GILL from page A1

Robert Perry was unanimously appointed to the Gill Historical Commission. His term will run until June 30th, 2019. "I think it's a great appointment," concluded Crochier.

Discussion turned to the Tri-Town Community Development Block Grant, a federal grant program for housing rehabilitation that Gill is pursuing together with Rowe and Bernardston. The town is seeking a representative for a three-citizen Advisory Committee.

The guidelines stipulate that at least one member of the committee be a low- or median-income resident, and the board expressed hope that it could find a good fit by approaching citizens who have already received assistance from this program who might be interested in the post. "Someone who has been through the process would be a natural," said Purington.

Board member Greg Snedeker reminded the group that "the Hous-

ing Authority would love to have the appointment made by the end of March," so preferably an appointment should be made before the next town newsletter. Snedeker agreed to contact those who have benefited from the program in the past, to canvass for an interested applicant.

Board chair John Ward noted that the funds in question were federal funds, adding, "If we did anything — for example, declaring ourselves a sanctuary town — where we put ourselves in the crosshairs of the current administration... these type of funds coming in to this town is what we would be jeopardizing."

"The more I read into that, I think it's questionable whether or not they could actually do that," responded Snedeker. "But, everything seems to be questionable these days."

The board was quick to move on to respond to a memo from highway superintendent Mitchell LaClaire, detailing the department's struggles with a plow truck

including a faulty transmission, and a leak in the exhaust which has caused fumes to leak into the cab. The memo emphasized that the fumes constitute a serious liability issue for the town.

A brief discussion of diesel mechanics ensued, with Crochier concluding that "short of taking the truck out of service, which it sounds like has already been done, there's not much that we can do until we have more information."

Last on the board's agenda were updates on ongoing town projects. The only developments to report were revisions to a draft of the easement for an Oak Street lot where parts of the owner's shed and trailer have been found to be in the town's right of way. The town has proposed that the shed be demolished before an agreement is reached.

"Well you know, shed happens," said Snedeker, and with that, the meeting was adjourned.



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### NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

## Consultants Rejected; Repair of Bridges Begins

By ROB SKELTON

"This is bullshit. I'm not signing it," said Leverett selectboard chair Peter d'Errico at Tuesday's meeting, referring to yet another attempt by the town of Shutesbury to game the regional school district's financial assessment formula to its advantage.

In the past, Shutesbury has claimed "inability to pay," which Leverett shot down with statistics showing otherwise. Now the Amherst regional school system's finance point person, Sean Mangano, wants to enlist a "consultant" to help the district's four towns arrive at a fair agreement.

Consultants, d'Errico said, are "political"; Leverett is not going to hire consultants to make tough decisions that it can make itself, he said. Neither Julie Shively nor Tom Hankinson, d'Errico's fellow selectboard members, seemed inclined to sign the draft agreement as written.

Police chief Scott Minckler presented his budget to the board and finance committee, and explained how it came to be that Leverett morphed from a two- to three-cruiser department under the previous chief. He made a case that, with detail work, court cases and his own dedicated official vehicle, three cruisers were appropriate.

During a recent storm, for instance, an Asplundh tree truck hit a downed wire, which blew its tires and frizzed its radio. The Leverett detail officer on site was able to radio for help because she was driving the cruiser instead of her personal vehicle; then she attended to traffic management, which included a propane truck hurtling at some speed toward the site of the incident.

Road boss David Rice followed with his budget, the big ticket item being a 1+ ton heavy-duty Dodge 5500 pickup, costing \$48,580,

\$69,690 with plow. The department sander can be affixed to this truck, which replaces a ¾-ton pickup which strains under weight.

Rice's budget came within the 2% threshold requested by the town, and included money for ongoing training of staff.

When asked by d'Errico about in-house capacity for making repairs, Rice demurred, explaining the department has the capacity but lacks the tools, including a crane to lift motors.

Rice noted that his engineers have designed a deck replacement for the Coke Kiln Road bridge made of laminated 2x12s. The Mill Yard Road bridge, close to the same dimensions, will probably get similar treatment, while the Dudleyville Road bridge, subject to heavy use, will need whole deck replacement, at about \$50K, using Chapter 90 funds.

"We can't rely on the state to take care of all our roads," Rice said, explaining why he is moving ahead on bridge repairs rather than waiting years on the "state's list."

Finance committeeman Steve Nagy objected to spending \$3,300 to heat a cold section of the town hall after extensive system renovations in the recent past costing \$200,000.

Budget deliberations were interrupted by Janine Roberts, who came with Barbara Tiner to object to executive orders issued recently by the president.

After waiting their turn, d'Errico assured them that police business in Leverett will remain police business in Leverett, along the lines of "we mind our own business."

"I'm not looking to make headlines here," d'Errico noted.

The capital planning committee is invited to step up and do its job, d'Errico said, referring to the group which assesses town departments' long-term big-ticket purchases.

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the  
poetry  
page

It is difficult  
to get the news from poems  
yet men die miserably every day  
for lack  
of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

Tucking In

The scene that comes to mind  
When one thinks  
Of tucking in  
Is of a parent  
Putting to bed their child  
A ritual  
Getting all the stuffed animals  
Near by  
A story  
Hugging  
Kissing goodnight  
Getting all the covers  
Tucked in

Now  
The ritual is  
Making sure  
Everything is within reach  
The piss bucket  
Which has him sleep  
On the edge of the bed  
On his side  
So it is easier to piss into

The sheet needs to be straightened out  
And the sheet needs to be over the scratchy cover  
For the sheet feels better on the skin  
Getting the hearing aids out  
What is the best place to put them  
Putting on his bed shirt  
Each button  
Is a struggle and takes time

His back is in pain  
I attach a belt around his legs  
This is to help keep his legs together  
As he is trying to fall into bed  
As I pick up his legs  
Feeling pain and dread  
Of getting into bed  
For when he  
Spreads his legs  
He experiences a lot of pain  
And It can crescendo into flaying around in pain  
Once all this is done  
He lays still in bed

He asks that I  
Tuck the covers in  
Around his neck  
His back  
Makes for no cold air to get in  
It is the beginning of summer  
75 degrees

He's like a small child  
A very skinny old man  
Frail

At times  
I beat myself up  
Over my lack of patience  
I let him know I love him  
I tuck him in

- Paul Richmond  
Wendell

Contributors' Notes

Paul Richmond, poet and poetry entrepreneur, has been an artist and performer for over 40 years. Paul created Human Error Publishing, which organizes monthly readings and annual Word events / festivals, including the Greenfield Annual Word Festival, and publishes independent writers. He is the author of four books: *No Guarantees – Adjust and Continue; Ready or Not – Living in the Break Down Lane; Too Much of a Good Thing – In the land of Scarcity – Breeds Contempt* and *You Might Need A Bigger Hammer.* His fifth book is due out in 2017. He has

In Thin Air

Sun rises  
on the new laptop

Something must be learned  
again today, if only

That distances differ  
and confusion can fall

Between the ladder and the floor  
sidewalk and door

In the sun's long shadow  
sorrow find no postponement

Nor pain, nor cessation of pain  
the old ardor takes on the arduous

Together they dance  
with ever tender glance

If the door closed  
or light seeped through the crack

Or the little dog barked  
and was not liked

Still there is new work to do  
the strive for old perfection

To balance us on the long ride  
back to what we insist is home

You teach us a phrase of Shakespeare's  
apropos of what's disappeared

Yet cupped between two palms  
clasped tightly on the ride

Is all that is –  
here and in (in)visible air

- Patricia Pruitt  
Turners Falls

First Grade

The school court was round so the school was curved,  
a windbreak, saving fuel for the town it served.  
Inside our little class-room we taped bags  
onto the backs of our wooden chairs, tags  
written by us in block letters on white  
paper, should one forget person on right,  
I sat on my hands, thrilled with Valentine's  
itching to dump my bag, go through all mine,  
but we had to wait, cut out small red hearts  
with safety scissors, glue white paste, then start  
cleaning everything up. I wanted  
a card from Bobby, whose ears stuck out. Fed  
small cookies at break, I shared mine with him,  
though unaware of my crush; was he dim?

- Laura Rodley  
Shelburne Falls

edited by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno  
Readers are invited to send poems to the  
Montague Reporter at: 177 Avenue A  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
or to: [poetry@montaguereporter.org](mailto:poetry@montaguereporter.org)

I Tried To Hate You But  
Love You Just The Same

My days are spent keeping a blind cat  
from pissing on the rug and nights listening  
for the fat in Ray Brown bass solos.

I used to drink coffee with cream, now  
I drink it black. I cancelled my gym  
membership. Progress. Regression.

I've been accused of being flippant,  
my banjo out of tune, thoughts deep  
as the frying pan my beef-patty's

sizzling in. Time to be serious.  
I've an uncle with black lung  
and arthritis so bad he can't button

his shirt. Dear Poets, we're not sages.  
We're battered spouses of hope –  
even when it blackens our eye

we rush back into its arms.  
When you have nothing, you depend  
on nothing the most. I want Lake Erie

to burn for old time's sake. Give me  
flat fields and grain elevators. Scrape  
under my fingernails and find rust

and brick-dust from abandoned auto  
plants. Mother, I lost you  
long before I'll ever lose you.

I'm not interested in last words,  
but in final thoughts. Do you love  
the most the one you think of last?

Are we defined by what shames us?  
I'll work overtime to be a figment  
of your imagination. I'll even moonlight

as one of your psychotic episodes.  
We could've both been better angels  
to one another, but Hell lives in the bones.

- Joshua Michael Stewart

Ghost Plant

*Commemorating the Woman's March,  
Francestown NH, January 21, 2017*

In this the glass  
dawn                      of our reflection

and of our unsilence,

there is no sleep.

This is the way it shatters

over our forests, over the white  
pine and ash, the oak

and beech. In the presence of children

and the frozen stumble  
of stone wall,                      our mouth pressed

to opening skies,

we praise  
the branch and leaf for reaching.

Beneath, the dead root sediment—  
the lightlessness

of rotting leaf beds,  
those needle threaded leaf beds –

an entrance                      to embrace.

Into the cries of broken waters,  
into the fractured dawn,

wrinkle  
by wrinkle  
we unfold, resist

all shuttering, release  
the light inside of us,

increase, and like the ghost plant,  
out of darkness

we will rise,  
we will rise,  
we will rise.

- Lisa Bourbeau  
Francestown, NH

been published in numerous journals, anthologies and has been a featured poet throughout the country.

Laura Rodley: Pushcart Prize winner, quintuple Pushcart Prize nominee, quintuple Best of Net, in Best Indie Lit NE. Publisher Finishing Line Press nominated *Your Left Front Wheel Is Coming Loose* for the PEN L.L. Winship Award. *Rappelling Blue Light* was a Mass Book Award nominee. Former co-curator of the Collected Poets Series, Laura teaches As You Write It class, edited and published *As You Write*

*It, A Franklin County Anthology*, Volumes I-V, nominated for a Mass Book Award. She has also been a consecutive participant in 30 poems in 30 days, writing a poem a day for 30 days to raise money for the Literacy Project.

Joshua Michael Stewart has had poems published in the *Massachusetts Review*, *Louisville Review*, *Rattle*, *Night Train*, *Evansville Review*, *Cold Mountain Review*, and many others. His first full-length collection of poems, *Break Every String*, was published by Hedgerow Books in 2016.

Patricia Pruitt was the former editor of the Poetry Page. Alyscamps Press (Paris) recently published her long poem *Drawing Point*. Talisman House will bring out a *Selected Poems* in the fall.

Lisa Bourbeau, the former Poet Laureate of New Hampshire, is the author of *Cuttings from the Garden of Little Fear*. Her work has appeared in *First Intensity*, *Nedge*, *Ploughshares*, *Poet Lore*, *Talisman*, *Yankee Magazine*, and other journals. She was an organizer of the Woman's March in Francestown, NH on January 21, 2017.



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CHRISTOPHER CARMODY PHOTO

STUDENTS from page A1

employment. She works in the Berkshire Dining Commons at UMass-Amherst making sandwiches and salads, and performing other duties.

“I worked weekends when I was in school; now I work full time,” Mitchell said. “I have better hours now. The people I work with are nice and we mess around sometimes.”

Jocelyn Sibley, a co-worker of Mitchell’s, said she is a hard worker and very popular at the dining hall.

“We serve between 1,900 and 2,100 students a day,” she said. “It’s hard work, but Jen keeps up. It’s fast paced, but she’s a good worker. She goes above and beyond. Her attendance is very good; she knows everybody, and everybody likes her. We’re lucky to have her.”

Kyle LaCoy, 21, of Orange, graduated from PEP in 2013, and is now working part-time at Enterprise Rent-A-Car in Greenfield as an auto detailer. He previously worked at Country Nissan in Hadley.

“I love it,” LaCoy said about his job. “I get bummed when we have to close.”

In addition to auto detailing, LaCoy picks up customers at a service garage, their homes, or at the location where their car has broken down, and brings them to Enterprise. This is one of his favorite parts of the job.

“It’s nice to get to know people,” he said. “There’s a lot of nice people out there.”

LaCoy said PEP was instrumental in training him and his fellow graduates to get jobs that they enjoy and to prosper at them.

“Without PEP, we never would have had a chance,” he said. “A lot of times it felt like the teachers challenged us too much but I realize now they just wanted us to succeed.”

Hands-On Learning

The FCTS Pre-Employment Program has built a track record of successfully transitioning their students into the workforce because of

its curriculum that focuses on skills needed for employment. Teachers work to build self-esteem in their students, encourage them to think independently, be proactive on the job, respect others, play by the rules, and to be honest.

“We build a work ethic in students during every part of the day, whether in shop or in academics,” Choleva said. “We push students to be their best selves and not compare themselves to others. Students come into the program with very few social skills. We build that up and they gain self-esteem.”

PEP students also perform a number of jobs around the school, such as doing laundry for the Culinary Arts program, washing rags for vocational shops, doing the monthly mailing, working in the cafeteria and FCTS Eagle Gear school store, copying and delivering documents for teachers, and recycling paper, cans and bottles.

By doing these jobs and others, PEP students learn to use the dishwasher, washing machine and dryer, and they gain important sanitation skills. Other skills include customer service, operating a cash register, stocking shelves, auto detailing, woodworking, building maintenance, and more. All of these skills are directly transferable to the workplace.

“In the shop, we do a variety of tasks,” said Philip Foisy, the PEP vocational instructor. “We’re looking for something that a student is good at and might want to do for a career.”

This philosophy is in line with a quote by tennis player Martina Navratilova which is on the student-created mural outside of the PEP classroom: “Disability is a matter of perception. If you can do just one thing well, you’re needed by someone.”

Foisy attributes the success of the program to the collaboration between teachers, paraprofessionals, parents and students. He stated, “Everyone has a part to play



From left, Kyle LaCoy, Jennifer Mitchell, Casey Fournier, Cody Hutchinson, and PEP teacher Charles Choleva.

in a student’s successful growth.”

Pride and Accomplishment

PEP students are also involved with a number of community service projects, such as selling scarves for the Franklin Regional Animal Shelter, collecting can tabs for Ronald McDonald House in Springfield, collecting toothbrushes for children in Ghana, and other projects.

“Our students are not defined by their disabilities,” Choleva said. “They know that there are other people who have it worse than they do. Doing community service builds a sense of pride and accomplishment within our program. This goes along with our program motto of ‘PEP and Proud.’”

Cody Hutchinson, 21, from Bernardston, has been employed at the Country Corner Store in Bernardston for three years where he stocks shelves, washes dishes, and takes out trash and recycling. He began working at this job while still attending the program.

“I started out with a few hours a week and now I almost work full time,” Hutchinson said. “I love

working there. My co-workers like to joke around. It’s a great place to work at.”

Hutchinson said working in the FCTS cafeteria during his shop week was where he gained some of the necessary skills he uses in his current job.

While Casey Fournier, 22, of Orange isn’t currently working a paying job, she and her grandfather Cliff Fournier devote numerous hours a week doing volunteer work, including setting up tables, and helping prepare and serve food for community dinners at Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church in Orange, packing food bags for Meals on Wheels, and helping at a food pantry in Wendell.

“I like it because you get to help people out,” Fournier said. “It’s nice. I have my own problems, but I want to help people with their problems.”

Fournier was also bullied at another school, something that didn’t happen at Franklin County Technical School.

Cynthia Tucker, Fournier’s mother, said her daughter read at a third-grade level when she entered PEP, and progressed to a fifth-grade level

very quickly. She also spoke about how Fournier became an avid reader throughout her time in PEP.

“I liked the program because they were like family,” Tucker said. “They never picked on each other. Casey made several friends. I’m very proud of her for never giving up.”

Nancy Mitchell, Jennifer’s mother, said PEP was the best thing that could have happened to her daughter.

“I recommend this program to anybody I know who has children with disabilities,” she said. “When Jen got here, I couldn’t believe how much she opened up. When your child is entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, check it out; it’s a great program.”

The Pre-Employment Program services all areas of Franklin County. For more information, please contact the Office of Special Education at FCTS at (413) 863-9561 x.121, or go online to [pep.fcts.us](http://pep.fcts.us).

Michael Reardon works for the Franklin County Technical School.



MONTAGUE STM from pg A1

the Town will vote to receive and act upon the report of the Public Works Facility Planning Committee.” This report, obtained by the *Reporter*, consists of a two-page bullet point summary of the project.

The committee proposes constructing a new \$11,552,636 facility on Sandy Lane near Judd Wire Company. This calculation includes \$9,266,877 in construction, \$1,544,409 in “soft” costs – which include permits, furnishings, and an “arch” – and a \$741,000 contingency fund.

The report justifies a project of this scope by noting the serious deficiencies of the current garage, built in 1948, and the need for a facility that will last for at least 50 years. It stresses the need for space to store and maintain the department’s fleet of vehicles, and estimates that the project will lead to “up to \$11.2 million in cost avoid-

ance over 50 years if vehicles that are currently stored outdoors are stored indoors.”

Town administrator Steve Ellis stated that borrowing for the project, if bonded for a 25-year period at a level 5%, would add \$169 per year to the average homeowner’s tax bill. He said that the town’s Capital Improvements Committee (CIC), on which he sits, has not yet approved the project, because no estimates have been provided of the cost of either eliminating the existing garage or refurbishing it for storage. The vote the four-member CIC took on the project on February 15 was one “nay” and three abstentions.

The CIC has not calculated the impact of the highway garage proposal on other major proposed projects, such as a new library and senior center. Ellis suggested that borrowing for the garage could delay those projects by a decade or more.

The next six articles on the warrant implement the reorganization of the Water Pollution Control Facility, as negotiated with two employee unions in December. The changes are justified as reflecting the actual work that employees perform in order to run the plant under the so-called “Montague process,” which has apparently been so efficient that the department has been able to import sludge from other jurisdictions.

Five of the articles implement changes, essentially upgrades, in job descriptions. The only new position is added in Article 2, which creates a “chief operator.” Ellis told the *Reporter* that this position, which will be filled by current operator John Little, will be 16 hours per week. Noting that the WPCF is probably understaffed according to state standards, he said that in the long term, the chief operator may become a full-time position.

Article 8 proposes that the town

adopt an extension of a state law (Chapter 41, Section 111F) regulating “injured on duty” status of police officers. The extension would create a special indemnity fund to receive insurance proceeds, restitution, or appropriation to pay medical bills.

Article 9 adds \$3,000 to the “Master Plan Update project” previously funded by a 2016 town meeting appropriation. Draft “background information” on this article states the increased cost “includes designation of portions of the airport as ‘not to be developed’ in order to protect Native American and environmental concerns.”

The final article on the warrant is an appropriation to stabilize the town-owned Strathmore Mill complex in response to a recent order by the state fire marshal. Funds will be used to finance debris removal, boarding up broken windows, and sprinkler and roof repair.

As of this writing, the town has

not finalized an estimated cost. Both Ellis and building inspector David Jensen said that the goal was to keep the appropriation below \$100,000. Ellis said that some of the appropriation will be targeted to the town’s “Unsafe and Unhealthy Buildings Fund,” which has been seriously depleted.

In a related development, Jensen told the *Reporter* that he had removed himself from the process of issuing orders related to Strathmore. He stated that he had a “conflict of interest” in issuing such orders to the town and then trying to implement them. “My head is in two places,” he said. “So, I decided to remove myself.”

Jensen said the little known “alternate building inspector,” a man named Richard Asmann who also serves as building commissioner in Maynard, MA, will issue such orders in the future.



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PARTNER

RIDE from page A1

grandson, Christian, who rides a scooter and skateboard himself.

“Me and Christian spent all summer last year at the park,” George explains. “We got to know [Playground owner] Barry [Scott], and bought a lot of stuff over here. When he was closing up, I talked to these guys about it.”

Garbiel, who travels between school districts selling books, and Waryasz, who works for a friend’s tree service company, have joined George in revamping the shop. The three, who all live in Montague, speak exuberantly of plans for Let It Ride’s first season.

“We’d like to get a skate team in here,” says George. Of the three adults involved in the business, he is the only skater, and jokes that he is the “brains” of the operation.

“Yesterday I tried,” says Waryasz, of the tempting half-pipe that dominates the shop. “I fell, and almost broke my ribs!”

Waryasz, still experiencing soreness as of press time, envisions the shop as the base for an active skate culture: “We can rent a van, have 10, 15 kids sign up, and go around to the different parks – there’s one in Northampton, one in Keene...”

Skateboarding, he points out, is now an Olympic sport. “We’re eventually going to see if we can sponsor someone,” he says. “That’s our long-term goal!”

But first things first. Let It Ride officially opened over the weekend, and will keep consistent weekend hours, six days a week: from 3 to 8 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and from noon to 8 p.m. on weekends. “Consistency in the hours makes a big difference,” says Garbiel.

The team is painting signs, putting wheels, grip tape and stickers on fresh decks, stocking up on equipment, and selling some of Scott’s old stock on clearance.

At the advice of building inspector David

Jensen, they have added in a chicken-wire fence to keep skaters and their boards from flying off the ramp into the shop floor. And on their own initiative, they’ve put a new, clean, cover on the couch.

According to Garbiel, building’s owner Dave LaRue, who is working on opening a coffee-roasting business behind the adjacent Nova Motorcycles space, was eager to keep the skateshop, and offered the group generous terms on rent.

“Mike George is awesome,” says Barry Scott. “He’s even more ingrained in the local skate scene than I am. It’s a perfect fit.”

Scott, a software tester by day, said that around Christmas time, he and his partner Andrea Chesnes “found ourselves consumed by the shop and our day jobs – we needed to make some time for family.”

Hoping to see the space continue as a skate shop, they were overjoyed when George, who grew up skating with professional Jim Gagne, and his new investors showed interest.

“Now I’ll have weekends, so I can actually get out and skate,” says Scott. “That’ll be a blast – the kids can go to the playground, and I can go to the park; I don’t have to be at the shop.”

In addition to open skate sessions, George says that like its predecessor, Let It Ride will host classes, both indoors and at the park. “We hope to have that up and running by the end of March,” he says.

Garbiel adds that girls’ skate nights – another Playground feature – are also in the works, maybe once a week, or every month.

And according to Waryasz, the shop’s inventory will expand beyond skateboard and scooter equipment to provide goods for all sorts of recreation at Unity Park, such as softballs, frisbees, basketballs – and crucially, next winter, sleds.

Other business ideas the trio are kick-

# FACES



# & PLACES

Gene Darling of Montague Center works on the property committee of the Montague Congregational Church. He's pictured here on the 1953 Tiger Tractor that his grandfather bought new from Midway Auto on Millers Falls Road. He was given the tractor in 1973, and has rebuilt the engine three times and replaced it only once. (Thanks to Marge Barrett-Mills for the photo and caption!)

ing around include onsite ordering of skate shoes, layaway plans for youth, and long-board rentals for those who want to cruise along the nearby bike path.

Though there’s no plan to get a food license, the group is working on installing vending machines from Keene-based Monadnock Vending – “fresh grinders, salad, maybe ice cream,” says Garbiel – and will advertise the snacks prominently, hoping to draw in skateboarders on their way from Unity to the nearby gas station convenience store. For now, they’re selling a little candy

over the counter.

“For me,” she says, “it’s really about giving the teenagers something to do – keeping them off drugs. It’s great exercise. They come over, they hang out, they watch TV. Even if they’re not skating, it’s just a safe place.”

Let It Ride is located at 149 Third Street in Turners Falls. The shop’s website is still under construction, but interested readers can check out their Facebook page, “Let It Ride Skateshop,” or call during open hours, 863-5410, for more information.

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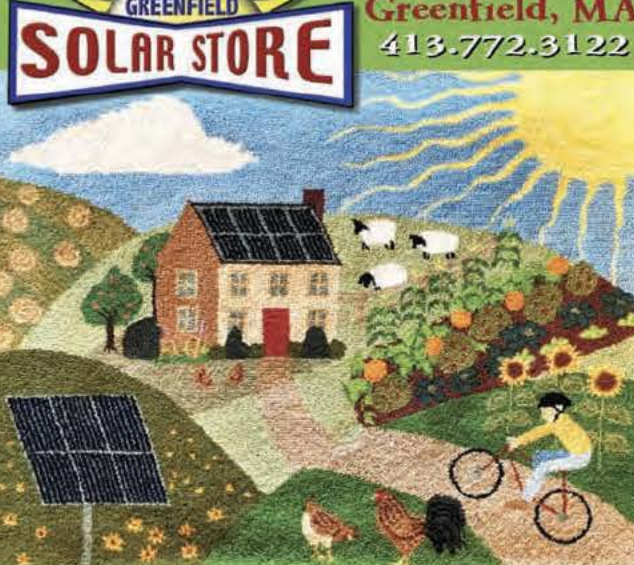
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## WEST ALONG THE RIVER: Back in Old Russia

By DAVID BRULE

*What century have we got out there, my dears?*

– Boris Pasternak

**ERVINGSIDE** – February is a good time to travel by armchair to places you haven't been, or places you once went to long ago.

So it happened that one late afternoon, while deep in February spent waiting for the grass to grow, or at least the sap to flow, thoughts went back to another February at the end of the last century (or less poetically, twenty-five years ago).

Much like the enigmatic Marcel Proust with his linden tea and his *madeleine* cookie, I found myself sitting absent-mindedly in my winter porch chair watching the sun go down after my wood cutting chores, sipping on a glass of vodka fresh from the freezer. Suddenly the sensation of a far-off *balalaika*

refrain began in my head, and the images of the Russia I visited off and on for two months filled the twilight's dreaming.

Those many years ago, Jude Wobst of Leverett and I were leading a group of high school students on a month-long homestay to the north of Russia, in the Republic of Karelia.

That would have been in 1992, when, following *glasnost* and *perestroika*, our country and Russia were thawing relations after the Cold War.

We were partnering with School Number 17 in Petrozavodsk, far up on the shores of Lake Onega, not far from the Finnish border.

Once landing in Moscow, we boarded the Murmansk train that would deposit us at our destination. For eighteen hours we made our way over vast flat snow-covered steppes, too excited to sleep – and besides, the gypsy musicians who boarded with us were intent on partying and

see WEST ALONG page B6



The wooden church on Kizhi Island, in Russia's Karelian Peninsula.  
Creative Commons image shared by Wikipedia user Laban66.

## 2017 GMEF Gala: “More Jukebox Memories”



Elvis tribute artist David Lee.

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – 2017 marks the fortieth anniversary of the death of Elvis Presley. In tribute to his music and his legacy, the Gill-Montague Education Fund proudly presents “More Jukebox Memories” for their 2017 Gala on Saturday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. featuring Elvis tribute artist David Lee.

David Lee is from Birmingham, Alabama. His show is one of the most authentic, most professional shows around. It is done with the utmost class and respect for Elvis and suitable for any age group. David Lee is a dynamic performer with an outstanding voice and has been performing his tribute to Elvis since 1995 throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, and on the high seas.

David was the winner of the International Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest held August 2015 in

Elvis' home town of Memphis. This is the only contest sanctioned by Elvis Presley Enterprises.

*“Singing and working with Elvis was one of the most exciting times of my life. Singing and working with David Lee is the closest I'll ever get to getting to living it all over again. David Lee is a great performer.”* – Sherrill Shaun Nielsen, Elvis' tenor singer.

The American Longboards, returning by popular demand, are one of the nation's leading rock'n'roll bands, entertaining with a high-energy tribute to American rock'n'roll featuring music of the '50s, '60s, and '70s. Their performance with tribute artist Brian McCullough (a.k.a. Roy Orbison and Conway Twitty) brought the house down in 2016.

Advance Tickets are now available at the GMEF website. Tickets are \$25 in advance, and \$30 at the door. Your concert ticket includes an invitation to join the GMEF Board of Directors for a pre-show reception at the “Jukebox Junction” (Turners Falls High School cafeteria) from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.

The GMEF's collaborative effort with underwriters, sponsors, advertisers, and tier-givers has resulted not only in quality entertainment for our communities, but also made available more than \$106,950 in student enrichment grants. For more information about the GMEF and its annual Gala, see [www.thegmef.org](http://www.thegmef.org).

## Voices From the Past: Lil Sabato's Memories From the Cone Shop

The following narrative is taken from notes based on a recorded interview between Cynthia Tarail and Lil Sabato (born in 1907) in 1994. Tarail was doing a social work practicum at the Franklin County Home Care Corporation (now LifePath), leading “reminiscing groups” with seniors. Then-library director Sue SanSoucie became involved, and the idea of an oral history project centered on life in downtown Turners Falls formed.

The Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (MEDIC) put together grants and corporate sponsors to produce what became the Historical Walking Tour of Turners Falls, incorporating excerpts from oral histories taken from old and new downtown residents with a tour of historic buildings in the downtown. MEDIC hoped to play a large role in the documentation of cultural and natural heritage of Turners Falls, as part of the development of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Nancy DuBosque was hired as the oral history project manager; DuBosque took on an intern, Nina Rossi, who is now the Montague Reporter's features editor. This article is from Rossi's notes on Tarail's interview.

**Lil Sabato** and her family ran a popular ice cream parlor and soda shop, the Cone Shop, at 62 Avenue A, where the LOOT shop is now. In this narrative, she talks about her life running the store.

**TURNERS FALLS** – We bought the building at 62 Avenue A, and the place was such a wreck we had to remodel the whole thing.

We had magazines the whole length of one side of the store, and a long counter for lunches. And we had penny candy and things like that. I used to work from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. at night, and run up and down two flights of stairs to bring my mother her meal in the apartment on the third floor.

I used to cook the family supper in the store – anything to make a dollar, you know what I mean? And I used to serve meals, a different meal every day, and people from the mills used to come in for lunch.

The only time I was ever closed was an hour on Sundays to have dinner with my family.

I had some girls come over to work for me that lived in Riverside, and I would walk them home because it was eleven o'clock when we closed and their parents wouldn't let them work if they didn't have a guarantee of them getting home afterwards. It made me late getting back home, but I had a little dog, too, and I just wanted to make sure they got there.

Sometimes, after closing, we'd have a little band concert in the store when a few fellows would bring in their instruments. But we were crazy young kids, and we enjoyed it. We didn't have any money – someone would bring some cider down, and I



This undated photograph of the Cone Shop was shared by LOOT owners Erin MacLean and John McNamara, who received it from the Sabato family in 2015.

would cook up some eggs, and we'd have hard boiled eggs and cider. We had a lot of fun – it was a great life!

When things got a little better, I'd start closing on Wednesday afternoons. That's when we had the Class Day parties for the graduates. I used to make a lobster salad – it was cheaper then than it is today – and they'd come from school and eat.

We used to sell fireworks and everything on the 4th of July. We built a little thing right out on the sidewalk, and sold fireworks and put a stand there for Orangeade.

People then were stronger than they are today, and we didn't have any washing machines or anything.

When I was pregnant with the oldest boy, I used to have to do my sheets in the bathtub. That was the way life was back then. I had to do all our laundry after 11 p.m. when the store closed.

I look back and wonder how the heck I ever done it, the hours we used to work – but we had to! Our money was all tied up there. I had borrowed money, and had to pay it back, and we did.

Everyone was so friendly, and nice. We knew everybody in the town because we had the business, and even now, people will come up and hug me.

see SABATO page B2

## THEATER REVIEW

### Happyland at the Shea Theater

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

**TURNERS FALLS** – Happyland seems a very happy place. A real party place. Loud music, a feisty energetic ringmaster encouraging competitors – or is it? Are the people really happy, or is happiness required in a state where disapproval of the dictator is forbidden and all opposition dangerous? Is it simply a mask to show others you are one of them?

The play *Happyland*, produced by Linda McInerney of Eggtooth Productions, was performed by the Til Lalezar Theatre troupe at the Shea Theater this past weekend. It begins with a gentle poet named Charlie, shyly trying to read his poem. Charlie tells the audience he has struggled to get support from family, and has met resistance from his government for his poetry. His parents say poetry is not a job. His wife left him. His country banned his work.

When he asks the audience for money, they laugh. Every time Charlie tries to read his poem, a loud music video on a screen on the opposite side of the stage comes on and shouts him down. His effort endears him to the audience; they cheer him.

The ringmaster, dressed in bright colors, yelling into a microphone and dancing to loud music, encourages the audience to cheer on the competitors. They do. They also cheer for the ringmaster. He is spectacular in his moves and energy. He has the power in the room. He is awesome.

From the start, the audience was a participant: encouraged, through a variety of opportunities, to respond as if at a sporting match rather than like polite theatergoers. The actors sought to involve the audience and make them a part of the experience, and the audience attending the show on Saturday was active and enthusiastic



The short play was the debut of Til Lalezar Theatre.

in their expressions of support for whoever they liked. They enjoyed playing with the actors, who ran through the audience, tossing soft stuffed pillows around and producing lots of laughter and fun. By participating, the audience takes a position, decides who they want to cheer on, who they are happy to see defeated.

Three gifted women make up the cast; Vida Tayebati is from Iran, Grace Booth from Gill, Massachusetts, and Tone Haldrup Lorenzen from Denmark. They created this play, developing it through an improvisational process that emphasizes comedy and physicality while working on a masters thesis at the DellArte International School of physical theater in California. In final preparation of the performance, Linn Haldrup Lorenzen of Denmark joined them as director.

In this form of theater, character is demonstrated through action, and story is told through images of archetypal characters. Through an improvisational process they developed the play, mixing comedy, music,

see HAPPYLAND page B2

# Pet of the Week

Greetings, Hugo here. As you can see, I'm a thoroughly adorable kitty. It's no wonder that my last family scooped me up when they found me as a stray. In the end it wasn't quite the right fit, and so I'm here to find the perfect home for me.

My new human should understand that as much as I enjoy their company, I like my independence and alone time. Roaming the big

wide world has also taught me that other animals can be threatening, so I'd like a low-stress environment.

With a little patience and understanding I will be able to really blossom! Why not come visit me at Dakin today? It could be the start of a beautiful relationship.

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



CHRISTOPHER CARMODY COLLAGE

## “HUGO”

### Senior Center Activities FEBRUARY 27 TO MARCH 3

#### 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.

**Tues–Thurs** Noon Lunch  
**M, W, F** 10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
**Monday 2/27**  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Tuesday 2/28**  
1 p.m. Mothballs in my Attic  
**Wednesday 3/1**  
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach  
12:30 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday 3/2**  
9 a.m. NO Tai Chi  
10:30 a.m. Brown Bag  
1 p.m. Cards & Games  
**Friday 3/3**  
1 p.m. Writing Group

#### LEVERETT

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

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

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

#### ERVING

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

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

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

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

**Monday 2/27**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
12:30 Game Day NEW  
**Tuesday 2/28**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
12:30 p.m. Coloring, Knitting  
**Wednesday 3/1**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs  
**Thursday 3/2\***  
8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
11:30 a.m. Brown Bag  
12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors  
**Friday 3/3**  
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop  
9:30 a.m. Bowling  
11:30 a.m. Pizza & Dessert  
12:30 p.m. Downton Abbey

#### 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.

#### SABATO from page B1

##### The Mills

Bob worked the mills one summer and it was the worst thing he ever done, because he worked in the rag room and he got pneumonia. It was wet there, and he was allergic and his resistance got low. But he wanted the money to go to dances – he was in high school then.

Everything was priced according to what people made. You worked where you could find a job, pretty much.

When there was a strike, you’d see the guys hanging around on the benches with nothing to do, and it was hard for them because they didn’t have any money either. So they’d pick up odd jobs; apple picking, the pickle factory, anything to get a dollar.

Kids used to go up in Montague and pick cucumbers in summer. They’d send a big truck around after them with benches on each side to bring the kids to work. The last day of work, they’d all throw their sneakers in the river! They were so dirty and messy – it was a tradition with them.

##### The Kids

The high school kids were great. I let them hang out in the store, and they would help out. The kids didn’t have much money, and we didn’t either, so I would pay 50 cents to help out in the evening. They’d each have their own night to help, and so each got their 50 cents a week.

One time the kids roughed it up a little and they broke a booth in the back room where they used to dance to the juke box. They were in there

the next morning and fixed it.

That was in the Depression. They were so glad to have a place to hang out. I had a shelf with all the kids’ graduation pictures around the store. And when they went out job hunting after school, we’d have toast and cocoa for them.

Sometimes they would skip school and hang out in the store. My own kids couldn’t do that – well, they could skip school, but they couldn’t hang out in the store!

They used to take the bus to Greenfield to tease the guys in school, but there was always someone on that bus that knew me, so they never got away with anything. I would hear, “Since when has Bob gone to school in Greenfield?”



#### MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

### This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

This week, we’d like to point you in the direction of our new video, “Greenfield Savings Bank: Black History Month 2017 with Belinda Lyons Zucker,” filmed by Julian Lowenthal during the February 4 event.

In this video, artist Belinda Lyons Zucker shares the dolls she’s made, along with the story of how she came to make these dolls, which started with a quest for her own grandmother she never knew.

In making dolls, Zucker has explored what traditions she would pass down to her own grandchildren, and she shares with us much of what’s she’s learned along the way about dollmaking practices in



African cultures.

Zucker communicates her love of teaching children from all backgrounds to understand that they come from a rich heritage, with traditions to learn and pass down. Watch this video at *MontagueTV*.

org to learn more about the stories behind her many dolls, such as Night Girl, Miss Cora Smalls, and Lucy Terry Prince.

You can also look forward in the weeks ahead for it to appear in our TV schedule. In the meantime, see more of Belinda Lyons Zucker’s work at [www.picture-trail.com/photos/beezdolls](http://www.picture-trail.com/photos/beezdolls).

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

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

#### HAPPYLAND from page B1

dance and thought-provoking drama. This international theater troupe, with members from several different countries, forms a wider world view with different ways of thinking about life today and finding within those things, that which is universally true.

As the play begins, Charlie, played by Tayebati, is challenged by the ringmaster to a wrestling match with a character called Suzanne, played by Booth, who arrives dressed in a shimmering bold costume, looking very large and powerful.

At first Charlie gets tossed around; then he fights back; then he is sorry; then he and Suzanne find a connection. This is not appreciated

by the ringmaster, played by Tone Haldrup Lorenzen, and so the challenge to power begins.

Each actor plays several different parts, with changes in appearance and demeanor reflecting the differences in characters so successfully that it is not always clear who is who. The story is seamless and actors shift parts so easily the intent is clear.

There is some nudity involved, but none that is in any way sexual or even sensual in nature. If anything, it is used to demonstrate vulnerability and submission of the individual to those who have power.

There are many concepts here. Challenging the power and order by a simple artist, a poet, suggesting many possibilities – **change, freedom, or**

perhaps simply chaos. At least that is what tyrants fear, so they suppress ideas that challenge current beliefs.

That would be one thing that can be deduced as a point of this multifaceted performance. Being abstract in presentation, implied through performance rather than spelled out in words, the audience is left to make up its own mind about what it all means.

This is just the beginning of this company’s **contribution to our** community. Til Lalezar are artists in residence at 12 Federal Street above the People’s Pint in Greenfield, and so will surely be offering more opportunities for us to enjoy their work. This performance was certainly an excellent start.



### Artist Donates Her Work to the Public

**WENDELL** – Leah Moses has decided that the work she has displayed this winter at the Wendell Free Library will be gifted to members of the community this weekend.

“I have been so happy to hear that many of you are greatly enjoying my art pieces on display. In keeping with my desire to spread peace and tranquility with my work, I’ve decided to offer my pieces for free to the community,” says the artist. “To be as fair as possible, we’ll distribute the pieces by holding a raffle at the end of February. Raffle tickets will be available at the library.”

Moses’ work will be raffled in groups of two series called *Breathing Room* and *Affectionate Tendrils*. They are two separate bodies of work. *Breathing Room* is a series of eighteen small to medium scale watercolor paintings inspired by brilliant coastal skies. The watercolors are circular forms – linen stretched

over embroidery hoops. There are four rectangular pieces, also on linen. Each canvas reflects the tone of a minimalist landscape, composed of two to three separate color fields.

*Affectionate Tendrils* is a series of three-dimensional works on display in the glass display case greeting patrons into the main lobby of the library. It is a collection of small multi-media sculptures done with clay, wood, glass, linen cotton, moss, sand and stone.

Moses states that it is okay to put in tickets for both series, “but only one entry per household per drawing. On the tickets you will be asked for your name, phone number, and your favorite pieces in the order in which you would prefer them. If you have no particular preference you can write that instead.”

Moses will collect the tickets on Sunday, February 26, and pull names the next day: “If you have won one



LEAH MOSES PHOTO

Part of the *Affectionate Tendrils* series that Leah Moses is giving away at the Wendell Free Library.

of the art works we’ll notify you. The pieces will be available for pick up at the library between Wednesday, March 1 and Sunday, March 5.”

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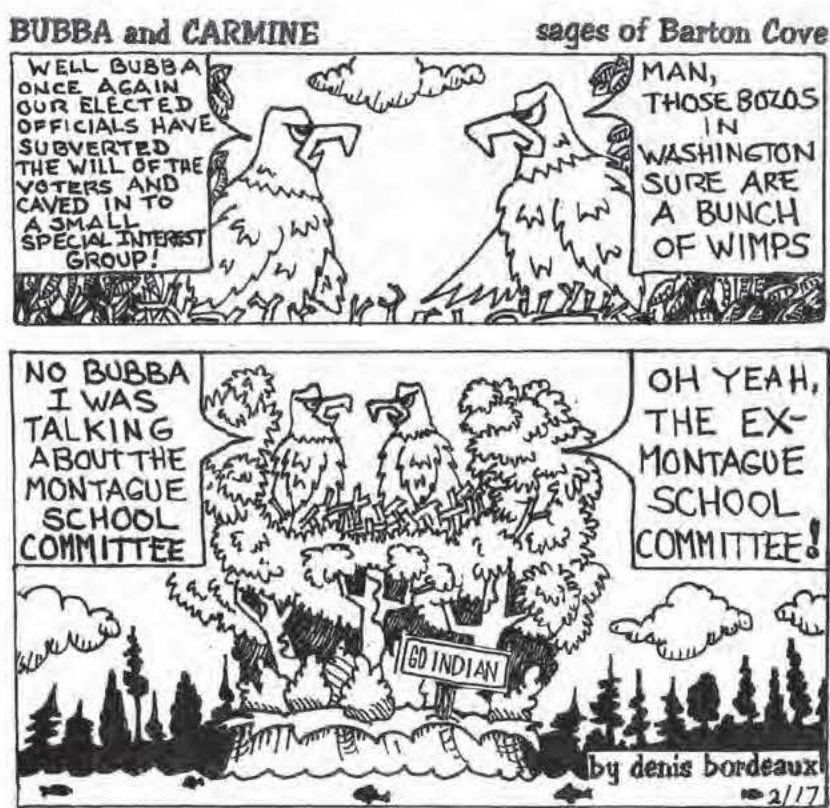
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WENDELL FREE LIBRARY NEWS

Saturday Night Movie:  
“Wolf” (1994)

WENDELL – Worn down and out of luck, aging publisher Will Randall (Jack Nicholson) is at the end of his rope when a younger co-worker (James Spader) snatches both his job (editor) and wife (Kate Nelligan) out from under his nose. But after being bit by a wolf, Will suddenly finds himself energized, more competitive than ever, and possessed with amazingly heightened senses. Meanwhile, the beautiful daughter (Michelle Pfeiffer) of his shrewd boss (Christopher Plummer) begins

to fall for him – without realizing that the man she’s begun to love is gradually turning into the creature by which he was bit. This is the first werewolf movie in the series of six werewolf movies to be shown at the Wendell Free Library this year. Saturday, February 25 at 7:30 p.m. Free admission. Before the movie there will be a half-hour episode of “Radar Men from the Moon.” For more information about the library, visit [www.wendellfreelibrary.org](http://www.wendellfreelibrary.org) or call (978)544-3559.

REFLECTION

The Boston Marathon Bombing

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

Tragedy can either make or break someone. One such an event being the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, which at the time was the deadliest terror attack since 9/11. I believe the police, going forth to catch the bombers, were good examples of real heroes because of this action. They had to go after these guys just as this happened, and to prevent more bombings from happening. To think of a person that had to do their job, just as they are reeling from something like the attack, is incredible. This is probably part of the reason the first movie about the bombing, 2016’s *Patriots Day* featuring Mark Wahlberg, focused on the cops going after these guys. A preview I saw describes the movie as a “tribute” to the “real-life heroes” of that day. The aftermath of tragedy can be very hard for people. A fair assumption would be that someone directly affected could not function too well. Their place might look like a big mess. But the runners in the aftermath of the bombing were impressive. Some who lost limbs in the attack have started running again – some have even run in the Boston Marathon. One would think that they would never want to be a part of the event again! A woman named Rebekah Gregory, 27, was one of those individuals. She wept for joy as she finished the race in 2015. People showed their support in

very nice ways as well. That year, after the Red Sox won the World Series, they used their parade to celebrate the win as a way to honor the victims of the bombing, which involved “a dedication on the marathon finish line, a move considered to help the city ‘reclaim’ its spirit that was lost after the bombing.” The Red Sox also wore a special patch on their uniforms to honor the victims. Like I said, tragedy can make or break someone. People can be there for you when it happens quite well. A newlywed couple were part of the group injured in the bombing. In the aftermath, they learned they were going to be parents. I believe that helped them have the strength to go forward. Learning that they were going to be parents probably gave them some much-needed hope. I believe they are still together, and they have a daughter. They are also still running as well. Letting someone take away the joy you got from an activity, because of a horrible and violent act, is a sad thing to do. Thankfully, many of these people did not do that. I completely understand that people would have had a problem with burying the deceased bomber in their cemetery. A bunch of discussion occurred in the press about where to bury the individual before they would eventually find a place that would accept the body. But my thought connected to that was: he was gone, and couldn’t hurt anybody now. So what was the problem, really? Someone else must have thought that – why else would they have found a place to bury him?

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Sinkhole; Electric Meter Tampering; Alleged Gun Assault; Stolen Scratchies

Sunday, 2/12

2:18 a.m. Fourth Street caller states her ex-boyfriend is knocking on the door and she is not answering. She believes he thinks that she is not home and is going to try to break in. Male party could be heard knocking during the call. Officer on scene. Male party highly intoxicated; transported to residence and released into the custody of his brother. 2:44 a.m. Minivan pulled into Mobil station on Rte. 2 with Florida plates. Business has been closed for several hours. Officer reports a college student pulling over to use the restroom. 1:31 p.m. Sinkhole or partial road collapse at K Street and Ninth. DPW determined caused by an old sewer line collapsing and will be by to repair at a later time due to weather conditions. Baricaded. 4:33 p.m. Vehicle freed from snowbank at skate park. 7:55 p.m. Walk-in reports of a silver truck off the road at the “Field of Dreams.” Unable to locate. Monday, 2/13 6:37 a.m. DPW superintendent requesting an officer at Goddard Avenue and Grove Street; a driver reported he was in the area and a party using a snowblower intentionally came out in front of him. No contact between parties reported. Officer advised he found no one outside and no DPW personnel waiting. Radioed to DPW, who advised that if no one was outside, the officer could disregard. 11:09 a.m. Caller requesting that officers be on lookout for snowmobilers on the bike path off of Greenfield Road near Poplar Street. Most recent occurrence was last night. Caller expressing concern for pedestrians on the path. Officer checked area; no snowmobilers observed; will check back periodically. 11:39 a.m. Caller from Montague City Road reports that she observed her landlord hit her vehicle while plowing the driveway then leave without informing her of the damage. Officer contacted caller, who advised that her landlord returned and they are working the matter out themselves. 1:45 p.m. Caller requesting to speak to an officer re: someone threatening him in person yesterday. No physical threat reported. Caller states

that the male threatened to take him to court if he did not get him a specified amount of wood. Officer advised caller of options and will attempt to make contact with other party. Issue involved some trees that were cut from the other party’s property. 6:35 p.m. Caller contacted chief to ask that an incident be on record. Caller stated he was at Cumberland Farms today and when he held the door for the person behind him, he noticed it was a female named [redacted], who looked at him and stated “fuck you, I’ll kill you, motherfucker.” Party’s boyfriend/husband intervened and told her to shut up. Caller was a bit concerned about this threat, which is presumed to stem from an earlier dangerous dog hearing. Tuesday, 2/14 7 a.m. Assisted DPW with snow towing in Third Street lot. Two vehicles towed; parking tickets issued to both. 10:11 a.m. Caller from Millers Falls Road requesting to speak with an officer re: a note left on his neighbor’s door that the caller believes was directed at himself and his wife. Threat potentially involves a firearm. Report taken. 4:05 p.m. Caller states that she just witnessed a hit and run in front of the Pizza House; unoccupied Corolla was parked when a silver Prius backed out and scraped the side of it. Husband of Corolla’s registered owner later came into station and stated that he didn’t care about the damage. Wednesday, 2/15 12:55 a.m. Officer conducting motor vehicle stop at Fourth and L streets. Written warning for defective equipment. Officer advises that there was a generator in the rear of the car with snow on it; appeared to be new. Yellow Champion #000. Thursday, 2/16 8:55 a.m. Caller from Sheffield Elementary

School requesting options re: parents who park in no parking areas when picking up/dropping off. Caller advised one parent in particular has been giving her a hard time and continues to park between the no parking signs despite the caller repeatedly asking her not to. Advised of options. 9:45 a.m. Caller inquired if she could use caution tape to close off a portion of sidewalk on K Street abutting her property until the snow/ice fully falls off of her slate roof. Caller has been clearing and sanding the sidewalk after the fact. Caller advised she cannot close the sidewalk; options include cleaning her roof of snow/ice or hiring a company if necessary. Advised of liability if someone is injured due to snow/ice falling from her roof. 12:23 p.m. Caller reporting that another party told him that approximately a half hour ago, a man held a gun to a female’s head in downtown Millers. Caller did not witness the incident but believes that parties may be intoxicated. Officer en route to investigate. [redacted] was arrested and charged with assault with a dangerous weapon. 5:02 p.m. Caller from L Street states that his ex-girlfriend has his dog and he has all the paperwork that shows the dog is legally his. Advised of options. 10:05 p.m. Caller states that a loud vehicle has been idling in the Fifth Street alley for over five minutes; believes operator is involved in drug activity in his building. Gone on arrival. Friday, 2/17 1:21 a.m. DPW requesting assistance getting vehicles moved on Avenue A for snow removal. Parking ban is in effect. Officer advises that vehicles in question belong to employees of the downtown bars. Employees will be moving momentarily.

2:08 a.m. Copied radio traffic from DPW. Vehicle appears to have struck a snowbank at Montague City Road and Rastallis Street. Operator out of vehicle picking up items from the road, possibly pieces of his vehicle. Vehicle may also have a flat tire. Operator dressed in camo clothing. DPW advises vehicle is mobile again. Officer located vehicle at Park and Seventh; operator advised that female passenger dropped her cell phone and that the vehicle did not hit anything. Officer checked vehicle: no fresh damage, no sign of impairment. 1:20 p.m. Eversource stating that they are going to be disconnecting electric service at a Laurel Lane address due to wires being exposed on the meter. Homeowner is known to be aggressive toward Eversource in the past, and they would like an officer to stand by. Services rendered. Officer requests to have logged that homeowner did tamper with the electric meter. 3:22 p.m. Caller from L Street reports that someone dumped bags of trash and a Christmas tree on her front lawn. Caller advised that a message was left for DPW; unsure when pickup may be, but they were notified. 4:57 p.m. Off-duty officer stating that as he was getting gas at F.L. Roberts, a male subject wearing a Polarix jacket stole lottery tickets and took off on a pedal bike toward Seventh Street. Officers viewing tape and searching area. One party under arrest; transported to hospital for wrist pain, then back to station. [redacted] was arrested for shoplifting (\$100+) by asportation. Saturday, 2/18 8:49 p.m. Unwanted male party on front steps of a Keith Street address; party appears intoxicated. Male taken into protective custody.

**MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!**


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# LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was February 22, 2007: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

## Selectboard Handles Hot-Button Petitions

The Montague selectboard held their briefest meeting in recent memory, clocking at only 25 minutes, on Tuesday. Still, that was enough time for the board to deal with two hot-button citizen petition drives:

### Airport Manager

As the meeting got started, Richard Kulis, a resident of Gill and a pilot, approached the board representing a committee of pilots, mechanics, and airport users with a petition with over 150 names demanding the immediate removal of airport manager Michael Sweeney, of Greenfield. Kulis said the group, called the Committee to Save the Turners Falls Airport, had collected the signatures of "100% of the hangar owners at the airport, and 95% of the pilots who use the airport."

Among the concerns Kulis said prompted the group to act are their claims that Sweeney, who has been manager of the Airport for three years, has instituted rules and procedures at the airport which "have limited the access by Turners Falls pilots to FAA-mandated safety training, repair services and pilot instruction," which they claim have made the airport less safe for the pilots who use it.

The group claimed Sweeney has raised the lease fees for aviation businesses using the airport to "10 times other small airports like Orange," and included a survey of lease fees at seven area airports to support their claim.

The group also claimed Sweeney had "made every effort to discourage the local friendliness and 'hangar talk' that is the backbone of every small airport in the world," through what their letter to the selectboard characterized as "rude, arrogant, or combative" behavior

to airport tenants and guests.

Sweeney told the selectboard, "I have no ability to speak to this issue as yet."

### School Committee

The other hot button petition discussion began with town administrator Frank Abbondanzio asking the board if they would like to reconsider their vote to place a non-binding question about closing the Montague Center School on the town wide ballot for the May 21 election.

Since the G-M school committee voted on February 13 to rescind their vote to partially close the Hillcrest School, Abbondanzio wondered whether the board would also like to rescind their vote to put the non-binding question on the ballot.

The board had voted to place the opinion question about closing Montague Center School in response to a petition brought forward by former selectboard member and former highway department clerk Ed Voudren.

That petition sought a binding ballot question to close Montague Center School. The petition was signed by more than 1,100 local residents, 900 of whom were registered voters.

"My preference would be to leave it right there," said Pat Allen, of the non-binding question on the town ballot.

Board chair Patricia Pruitt said, "The school committee voted to revisit the question," of which school to close. "The referendum question is asking for a particular school to close. The school committee is still not doing what these folks are asking them to do."

Pruitt also spoke of receiving phone calls from residents of town, who may have agreed with the intent of the petition, but were "very unhappy that the leadership of the referendum process – is not someone they wish to be representing the town of Montague about the schools."

## MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

# Snow Off the Avenue Contest

By LINDA HICKMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** – The Carnegie Library's annual Snow Off the Avenue contest is back.

The snow pile in the Food City parking lot is large. When do you think it will be completely gone?

Come to the Carnegie Library by March 11 and fill out one free raffle entry per person. The closest guess wins a gift certificate to the Second Street Bakery.

The library is open Mondays and Tuesdays from 1 to 8 p.m., Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Thursdays 1 to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



HICKMAN PHOTO

# Montague Democrats to Caucus Wednesday, March 29

Montague Democrats will be holding *both* the Town Office Election Nominating Caucus and the Democratic State Convention Delegate Selection Caucus on Wednesday, March 29.

### Town Election Nomination

First, Montague Democrats will hold their caucus to select candidates for Town Office elections on Wednesday, March 29, balloting from 6:30 to 7 PM in the first-floor meeting room of the town offices, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Successful candidates receive the party nomination to appear on the Monday, May 15 town election ballot. Voting is by paper ballot, and is open to all registered Democrats

and registered un-enrolled voters.

Only registered Democrats may run in the caucus for the Party nomination. Democrats who wish to run in the caucus must deliver their intention in writing to Democratic Town Committee chair Jay DiPucchio by 5 p.m. Saturday, March 18.

Notice may be by mail (to 35 Central Street, Turners Falls), email (to [jdipucchio@verizon.net](mailto:jdipucchio@verizon.net)), or in hand. Verbal declaration cannot be documented and is not acceptable. Candidates must have been registered Democrat as of December 31, 2016.

Individuals choosing to run without seeking Democratic Party nomination should check rules with the town clerk. Occasionally, can-

didates for the caucus nomination also gather signatures for nomination through the town clerk process so that they can still appear on the May ballot if they are defeated at the caucus.

By the Democratic Town Committee's vote following the 2003 caucus, registered un-enrolled voters also may vote in the Democratic Town Election caucus. No absentee balloting is allowed. All caucus candidates must be present at the end of balloting (or make other arrangements with the chair) or their election may not be certified.

Incumbent term expirations are listed below. (*Non-party incumbents may have filed with the Town Clerk.*)

| OFFICE   | TERM    | INCUMBENT                    | PARTY      |
|--|---------|------------------------------|------------|
| Selectman  | 3 years | Michael M. Nelson            | Democrat   |
| Assessor   | 3 years | Paul J. Emery                | Democrat   |
| Board of Health                                  | 3 years | Michael M. Nelson            | Democrat   |
| Park & Rec Committee                             | 3 years | Dennis L. Grader             | Democrat   |
| Library Trustee (four)                           | 3 years | Alice J. Armen               | Democrat   |
|  | 3 years | David Harmon                 | Unenrolled |
|  | 3 years | Steven L. Winters            | Democrat   |
|  | 1 year  | <i>Vacant unexpired term</i> |            |
| Soldier Memorial Trustees ( <i>veteran</i> )     | 3 years | Larry Parker                 | Republican |
| Soldier Memorial Trustees ( <i>non-veteran</i> ) | 3 years | Christopher M. Boutwell      | Democrat   |

Following balloting, results will be tabulated and the second caucus convened for state Democratic party convention delegate selection beginning at 7 p.m.

### Democratic Convention Delegates

Registered Democrats in Montague will hold a caucus at the first-floor meeting room of the town offices, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls at 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 29 to elect 5 delegates and 4 alternates to the Massachusetts Democratic Convention, which will be held Saturday, June 3, at the Lowell Convention Center to address platform and organizing issues.

This local caucus is a meeting

that is open to all Democrats registered in Montague by March 29. Registered attendees are eligible to vote and/or run for one of the five openings available to represent Montague Democrats at the statewide convention.

Delegates must be divided equally among men and women. Candidates must consent to nomination in writing. Candidates may make a one-minute statement to the meeting and may distribute materials. It is a very straightforward and transparent process any registered Democrat may participate in, or just come to watch.

For info about the Convention or caucus procedures contact Demo-

cratic Town Committee chair Jay DiPucchio at 863-8656, or visit the party website at [www.massdems.org](http://www.massdems.org).

### Town Committee Meeting

The Montague Democratic Town Committee will meet at the first-floor meeting room of the town offices, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, at 6 p.m., Wednesday, March 29 to review any outstanding business and prepare for the town election and convention delegate caucuses. Any registered Democrat may attend.

The first floor meeting room of the town office is wheelchair accessible by elevator from the parking lot entrance at the rear of town hall.

# Leverett Democrats to Caucus Sunday, March 5

The Leverett Democratic Town Committee will hold its caucus at Town Hall on Sunday, March 5 at 3 p.m. to elect delegates and alternates for the 2017 Massachusetts Democratic Convention.

Leverett has two delegates, in addition to the Committee Chair. Youth (under 35), minorities, and people with disabilities may apply to be add-on delegates.

The state convention will be held on Saturday, June 3 at the Tsongas Arena in Lowell. You must be a registered Democrat.

Feel free to contact chair Barbara Tiner at [Barbara@wetlanded.com](mailto:Barbara@wetlanded.com) if you have any questions, or if you are interested but can't make the caucus. Information is available at [www.mass.dems.org](http://www.mass.dems.org).

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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

Greenfield Harmony Spring Session; come join the community chorus. No auditions. 6:45 p.m. Contact [mcbarrass@vermontel.net](mailto:mcbarrass@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.

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.

Dickinson Memorial Library, Northfield: *Story Hour with Dana Lee*. For pre-schoolers and their caregivers. 10:30 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. \$

### EXHIBITS:

Artspace, Greenfield: *The Real*

*Remembered by Esther S. White*. February 27 to March 24. Closing reception Friday, March 24, 5 to 7 p.m.

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:

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: Friday February 24 to Sunday, February 26: Dinosaurs.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Hill & Friends with Jen Spingla*. Original Americana. 8 p.m.

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Makerspace Workshop*. Try some makerspace technology like 3D printing, coding and robotics. Supported by grant from the Montague Cultural Council. For ages 7-14. 10 to noon.

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

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Franklin County Bar Association's 3rd Annual Art for Scholars* silent art auction; items donated by local artists. Also live music, raffle, food, cash bar. Funds raised go to Thomas W. Merrigan Scholarship Fund for local high school students to attend college 4:30

to 7:30 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Moonlight Davis, Morning Star Chenven, Michael Zsoldos, Jon Fisher, Miro Sprague perform the music of Gregory Porter*. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Franklin County Sweethearts*. "Sassy mix of Jazz, Blues, and Country." 9 p.m.

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

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Deerfield Art Bank, S. Deerfield: *Local Auction 4 Local Benefit*. All proceeds go to: Cancer Connection, The Literacy Project, Stone Soup Café, The Food Bank, CISA, Museum of Our Industrial Heritage, and Franklin Area Survival Center. 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Richard Chase Band*. Rock, Folk, Originals. 9 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Turn It Loose*. 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Hydrosols and Howlie*. 9:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Armchair Nature for Seniors with Dawn Marvin Ward*. Slideshow & hands-on presentation of local fauna and flora in winter. Supported by Leverett Cultural Council. 2 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Lazy Bones*. Old-Time, Jazz, Blues and More. 7 p.m.

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

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Wagon Wheel, Gill: *Wagon Wheel Word, featuring Joshua Michael Stewart and Kaitlin June*. Open Mic sign-ups start at 5:45; start running down the list promptly at 6 p.m. with 5 minute time-slots. 6 to 8 p.m.

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

### THURSDAY, MARCH 2

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Signature Sounds Presents: Rhiannon Giddens & Dirk Powell*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Eric Love*. '60s & '70s Gold. 8 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Love (Muck) by Katherine Adler*. Physical performance mixing bodies, text, and original music. 8 p.m. \$

### FRIDAY, MARCH 3

GCC Dining Commons, Greenfield: *Artspace's 30th Annual Pottery Seconds and More*. 6 to 9 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Never Been to Spain, Secondary Messengers*. Standards, Blues, and more. 6:30 p.m. \$

Underdog Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *The Butterfly Effect with Pan Morigan and John Caban*. "Bent blues, green jazz, and oth-

er Americanismos " 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Millers Falls: *Eugene Mirman Live featuring special guest Maeve Higgins*. Comedy. 8 p.m. \$

Gateway City Arts Center, Holyoke: *Ghostlight Theater presents Venus in Fur by David Ives*. Not appropriate for young audiences. Runs through March 11. 8 p.m. \$

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Wild Bill & The Flying Sparks*. Roots country. 8:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*. Reggae Fantastico. 9:30 p.m.



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**WEST ALONG** from page B1  
singing all the way, all night long.

Now, more than twenty-five years later, all seems a blur.

*This was the life, to live in Russia  
After the end of Russia, and write  
stories  
As if it were poetry...*

Reminders of the Stalinist era were everywhere present in the Soviet architecture, with the hammer and sickle adorning all official structures. The mood among the people was optimistic, although food was scarce that winter, fruit and vegetables rare, kielbasa and dried fish were the most plentiful staples in state-run stores.

But we weren't there for the food. We knew we were among the first Americans (besides the Ben and Jerry's franchise personnel) to travel, somewhat freely, in what had been a closed city for more than fifty years, and we were treated with privilege and overwhelming Russian hospitality.

We spent our days in school, teaching and learning, and we spent our nights attending concerts, ballet, theater, and house parties into the very late hours. Once or twice, I expressed the desire to spend an evening at home to recuperate, and my hostess replied imperiously that I was not in Russia to sleep! I would sleep when I got home, she declared.

Off we would go to another event, never knowing where for sure, until we got there. Our Russian friends took great pleasure in keeping us in the dark, never tell-

ing us what was about to happen, and enjoying the control and suspense.

The snow drifted down constantly, lightly, and crunched wonderfully under our feet as we walked everywhere. Coal smoke filled the air, reminding me of the fifties down on Avenue A back home. Brilliant light rose-colored and black snowbirds, *snegir* (the European bullfinch), hopped tamely at our feet as we made our way to school through the park. Glimpses of the mysterious Russian Orthodox mass with bearded priests opening, closing and disappearing behind ornate altar doors, candles flickering before gold encrusted icons of Russian saints, all blend into memory.

Nights sometimes found us driving through the snow-covered landscape, on the way to who knows where, strains of sentimental Russian songs welling up in the voices of the women in the cars.

One memorable day found me taken up to near the Arctic Circle for ice fishing. (See West Along the River, February 21, 2008). We spent a few hours on the ice, harvesting fish from a net, then baking in the village sauna, being beaten on the back and bottom with birch branches, before a naked roll in the snow.

Then tea from the samovar in the cottage, the sole light provided by candles and a wood fire, downing multiple glasses of homemade vodka, it all drew us from one end of the spectrum of exhilaration to the other.

That day the peasant woman

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hostess, half my size, was fascinated by the tall North American in her kitchen speaking hilarious broken Russian, and clearly enjoying her home-distilled vodka.

She presented me with a gallon jug full of pickled beets, carefully explaining that I was to take it to America as a gift to my mother, a gift from this simple yet proud and sturdy Karelian woman.

Mother Russia can take you deep into her heart.

Then to say good-bye in a room full of our students, both Russian and American.

And to realize that the Russian parents of the students were all my age, and my generation. The enormity and improbability of it all overwhelmed me.

I gave my memorized speech in Russian, saying that our generation together on both sides of the Iron Curtain had grown up in deathly fear of one another, all of

us on both sides afraid of imminent and inevitable nuclear death. And yet there we were, regular Americans and Russians, basking in the friendships between students and families, that we had managed to fashion in spite of our fears. We were rejoicing that we had escaped the worst we imagined then, at least for the time being.

So now, all these years later, I find myself back in familiar surroundings in my ancestral home. The intensity of old Russian memories subsides, and an additional glass of vodka doesn't seem to bring them back any more sharply.

But you know, the old fears can rise up again, with the new ruthless regimes in our country and theirs. There are no more exchange trips, and no more Russian language studies at my old school, when we need all that more than ever.

This twilight growing here along my west-flowing river or perhaps a

similar place in Old Russia would even inspire Pasternak,

*"...to write the plainest things in the snow, then walk away."*

— Chard Deniord



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