



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 2, 2017

## Community, Caring... And the Best Lasagna!

By JOE KWIECINSKI

**TURNERS FALLS** – Ladies and gentlemen, start your ovens and go for the blue – ribbon, that is. It's time to enter a dish or "sample" the creative approaches to a traditional favorite in the first annual Lasagna Bake-Off, to aid Montague Catholic Social Ministries.

This tasty fundraiser will be held Friday, February 10 at 5:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Peace Church, 90 Seventh Street, Turners Falls. If you'd like to join the competitors by pre-heating your oven and letting your imagination run free as you work the culinary arts, please call Susan Mareneck, co-director of the Catholic Ministries, at (413) 863-4804, x1001, or e-mail her at [susan@mcscommunity.org](mailto:susan@mcscommunity.org).

"There is a suggested sliding scale fee of \$20 to \$100," said Mareneck, "to enter a pan of lasa-

gna. This contribution allows entrants to eat for free at the event's dinner. If people could just signal me regarding their intention to register, as an individual or as a team, it would help us with our planning."

On the menu, strangely enough, you'll find lasagna, along with bread, salad, beverages, and dessert. The suggested admission fee to dine at the event is \$5 to \$15 per person, which applies to adults and children more than 12 years old. Proceeds will benefit the diverse, multi-faceted programs of Montague Catholic Social Ministries.

"Since the donation is 'suggested,'" said Mareneck, "please come if you want to join in the fun, no matter what the amount of your donation."

Submissions of the lasagna entries will be received at 5 p.m. at the Parish Hall of Our Lady of Peace.

see LASAGNA page A4



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

MCSM co-director Susan Mareneck (left) and Marie Putala (right), parishioner at Our Lady of Peace and member of MCSM's advisory board, await entries to the lasagna contest in the church's kitchen.

## Thirty Years On: Memories of Sheffield Fire Shared

By MARK HUDYMA

**TURNERS FALLS** – "There were snow banks three or four feet high, but I found the hydrant on the first kick," remembered Robert Escott. "We saw a hallway leading to the gym that wasn't burning yet. We thought we could stop the spread there, so we laid down a hose, and immediately it sprang a leak and started shooting up like a sprinkler."

Escott, who recently retired as Turners Falls fire chief, and Lionel Bonnette were the first responders

to the 1987 fire that would consume the Sheffield school, originally the Turners Falls High School building.

He and about 25 other community members gathered in the auditorium at the new Sheffield Elementary School on Monday, to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fire.

Lesley Cogswell, now a Gill-Montague school committee member, was a student at Sheffield at the time of the fire. "I ran into Joe Ruscio at Second Street and asked him

see MEMORIES page A4



HUDYMA PHOTO

About 25 community members gathered in the Sheffield Elementary auditorium to remember the 1987 blaze.

## New Highway Garage Price Tag Runs to \$11.5 Million

By JEFF SINGLETON

**MONTAGUE** – At this spring's annual town meeting, Montague may face a proposal to build an \$11.5 million facility to house the town's public works department off Sandy Lane. On Tuesday night, the committee charged with developing the proposal met to discuss the plans, as well as a strategy to convince town meeting members of the need for a project of this scope.

The public works facility planning committee is chaired by Turners Falls water commissioner Ken Morin, and includes Mark Williams, Jay DiPucchio, Deb Radway, energy committee member Jason Burbank, and former selectboard member Mark Fairbrother. Radway was not at Tuesday's meeting.

New town administrator Steve Ellis, also in attendance, raised questions about the project's scope and cost that, he suggested, town meeting members might also ask. Ellis said he did not intend to "blow up the project after six months of planning," but "we want the right plan."



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Montague's current DPW headquarters, located at the south end of Avenue A, is widely considered to be outdated and dilapidated.

"I'm not here to talk you out of it," Ellis stated at another point, to which several committee members responded, jokingly, "Please do."

Fairbrother noted that an initial cost projection was "\$16 or \$17 million," and that the committee had worked to "cut it down." The committee rejected an approach that began by setting a dollar cap on affordability. The current plans are for a 27,000 square foot, pre-

engineered building.

According to building inspector David Jensen, the committee's decisions have been based on what the town needs, rather than cost projections. "We brought this down to a very rational proposal," he said. "We did not want to cut the cost just on the unrealistic expectation that town meeting would cut a higher number," he stated.

see GARAGE page A8

GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## Frustrated Committee Scraps "Process," May Soon Vote Directly On Team Name

By MIKE JACKSON

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – Expressing frustration with the negative tenor of the debate over the high school team name, the "Indians," and worry over harm it was causing to district students, the Gill-Montague school committee decided Tuesday night to abandon its previously agreed-upon process for reconsidering the name, but stopped short of committing to choose whether to do away with it at their next meeting.

The committee had already been meeting for two hours when the agenda turned to the "Indian" discussion, and Sandy Brown, member from Gill, wasted no time in proposing that, at its next meeting,

it should decide whether to keep the existing name.

But chair Mike Langknecht refused Brown's motion, insisting that the committee would first need to overturn its September vote approving the process.

Under that plan, devised by Langknecht and superintendent Michael Sullivan, the educational phase currently reaching its conclusion would be followed by the establishment of "selection criteria," to be applied equally to all proposals including keeping the current name, and then by the solicitation of proposals, and one or more public forums before a final decision is taken.

Committee members were initially reluctant to formally upend

the process, but most expressed dissatisfaction with the way things were going.

"The process has become unbelievably difficult," said Gill's Jane Oakes. "Our best intentions were to have a civil discussion with people about their opinions, in a positive manner. I know that was foolish to think it could happen, because it hasn't even been close... It's mentally exhausting, it's physically exhausting, and it has taken up time that we should be spending on the school committee's business."

"How do we move forward?" asked Heather Katsoulis of Montague. "The community is speaking to us every day – we're all ready to

see GMRSC page A5

## The Week in TFHS Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

This week in Turners Falls high school sports, the girls' basketball squad improved to 9-5, the swim teams celebrated their lone senior, the boys' hoop team cracked the top 20, and the ice hockey team was unable to hold on.

### Girls Basketball

TFHS 34 – Frontier 24  
Greenfield 61 – TFHS 40  
TFHS 52 – McCann 33

On January 25, the Turners Falls Lady Indians defeated the Frontier Red Hawks, 34-24, in a defensive battle.

The Indians' D limited the Frontiersmen to just 3 points in the opening period while putting up 12 of their own. In the middle quarters, the Hawks cut into Powertown's

see SPORTS page A5



DAVID HOIT PHOTO

Making Waves: Melissa Hersey (top) and Nikolas Martin (bottom) compete in 100-yard freestyle events at Turners Falls High School. Hersey placed second in the 100-yard freestyle and backstroke; Martin placed third in the 100-yard butterfly during the January 26 meet with the Renaissance School.

# The Montague Reporter

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Here It Comes

On Monday, February 6, activists in the Sugar Shack Alliance have announced they will be holding a “funeral” in Pittsfield for Article 97 of the Massachusetts constitution.

The 1972 amendment sought to protect the environment by requiring 2/3 majorities of both chambers of the state legislature to approve any use of conservation land for other purposes.

Last summer, a Berkshire Superior Court judge ruled that the federal Natural Gas Act overrides the state constitution.

On December 29, the state attorney general proposed to grant Texas company Kinder Morgan the rights to build a pipeline through Otis State Forest in exchange for \$640,000, about half of which would go to the Department of Conservation and Recreation to purchase a supposedly equivalent strip of land.

The Sugar Shack Alliance’s “funeral” is at 1 p.m. across from the Superior Court in Pittsfield. The hearing on the proposed consent decree will be held at 2 p.m. in the courthouse.

Last week, among a barrage of executive orders, President Trump signed four in a row concerning fossil fuel infrastructure.

One invited TransCanada to re-apply for the Keystone XL project, and ordered the government to expedite it. A second instructed departments to push for the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Two other orders declared that pipelines should be built with US steel, and established a special fast track for so-called “high priority infrastructure projects.”

The last few years have been boom times for the solar industry in the US. According to Forbes and the US Department of Energy, more Americans now work in solar than coal, natural gas, oil, wind and nuclear *combined*.

This seems irrelevant to the new administration, which seems to have devised a vision for our energy future based entirely in the joy they find in drilling and pumping high-pressure liquids into the planet’s crust, and in the joy they find in making nerds angry.

On Tuesday, Robert Speer, the new acting Secretary of the Army, instructed the Army Corps of Engineers to secure an easement to finish the Dakota Access Pipeline. On Wednesday, 76 water protectors were arrested at Standing Rock, on private land they consider “unceded” territory belonging to the Sioux under the 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie.

The new right-wing popular front that has coalesced around Trump’s election knows that the President’s regressive views on climate, energy, the environment and conservation are a political weak spot.

Plenty of moderate Americans see the value of protecting state forests. Plenty more feel solidarity with the Lakota and Dakota Sioux, and are inspired by the movement they have catalyzed in opposition to a pipeline that could destroy the clean water at the Standing Rock reservation. Oil does seem to spill, after all.

And so a new story is being told: Resistance and opposition isn’t a voluntary and natural offering by folks who want to preserve a livable world for future generations: it’s all manufactured sedition, you see, bought and paid for by... uh....

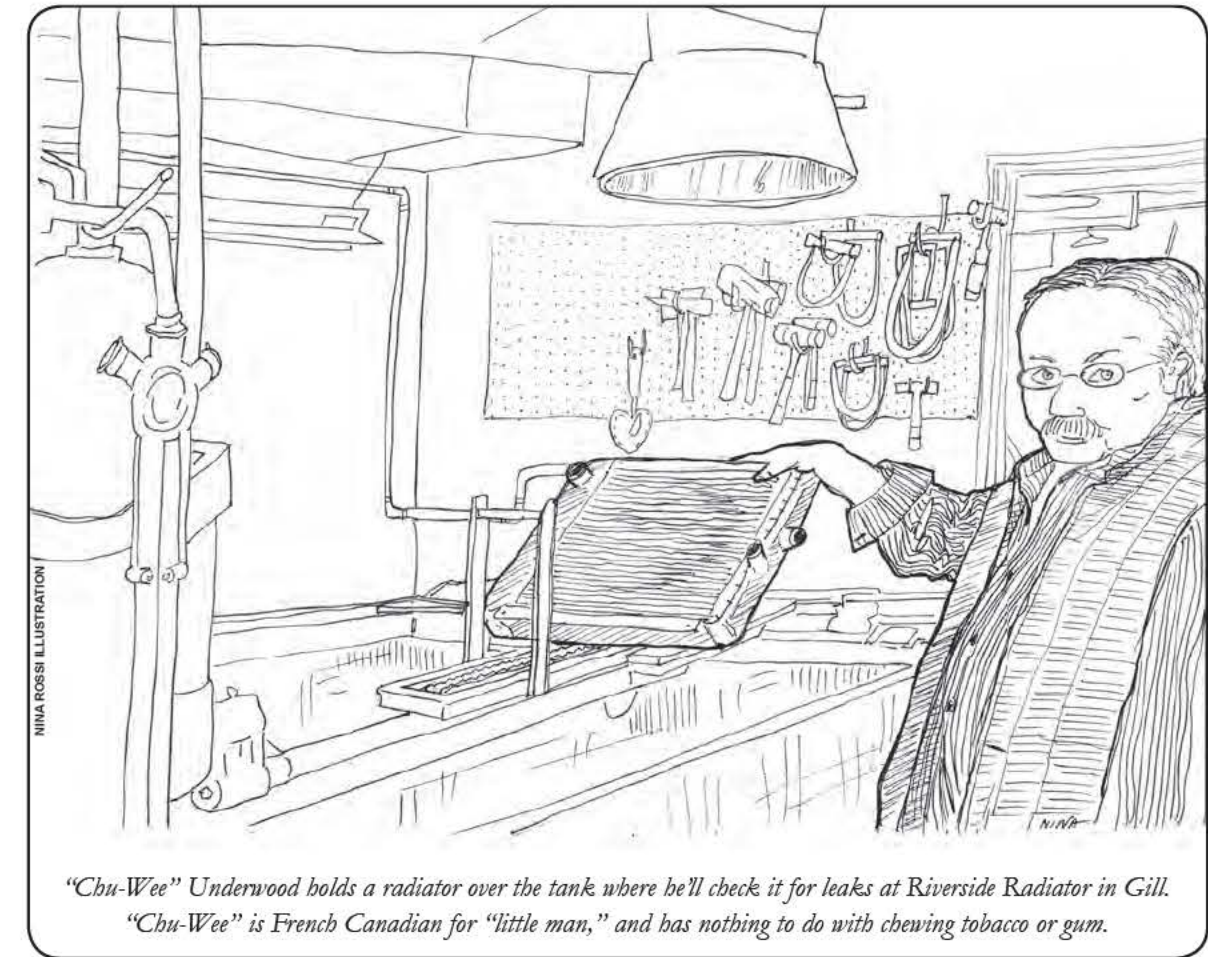
*If you follow the money, sponsorship and media promotion of the Standing Rock protest, you will find that the leading organizer and promoter is Indigenous Rising Media. This group is part of The Indigenous Environmental Network. This group is a major element of the People’s Climate March.*

*It doesn’t take much research to uncover that the money behind this organization is coming from the same entities that are funding social justice, communist, and illegal alien protection organizations including Black Lives Matter, La Raza, the Workers World Party and the Revolutionary Communist Party: George Soros and his extensive network of Globalist allies.*

That’s the analysis from the Oath Keepers, a kind of latter-day John Birch Society organization that focuses on organizing a base among military and law enforcement. But get used to hearing it, because the idea that George Soros, the billionaire Jewish-Hungarian hedge fund manager, is secretly paying any given protestor to protest is spreading like wildfire through social media and the comment section.

If George Soros has extra money he should buy the *Montague Reporter* a printing press and turn the Strathmore into a library that serves free coffee. But there are 540 billionaires in this country alone, and a large number of them have been tampering with the government for quite a while now, so we don’t really get the obsession.

We’ve heard the “paid protestor” trope rolled out right here in town, to attack the legitimacy of neighbors who want to change the high school mascot. It’s a poisonous accusation. Watch out.



Letters to the Editors

Illustrations Appreciated!

Nina Rossi’s art on the editorial page brings back the Montague I remember. Her style and subjects have made this page the first I turn to when each issue arrives in the mailbox.

Thanks to you, and to Ms. Rossi.

Jerry Sears  
St. Louis, MO

Gender Talk

Let’s talk about gender, shall we?

I am a 15 year old gender queer teen. Last Monday, I stumbled across the Annual Census form for the town of Montague. In reading it, I noted that on the back of the form there was a question related to gender: “Gender: Should be ‘M’ for male and ‘F’ for female.” This left me feeling like my identity, and the identity of millions of other people around the world, was not being recognized.

*Wait, what? You may be asking. Why’s that?*

The most common misconception when talking about issues related to gender is that your “sex” and your “gender” are one and the same. This however is not actually the case; your sex, referring to what someone’s genitalia look like and what types of chromosomes they have, is completely separate from that person’s gender identity.

Gender is, in a brief description, how someone feels internally, how they express themselves, and what pronouns they use when referring to themselves.

The gender pronouns that you are most likely to hear right now that diverge from the binary are “they” and “them,” which I personally use and ask others to use when referring to me. (Other non-binary pronouns that you may commonly hear are ze/zir and e/ey/em.)

Some might think that my chosen gender pronouns (they/them) are not “grammatically correct.” I, on the other hand, would say that my gender pronouns are in many ways self-correcting.

I like to wear dresses, put on makeup, do my nails and favorite color is pink.

The mirror is not my friend. I have a biologically male body.

I love my body, I really do, and I wouldn’t consider myself “transgender” in the most commonly used sense of the word. But there are days when I look in the mirror and wish I was a young woman; that my face was thinner, my muscle tone different, my voice higher, and that shaving didn’t need to be a daily routine.

There was a point when simply using the pronouns that I was assigned at birth did not feel like an option to me anymore. I remember feeling as though I was going to choke on the constant barrage of “he’s” and “him’s” that were being hurled at me on a daily basis, and I knew I needed to take the plunge and ask for those around me to change how they referred to me.

Coming out was one of the most amazing experiences I have ever had. The outpouring of love and support I received from my community was unbelievable, and my own understanding of self deepened because of it. I am so grateful, especially considering what is going on in our country as a whole, to be able to call western MA and Montague my home.

And I’m writing this to ask for the members of our town’s boards to look into changing their choice of language. I’m writing this because I’m tired of being misidentified, I’m writing this to raise awareness of different identities, and I’m writing because, in the words of Lin Manuel Miranda, “love is love is love is love.” And we all deserve to have that in our lives.

Gray Davidson Carroll  
Montague Center

GUEST EDITORIAL

Name Change Won’t Address “Real Ills”

By DENIS BOURDEAUX

When I sat down to write, I told myself I’d try not to be sarcastic, snooty, rash or infantile (see: students as Nazis, circa 11/16). Or turn my verbal firehose on those who would call me racist. I’ll try not to use terms like PC police, Indian wannabes, Indian groupies, or even flaming Caucasians (although I do love that one).

First off, the Indian is not a mascot. Never was, never will be. Animals, birds, reptiles, and even banana slugs (UCal – Santa Barbara) are mascots. Since my grandfather (class of 1916) started telling us sports stories, the only people I’ve ever heard call it a “mascot” are those not connected to the area, or people who write articles and can’t think of a better adjective.

The Indian is our symbol, our co. logo, our leader into battle, our guiding light and shining start. (Read the school song.) But in language *both sides* can understand, first and foremost it is “our totem.”

I know both sides of this issue had to have seen the recent survey this summer because it was in every newspaper. The poll, in brief, asked indigenous tribes across the country if the Wash. Redskins logo was offensive. Many would agree this seems to be the most egregious of Indian symbols, yet for the third time in 15 years, 90% were not bothered by it. In a world where 56% is considered a landslide, I don’t care how you tweak the numbers, 90% is a damn tsunami.

So why pick on a small country high school? Why not take on the Atlanta Braves, or Cleveland Indians? Well, because that would take real effort. Here, at the high school level, all one needs is a few people, making a few calls, rattling a few cages, going to a few meetings, and voila! – trot home to become a hero to children

see GUEST ED next page

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

**Make fun, Valentine-inspired crafts, cards, and other heart-themed projects** at the Carnegie Library stating at 10:30 a.m. this Saturday, February 4.

This is a free program, and the craft materials will be provided. Refreshments will be served. Designed for children of all ages and their caregivers.

The library is also having a **used book sale** from 10 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls is proud to present a month of Saturdays featuring **Black History** with local presenters.

On February 4 and 11, Belinda Lyons Zucker, an African American doll artist and sculptor, brings her talents to our community room. Belinda is teaching and selling her art in local galleries. Both events are entirely free.

The event on February 4 showcases Belinda's private collection of dolls with a narrative on the West

African tradition and how the tradition made its way to the Americas. February 11 will be a mask-making event and is open to 12 to 15 participants who will make a collage mask from cut, decorative paper.

During the event, Belinda will provide a narrative on the importance of masks in West African tradition. Create a mask to take home, and one to leave to exhibit in the GSB lobby. Call 863-4316 to reserve your spot.

On Tuesday, February 7 at 12:30 p.m., attorney Tahirah Amatul-Wadud of Springfield will speak at Greenfield Community College on the commonality of **Muslim beliefs with those in the Christian and Jewish faiths**, and efforts in Massachusetts to increase understanding within these and secular communities.

Ms. Amatul-Wadud, named a Top Woman of Law for 2016 by *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*, will debunk common myths about Muslims and the religion of Islam, and discuss the interplay of these myths and the current climate of fear toward American Muslims.

Ivan Small (Lakota), an administrator at St. Labre, said he and those 90% believe "intent is everything."

Now let me stop right here for a sec.... As a sidebar, I'd like to relate what the school secretary said to me as I was waiting to speak with Curtis Yarlott (Yellow Arrows, Chief N. Cheyenne). I quote: "It makes me proud as hell. Indians, Braves, Warriors, Redmen, and Redskins. Doesn't make any difference, and most of us feel this way." (See survey, again.)

She also said, "Let me tell you a little bit of Indian history." Between 1910 and 1930 young braves took a derogatory term (i.e. lousy redskins, etc.) and made it their own moniker and totem in what she called echo effect, and we'd call backlash. (Echo effect is way cooler.) "It's why we ourselves have named our high schools Redskins, Redmen, and Indians. Most of us agree high school students aren't using these symbols in a bad way whatsoever. In truth, it's just the opposite. They hold these symbols in high regard, just as we do."

This segued nicely into what Ivan was saying repeatedly about "intent is everything." If there is no malicious intent, there can be no malice. Without bad intent, nothing bad shall be assumed. Without derogatory intent, there can be no derogatory statement.

What does tick him off is that nobody listens. They do another survey, and it's the same ole "we know, better than the poor Indians know, what's good for 'em and how they're supposed to feel." It's almost a joke when they come around, and ask how we feel about this or that, and then go do their own agenda anyway.

I asked, "what do you say to those 10% who would tear down all these symbols?"

"I'd tell them to remember that democracy and majority rule are Indian concepts, hundreds of years old. And even with caveats, 90% is a true indicator how the majority feel.

As "Lou the Toe" mentioned, there are many schools that have sister schools with the same moniker, and Ivan mentioned the Lodge Moss High School Indians, his alma mater, as a possible candidate. (Rob Stukor is the principal, and I do have his telephone and fax numbers.)

The talk will be held in the C208 Community Room at GCC.

The Creature Teachers present the "Nature of My Backyard" at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Saturday, February 11, from 1 to 2 p.m. This popular program explores the lives of the creatures living in our own backyards. Meet some of the common animals that we encounter every day, such as porcupine, gray fox, woodchuck, flying squirrel, snapping turtle, milk snake, and more. Sponsored by the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

**Is it time for a 'PET'icure?** Get your dog's nails cut for only \$11. Join Franklin County Animal Shelter staff at 10 Sandy Lane in Turners Falls on Saturday, February 18, from 11a.m. to 3 p.m.

Services provided by Megan of Mighty Clean Mutts and the proceeds from this event benefit the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter. All dogs must be leashed. Contact the shelter at (413) 676-9182.

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

## Red Cross Brings Home Fire Campaign to Montague

**MONTAGUE CENTER** – The American Red Cross' Home Fire Preparedness Campaign is partnering with the Montague Center Fire Department to install smoke alarms in area residences February 25.

Teams consisting of a Red Cross volunteer and a firefighter and will visit pre-registered Montague homes to install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, as well as educate the homeowners on fire safety and personal preparedness.

The campaign will kick off at the Montague Center Fire Department headquarters at 8:30 a.m. on February 25. Montague residents wishing to participate

should meet two criteria: that the home was built prior to 1975; and that current alarms are at least 10 years old or non-existent.

To register, please contact the Montague Center Fire Department at (413) 367-2757 by February 18.

The goal of this campaign, in Montague and across the country, is to reduce deaths and injuries from home fires by as much as 25% over the next four years.

"Seven times a day someone in this country dies in a home fire, and we have witnessed that tragedy right here in our community," said Mary Nathan, disaster program manager for western MA. "Smoke alarms save lives."

**GUEST ED** from previous page and grandmothers everywhere. (I said I'd *try* not to be sarcastic.)

Of course, the bitterness and rancor, and in some case unfortunately even hatred, won't be directed at these "heroes." It's the Wampanoags and Narragansetts whose names will essentially be swear words in the town of Montague for the next fifty years. This kind of cherry-picking – i.e., which schools, which logos, which images are offensive to which tribes, and how many Indians are certain groups representing – is very frustrating.

If it were the majority of all Indians (which it is not; see survey), then let's get rid of everything related to Indian symbolism, starting with the Wash. Redskins, then every pro team, college, high school, lake, river, region and mountain. All gotta go. That includes Indian pudding. Being named after mushy brown stuff is just as bad as being named after a State Championship-winning softball team. Actually, I believe that's 7 state titles (nothing to be proud of there).

And that giant statue of Crazy Horse being sculpted out West of the great man: gotta go, because these hypersensitive 10% can come out of the woodwork and claim his nose is too stereotypical and is offensive.

With all the *real ills* in the world, you have to wonder if these people weep 24/7, 365 days a year. (I said I'd *try* not to be snooty.) One of these "change the Indian" people is former class president at Turners. (I'm only guessing his classmates consider him their *former* prez.) Who, if you asked him if he had ever

disparaged, dishonored, debased or disrespected our beloved Indian logo, would tell you, I'm sure, absolutely *not*. Yet, that's what he's accusing every person who graduated before or after him of doing. Man talk about hypocrisy and temerity, hand in hand, running amok.

For many of us alumni, a name change would mean a total disconnect from our High School and in certain ways our youth. I'm wondering who of us will travel up the trail to, say, McCann Tech, to cheer on the Turners Falls fightin' salmon. (Stick any generic, whitebread name here.)

With a name change, will these people come volunteer at the ticket booths, or cook hot dogs, go to school plays, or chaperone dances? I've never seen any of these so-called Indian representatives at a football game, but you know they'll be there as soon as the team logo is changed, because that's what was keeping them away. *Yesiree*.

I've been a monthly donor to the St. Labre and St. Charles Indian schools of Ashland, Montana (Lakota and Cheyenne) for over 15 years, and I've been honored to be a member of the "Sacred Circle" for eight years. Those donations pay for books, sports equipment, and heat (as opposed to hot air). I receive wonderful handwritten letters from children in grades 1 to 12, and the monthly school newspaper.

It's really been enjoyable to follow the student successes in sports, scholarship, and the arts. I've been able to talk to school administrators, principals, A.D.s, and coaches through the years, and a lot lately.



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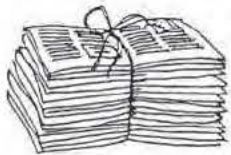
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in Montague

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GMRSC  
Openings!

Nomination papers for the annual town election to be held on Monday, May 15, 2017 for School Committee seats are available at the Gill-Montague Regional School Superintendent's Office, 35 Crocker Avenue, Turners Falls. Completed nomination papers are due in the Superintendent's Office no later than 4 p.m. on Monday, March 27, 2017.

Please note that all papers must be picked up and returned to the Superintendent's Office, and not the Town Clerk's Office.

There is one 3-year Gill School Committee seat open and two 3-year Montague School Committee seats open.

For more information or questions, please contact Sabrina Blanchard at (413) 863-9324.

Great Falls Middle  
School Students  
of the Week

week ending 1/27/2017:

**Grade 6**  
Ryan Demers

**Grade 7**  
Kaitlyn Amero

**Grade 8**  
Haley Bonnarigo

## LASAGNA from page A1

"After consulting with area chefs planning to enter the bake-off, MCSM moved up the timing of submission of lasagna entries from earlier in the afternoon," explained Mareneck. "Since 'Presentation' is a prize-winning category, this will eliminate reheating."

Mareneck is proud of the all-star celebrity judges who will be on hand. "We're lucky to land such a fine group."

The list of arbiters includes state representative Steve Kulik; new administrator for the town of Montague Stephen Ellis; Gill's select-board chair John Ward, and selectman Randy Crochier.

Judging will commence at 5:30 with the Presentation category, one of four classes. The public is invited to the sampling, which also gets underway at 5:30. The remainder of the evaluations starts at 6. Each entry will be judged anonymously. Along with Presentation, contestants' culinary offerings will be ap-

praised on the categories of Taste, Texture, and Creativity.

"We already have some entries," said the MCSM co-director. "Community Youth Programs is fielding a team, and we have several individuals additionally entered. And we received an interest from the district attorney's office of the possibility of entering a team."

"We're aiming for a heart- and tummy-warming event – fun for all – in the month of February."

What was the genesis of this fundraising event?

"We have a collaboration with Community Action's Nurturing Fathers program," said Mareneck, "in partnership with the Recovery Project, ServiceNet Homeless Shelter, and the Franklin County Correctional Facility. MCSM offers a home-cooked meal before each weekly Nurturing Fathers class. I was cooking one night last fall, and made a gluten-free lasagna dish."

"No one noticed the difference between it and regular lasagna. I got

into a nice conversation with Glenn Franklin of Community Action Youth Program, who suggested inviting area chefs for a lasagna bake-off event. That's how this project got started."

MCSM's mission is "to strengthen, encourage, and support people in our community through outreach, family education, positive conflict resolution, leadership development, and group empowerment."

Founded in 1994, the organization has a new co-director, Heather Wood, who is in charge of operations. "We're very pleased to have her aboard," said Mareneck. "Heather is a local woman who grew up in Gill-Montague and resides in Shelburne Falls."

The event will help provide funding for its many programs, which includes the Family Center. Under this umbrella, MCSM offers free playgroups, the Nurturing Fathers Program, the Nurturing Families Program for both adults and children, and a new service named

"Homework Help," which allows families without internet access at home to bring their children into the center to do their homework online four nights a week, from Monday through Thursday.

"The facilitators are bilingual," said Mareneck. "The Gill-Montague Regional School District has told us that Homework Help has provided valuable assistance, especially for Spanish-speaking children."

Headquartered in Turners Falls, MCSM also offers other multiple free services and programs to the community, including an emergency basic needs program (food, clothing, and shelter), workshops and programs at the Women's Resource Center, in addition to the Home Visiting Program which both works with families in need and can provide access to other services, such as transportation to courts.



## MEMORIES from page A1

what the fire was like for him," she said. "We talked for an hour and a half. He was driving toward the school, saw the glow of the fire from the Gill-Montague bridge, and started to cry."

The conversation inspired Cogswell to organize a roundtable discussion about the fire. While the discourse remained light, many comments reflected solemn reflection and a serious loss.

Around 2 a.m. on the morning of January 23, 1987, DPW employee Wayne Allen was plowing the driveway behind the high school – doing the first run in what would become a major blizzard – and spotted the fire. Escott stated fire officials would later see Allen's footprints and briefly suspect they belonged to an arsonist.

"They trained us to look for that, but I had so much else going on," he explained. Although no cause was ever officially determined, he stated it was thought to have been a flaw in the electrical or heating systems.

Cogswell, for her part, attributed blame to the "Killer Clown," a malevolent spirit alleged to have started the fire and haunted the building. She, her brother Ryan McCord, and others described the time as "traumatic."

Allen cleared the fire lanes around the building and drove back to the DPW headquarters, and placed the first call about the fire. Bonnette was answering that call when the second phone started to ring.

"You didn't call 911 in those days," explained Escott. "You called an 863 number. You had three lines. By the time all three were ringing, you knew there was a fire!" The men turned off the siren when they saw the fire "halfway down Montague Street."

A flickering reel of the demolition in process, screened on a tele-

vision Monday, was the first time Michelle Hazlett, a teacher at Sheffield at the time, had seen the rubble. She had never returned to the building after the fire. "It was too hard," she said. "It was like losing a family member."

Dozens of local fire departments responded. Mike Hastings, retired Gill fire chief, was at Monday's discussion, and remembered arriving on the first Gill engine.

"We started to attack the fire from front and back," said Escott. "They'd walk around the building to get over, but that quickly turned into cutting through the locker room. There were flames 40 feet high, the fire was getting closer, and we weren't sure we could save the rest of the building. And there was Stash" – custodian Stanley Zera – "mopping the floor!"



Mike Hastings and Bob Escott, retired fire chiefs for Gill and Turners Falls, were both on hand Monday. The men were on the first trucks from their departments responding to the 1987 fire.

"The library was beautiful," said Ryan McCord. "If a fifth grader was able to remember something like that, it must have been." McCord and other students on sports teams were recruited to bring materials from the remaining, undamaged



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The blaze sent thousands of pieces of burning paper up into the sky, mixing in with the snow during one of that winter's largest snowstorms.

rooms, to Hillcrest School, where classes were held until the building was demolished and rebuilt. School resumed at Hillcrest and Montague Center the following week.

The first attempt to move back to Sheffield after it was rebuilt was delayed by "air quality" problems, Cogswell and others remembered. When the school did reopen, "students marched from Hillcrest and were bussed from Montague Center School to meet there. It was very nice to be back," said Hazlett.

A door, which is now installed in the Sheffield main office, was recovered from the original building, along with a bench, now inconspicuously placed in the entryway. The auditorium and gym both survived relatively unharmed, despite being rinsed over with millions of gallons of water and encased in ice.

Cogswell played footage of the demolition, a pump removing water from the basement, and some scenes from the fire. Escott explained that it took four days to fully extinguish the fire. "Davenport was knocking down walls and we'd find another hot spot or a small fire," he said.

"It's a good thing it was snow-

ing, though," he said, gesturing to a charred flash card reading 1x4. "This stuff was landing all over the neighborhood!"

In 1989, teachers and community members came together to create a scholarship to honor the loss of the old building. Bricks from the demolition were piled on an adjacent street and in the McCords' yard. A plaque to commemorate the school was glued on by student volunteers. They sold the bricks for \$10 to fund a scholarship, which paid out to graduates of Turners Falls High School for 25 years.

Buddy McCord shared with the group the logistics of the scholarship bricks: "We loaded the bricks up into a bucket loader. Students came, the soccer team came to help..."

"The soccer team didn't 'help out,'" interjected his son Ryan. "It was your kids, and you didn't give us a choice!"

Bricks from the demolished structure are still piled on the McCords' property. As Buddy McCord joked, they are "\$50 each now, because of inflation, but still a bargain."



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**GMRSC** from page A1  
move forward.”

“I don’t care which side you’ve been on. It’s been difficult,” said Timmie Smith of Gill. “The school committee is in a tough place, to make this decision.”

“I don’t think that anyone anticipated the toll that this has taken on the kids,” said Montague’s Lesley Cogswell.

The committee discussed setting a final deadline on the decision. Citizens have announced an effort to place non-binding referenda on the Montague, Gill and Erving ballots in May, at the same time three members’ seats are up for election.

“We would like to have it done before May,” said Brown. “Come May, we may have some new school committee members. I don’t think it’s fair for them to try to go through and... read all the emails. I think it’s unfair to the towns, who elected us, to have this postponed because of a petition.”

“I’m concerned about new members coming onto the committee,” agreed Cogswell, “having to sort through the absolute mess that this has come to.”

“That’s a good point – I don’t know how feasible it will be to have a mascot chosen, since we don’t even have criteria, and we’re hitting February,” said Katsoulis.

“I think the actual mascot decision – mascot, logo, picture, name, title, whatever – I see as a longer process, to be done well,” argued Oakes. “It doesn’t mean that we won’t come to a decision about whether we do, or don’t, want to continue as it is.”

In the end, Smith introduced, and Brown seconded, a motion to reverse the vote establishing the process. It passed 6-2, with Langknecht and Montague member April Reipold dissenting. (Marjorie Levenson was not in attendance.)

Brown then introduced, and Smith seconded, a motion to make a decision whether to keep the “Indian” name at the board’s next regular meeting, which will likely be held February 14.

Oakes urged members to come to that meeting with firmer ideas of what the new process should look like, and wait until that discussion to commit to a vote. “I don’t want to make a decision that isn’t a thoughtful decision,” she said.

Montague’s Christina Postera agreed. “I don’t think any of us were prepared to make any type of decision yet,” she said. “I’d like to wait until the next meeting so we can come up with some clear directives, before all hell breaks loose.” The committee agreed to table the motion.

**Program of Studies**

Turners Falls High School principal Annie Leonard – sporting a fresh cut from the Sheffield School’s Buzz Off fundraiser, which has raised nearly \$15,000 so far to support children with cancer – came to talk with the committee about new offerings proposed for next year’s program of studies.

These include two “Maker Space” electives, which follow a Design/Build class currently being piloted; art studio blocks; the re-naming of the Greenhouse course

to “Plant and Soil Science;” an “Embodied Leadership” elective; and the replacement of Restorative Justice, which has not been recently offered, with one called “Social Justice and Conflict Resolution.”

Students taking language classes will now be required to receive a 70% grade, rather than simply passing, to enter the next level class.

Leonard said that a 2.5-credit social studies elective on Native American Studies has not recently been offered, due to low student interest, but that there is a proposal to revise and expand the curriculum into four different years between grades 6 and 12.

“I learned over the last several months that we can do better at intentionally integrating local, regional, indigenous people’s history as an essential part of the way that we are teaching history and social studies,” Leonard said. Two middle school social studies units, and two high school history units, will be developed this summer, she reported.

According to Sullivan, the additional costs associated with the curriculum changes – particularly in 3-D printers for the Maker Space courses – would amount to \$12,600, which is included in the administration’s preliminary FY’18 budget. The board unanimously approved the changes.

**Preliminary Budget**

The board also heard the newest version of that preliminary budget, which is holding steady at \$19,009,365. Sullivan said that a plan to eliminate a special education teacher at Sheffield has been

withdrawn, and that the approximately \$50,000 that would have saved will likely be accomplished by the elimination of another “professional educator of some kind,” a decision he acknowledged would be “impactful and difficult.”

The town’s proposed assessment to the town of Montague currently exceeds the amount that town’s finance committee sees as “affordable” by about \$32,000.

The board approved the preliminary budget by a 6-1 vote, with Montague member April Reipold dissenting. (Katsoulis had left the meeting around its 3-hour mark.)

**Technical Difficulty**

Montague Community Television station manager Dean Garvin spoke with the school committee about recent technical challenges to broadcasting their meetings.

The television studio at the high school, where the committee meets, is shared as classroom space during the day, and the repeated setup and breakdown of cameras and microphones have led to wear and tear on what Garvin called the room’s “antiquated equipment.” Sullivan added that the setup also involved labor costs, in the form of the district’s technical support and custodial staff.

The committee discussed other possible locations for the meetings that would allow a permanent setup. Cogswell expressed a clear preference for meeting at a district school, and Smith voiced worry over moving to a possible third-floor room at the high school because the building’s elevator might not work in an

emergency situation. No decision was taken.

**Other Business**

Business director Joanne Blier presented the board with proposed policies reforming the district’s student activities accounts.

Timmie Smith gradually voiced her misgivings about the administration’s earlier decision to pay for an audit of those accounts using interest that they had generated, suggesting that in her reading of existing statutes, that decision should have been the school committee’s to make. Sullivan invited her to meet with him and Blier to review the proposed policies.

The committee unanimously approved a trip for 16 students to the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils annual conference from March 8 to 10. Advisor Chani Craig described ongoing fundraising efforts for the trip, which included the sale of pashmina scarves and Krispy Kreme donuts, and direct appeals to community sponsors.

They also heard a report from food service manager Mistelle Hannah, who reported on many positive results of her department’s hosting UMass nutrition graduate student Rita Longe as an intern, including the introduction of a “farm fresh burger” made with locally sourced beef and mushrooms, elementary school nutrition lessons, and a new menu cycle that inures students to healthier food including chicken pot pies and kale chips.



**SPORTS** from page A1

lead, and after three quarters, Turners was only up 24-22.

But in the final period, the Indians’ defense again came up big, holding Frontier to just 2 points while the Blue Offense scored 10. Aliyah Sanders led the Tribe in scoring, sinking five buckets for 10 points. Maddy Chmyzinski put up 9 points by dropping three 3-pointers. Abby Loynd hit a 2, a 3, and a free for 6 points. Chloe Ellis scored 4 points on a field goal and two foul shots. Emma Miner hit a 3-pointer, and Kylie Fleming a 2-pointer.

The next day, in a very physical contest, Turners dropped a home game against cross-river rivals, the Greenfield Green Wave, 61-40.

It could’ve been worse, and it could’ve been better: worse if the Lady Indians didn’t make it to 40 points; better if they held the Wavers to less than 60. But be that as it may, the loss kicked the Lady Indians out of second place in the Franklin South League and dropped their record to 8-5. Turners jumped out to an early 7-1 lead in Thursday’s game but were unable to maintain it, and after the first quarter Green was ahead 13-9. The Wave expanded the margin to 10 points at the half, 30-20, outpaced the Tribe 16-12 in the third, and finished strong to win by 21 points.

Chmyzinski was kept outside for most of the game, scoring only one basket inside the arc. When she did drive to the hoop, she was frequently fouled, and she ended up with six 1-pointers. She also hit two 3’s for a total of 14 points.

Sanders shot in four foul shots and a basket for 6 points. Fleming also had 6, on three field goals. Ellis and Taylor Murphy both put up 4 points. Ellis hit two foul shots and a basket, while Murphy had two buckets. Loynd, Dabney Rollins and Hailey Bogusz also scored for the Tribe.

On Monday, Powertown got back on the winning track, beating the McCann Tech Hornets, 52-33. The victory improved the Lady Indians’ record to 9-5, only one win shy of last season’s total.

Monday’s game was tight in the first half, with the Tribe leading by only 2 points after a quarter (8-6) and 3 at the half (18-15). But in the third period, Powertown broke loose,

outscoring the Hornets 19-4 for a 37-19 lead after three, and the Blue Ladies coasted to the 19-point victory.

Chmyzinski scored 20 points on five free throws, three 3-pointers, and three from inside the arc. Loynd also hit double figures with 11 by sinking four foul shots, two from the floor, and a 3.

Ellis hit two from the outside for 6 points, while Bogusz (5), Fleming (4), Rollins (3) and Sanders (3) also scored for Blue.

**Girls Swimming**

*TFHS 53 – Renaissance 24  
Holyoke 79 – TFHS 67*

The Turners Falls Swim teams went 1-1 this week, which puts both their records at 4-5, smack dab in the middle of their respective classes. But with one meet remaining on both their schedules, it’s not their records which are important, it’s their times. Although it’s nice to win regular season meets, those meets are the springboard, as it were, to qualify for the Western Massachusetts Swimming & Diving Championships later in February.

Turners is a small school, so they don’t have enough kids to fill every lane in the pool. Consequently, individuals may win events and qualify for Western Mass, but without the numbers, the Blue teams may not win a lot of matches.

On Thursday, January 26, the Turners Falls Swimming Indians helped Melissa Hersey celebrate her senior day with a cake, a short ceremony and a win over Renaissance School. Ms. Hersey set the pace in two relay races as the leadoff swimmer in both events. Along with her teammates, Olivia Whittier, Jade Tyler and Allison Wheeler, the Blue Quartet finished first in the 200-yard medley relay (2:21.53) and the 200-yard freestyle relay (2:07.03).

In individual events, Whittier won the 200-yard freestyle in 2:26.28 and 100-yard breaststroke in 1:38.92; Tyler took the 200-yard IM in 2:32.22 and 500-yard freestyle in 6:02.33; while Abi Johnson finished first in the 50-yard freestyle, with a time of 37.38.

The next day the Lady Swimmers dropped an away meet to Holyoke, 79-67. Although Powertown took first place in seven of 11 events, their lack of depth once again led to too many second- and third-place finishes by



Turners’ Aliyah Sanders drives past the Frontier defense. Sanders was the game high-scorer with 10 points against the Frontier Red Hawks.

their opponent.

Tyler again won her two events (200-yard freestyle in 2:16.58; 100-yard backstroke in 1:13.69), as did Whittier (50-yard freestyle in 29.24; 100-yard breaststroke in 1:18.21). Wheeler won the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 1:11.28. The relay team won the 200-yard medley relay in 2:19.36, and the 200-yard freestyle relay in 2:08.11.

**Boys Swimming**

*Renaissance 54 – TFHS 38  
TFHS 71 – Holyoke 59*

On the 26<sup>th</sup>, Turners’ last home meet of the season, the boys’ swim team lost to the Renaissance Phoenix 54-38. Cameron Bradley won two races: the 200-yard freestyle, in which he had a time of 2:09.22, and the 100-yard butterfly, in 1:04.71. Nick Taylor won the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 6:27.03.

In team events, Ed Reipold, Chase Blair, Bradley and Taylor won the 200-yard medley relay in 2:15.21, and the 400-yard freestyle relay with a time of 4:21.87.

The next day the boys in the blue suits outswam the Holyoke Purple Knights 71-59.

Turners won seven events in the meet, including the 200-yard medley relay (2:45.34) and the 200-yard freestyle relay (1:51.70).

Taylor won the 200-yard freestyle (2:25.08) and 500-yard freestyle (6:27.81). Also winning two events was Bradley, who finished first in the 50-yard freestyle (27.06) and 100-yard backstroke (1:08.46). Reipold won the 100-yard freestyle in 1:06.40.

**Boys Basketball**

*Greenfield 57 – TFHS 45*

On January 25, Powertown was selected to the top 20 list of Western Mass high school basketball teams. Two days later, they lost to Greenfield by 12 points. Friday’s loss drops the Indians’ record to 9-5, and in the Hampshire League they now sit at 5-3, a half game above Green Wave and a full game behind the Pioneer Panthers. Green surprised Turners by jumping out to a 15-10 first-quarter lead, but in the second quarter, it seemed that Turners had the game in the bag, holding the Greenfielders to just 4 points while putting up 16 of their own.

But the Wave had a 26-point third quarter, and led by 9 points going into the final period. Blue was unable to stage a late-game rally and fell to Greenfield, 57-45.

Tionne Brown was the go-to guy for the Indians, putting up 24 points on three 3-pointers, 7 inside the arc, and a freebee. Kyle Bergman (6), Nick Croteau (5), Anthony Peterson (4), Javonni Williams (2), James Vaughn (2), and Tyler Lavin (2) also scored points for the Tribe.

**Ice Hockey**

*Chicopee Comp 6 – TFHS 0*

With apologies to Ms. Spears, oops, they did it again. On Saturday, January 28, the Ice Hockey Indians played Chicopee Comp to a 0-0 tie in the first period, but let up six goals in the next two periods while coming up empty on their end.

The Tribe from Turners controlled the puck for the entire game, outshooting Comp almost 2-to-1, 35 to 20. But as in previous contests, the Tribe dropped the puck and were unable to get that elusive first win.

Next week: A clearer picture...



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## Town of Montague 5 Hour per Week PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

Reporting to the Director of Public Health, the Public Health Nurse is responsible for the oversight of the Board of Health's public health nursing functions (as the limited amount of hours allows). Essential functions include, but are not limited to: using the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiological Network (MAVEN) for reporting, investigating, and control of communicable diseases and foodborne illnesses. Training on the use of MAVEN will be provided; MAVEN is an easy, network based, intuitive, tool used for epidemiological surveillance. Other duties may include working on emergency preparedness planning and other related duties, organizing wellness clinics and annual influenza clinics; creating, promoting, implementing, and evaluating public health educational programs; conducting home health visits, as time allows, maintaining an inventory of medical supplies; administering immunizations; ordering and dispensing vaccines and supplies; managing tuberculosis clients (very rarely); and other duties which relate to public health nursing. Candidate must be proficient using Microsoft Office Programs. Attendance at evening Board of Health meetings may occasionally be required.

Minimum qualifications include a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing, current licensure by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a Registered Nurse, current certification in CPR, a valid driver's license, and a minimum of three years of experience in public health nursing or a related field. The successful candidate will participate in Emergency Preparedness Planning Programs and Emergency Dispensing Site Planning and Operation. Applicant must be willing and able to obtain ICS Certification and Levels 100, 200, and 700 National Incident Management System certificates. Experience in program planning, community nursing, and health education, along with knowledge of public health laws is desirable.

This position is included within the Town of Montague Employees Association (TOMEA) bargaining unit. Starting salary range is Grade E/ Step 9 \$25.01/hour. Open until filled by a qualified candidate. Interested and qualified candidates should submit a resume and letter of interest to the address below:

Montague Board of Health  
Attention: Gina McNeely, Director of Public Health,  
1 Avenue A  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

### NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Town Greenlights Final Negotiations for Solar Array at Old Dump

By JEFF SINGLETON

Kearsarge Energy, the developer of two large solar arrays in Montague, came before the town selectboard on Monday to present its proposal for an array on top of the former town landfill on Sandy Lane. The proposal was presented by Everett Tattelbaum, the company's owner-operator, and Andrew Bernstein, its managing partner.

Kearsarge estimates that the solar array will produce 6 megawatts (MW), or 6,000 kilowatts (kW), of electricity. For comparison, the average rooftop solar installation in the state produces approximately 6 kW. Kearsarge has completed a 312-kW array in Sunderland and a 4.9-MW array in Southwick.

The landfill proposal presented at the meeting is being implemented under the state's Solar Renewable Energy Credit program. Under this program, a company or household receives "net metering" credits for electricity it does not use but returns to the electric grid.

Kearsarge's proposal would sell 79% of its credits to the city of West Springfield, and 21% to the town of Montague. The value of these credits would be subtracted from the municipalities' bills, reducing local energy costs. This assumes that cost of the credits is lower than the cost of the energy they replace.

Kearsarge estimated that Montague currently spends approximately \$300,000 annually on electricity. The company proposed to sell approximately \$150,000 of credits to Montague at a 15% discount. This would produce energy

savings to the town of \$22,636 in the second year of the installation, rising to \$45,009 in Year 30 according to the company's projection of energy prices.

"We could give you more," said Bernstein. "But we are trying to leave room for savings [through energy conservation]."

Montague would also generate approximately \$40,000 annually in revenue from a "tax agreement" with Kearsarge. This is a 20-year agreement "tied to personal property costs (which depreciate rapidly) and [a] real property tax estimate," according to the proposal. The town will also receive \$170,000 as a result of the lease agreement that Kearsarge proposed when they responded to the original request for proposals.

Tattelbaum and Bernstein requested that the selectboard authorize the town administrator to negotiate a "net metering power purchase agreement," and the administrator and assessor to negotiate a tax agreement, with Kearsarge. Bernstein urged the board to act quickly so the proposal would qualify for credits under the "cap" allocated by the state to each electric distribution company.

"It's taken us fourteen months to get this far with Eversource," Bernstein said. "With National Grid, it would have been a third of the time, but with Eversource, for good reasons and for bad reasons — we have a good relationship with the team there — they're just slow. They made a mistake at the beginning of the project... and we lost four months on that."

The selectboard approved the requests to begin negotiations on the power purchase and tax agreements.

By KATIE NOLAN

On Monday night, the Erving selectboard voted to state formally that it believes that the elected treasurer should be eligible for benefits, based on the workload, staff hours and pay rate for the position. They said that this statement applies to future treasurers. Current treasurer Margaret Sullivan is retiring when her term ends in May 2017.

Selectboard members expressed concern that, as an elected official, the treasurer does not report to any authority — except the voters, every three years — and does not submit a timesheet to document a workload of more than 20 hours per week, the minimum necessary for benefits eligibility. However, selectboard chair Jacob Smith said, "That position should have someone working more than 20 hours per week."

The board also agreed to allow Sullivan to hire a substitute treasurer to help out in the office while she is out on medical leave. In December, the board approved an additional 17.5 hours per week, split between the treasurer's assistant and payroll clerk, until January 31 for training to cover the treasurer's duties during the medical leave.

Sullivan said that the staff members had not used all of those approved hours, and the substitute treasurer could be paid from the money already allocated for treasurer's staff. The board extended the approval until May.

### Anticipated Capital Costs

The Erving selectboard and two finance committee members reviewed \$2.6 million in FY'18 capital improvement requests from Erving Public Library, the wastewater department, the treasurer's office, the highway department, Erving Elementary School, the recreation commission, the senior and community

center, the police department, and the water department. Librarian Barbara Friedman presented the request for \$1.99 million for the town's share of a new \$4.9 million library building on Northfield Road. At the previous week's selectboard meeting, library building committee member Jacqueline Boyden had presented the grant application to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, with architectural drawings for the new building.

Friedman said that the building committee is looking for other funding possibilities as well. Boyden said she remains optimistic, and is hoping for a first round approval of the grant by MBLC. If the grant is approved in the first round and town meeting funds the town's share, Friedman said the new library could open by spring 2019.

Wastewater supervisor Peter Sanders initially submitted a request for \$100,000 for inspecting and repairing the wastewater pipeline running from Arch Street to POTW#2. However, he informed the board that as he researched the project, he found that the 4,600-foot-long asbestos cement pipeline, installed in the early 1970s, is nearing the end of its useful life, and will soon need to be entirely replaced. Sanders said he would continue to research how to replace the pipe, including whether the route could be modified. The current route passes under railroad tracks twice. According to Sanders, approximately \$1.3 million in repairs might be needed for the line in succeeding fiscal years.

Sanders also presented a request for \$5,000 for water tank inspection. Treasurer Margaret Sullivan submitted a request for \$175,000 to pay loans for Riverfront Park construction. According to Sullivan, if the town starts making payments on the debt for the park, it can apply for

TOMEA, to merge its membership with the National Association of Government Employees (NAGE) and the International Brotherhood of Police Officers (IBPO). The change is the result of the retirement of TOMEA union representative Bob Dixon. Town administrator Steve Ellis informed the board that the upcoming special town meeting, scheduled for March 2, can be held at the high school auditorium, but the time will need to be moved from 6:30 to 7 p.m.

"I don't want to see twenty items on [the agenda]," said selectboard member Chris Boutwell. Boutwell was reassured by the town administrator that right now there was only one proposed item, an appropriation to secure the Strathmore Complex, and only a few would be added in the coming days.

The board authorized Ellis to send a note congratulating the Avenue A restaurant Riff's North, whose chicken sandwich was declared one of the ten sandwiches "you have to try before you die" by the website "Only In Your State."

The board then went into executive session to discuss litigation, and potentially releasing minutes of a previous session devoted to litigation concerning the Railroad Salvage building.

### NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Selectboard Rules Future Erving Treasurers Eligible for Benefits

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The board appointed Jeff Rollins and Erik Eichorn to the recreation commission. A special town meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the senior and community center, Monday, February 6.

The board also asked for \$12,000 for a zero-turn lawn mower. Smith said that the town should find out how many mowers it already owns and work out shared use of mowers across departments. Betters agreed that, as long as the mowing is done regularly, it doesn't matter which town department owns the mower.

state reimbursement sooner and minimize future borrowing for further construction at the park.

Highway superintendent Glen McCrory presented the request for \$135,000 to replace the 1997 John Deere backhoe. McCrory said he has concerns about unforeseen repairs and potential safety issues with the excavator.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith asked about the cost of an overhaul of the 1997 backhoe, and selectboard member William Bembury asked, "Can you get another year out of it?"

Finance committee chair Eugene Klepadlo asked if it would be better to buy a mini-excavator, with a potential price range of \$75,000 to \$85,000, and put a new engine in the backhoe for approximately \$45,000. Bastarache said he would like to see comparison prices and options.

McCrory said he would find out the costs of the various options suggested by the board and fin com members.

McCrory also mentioned that, within two to three years, the town barn would need repairs, including a new roof, siding and doors. He said the estimate he got several years ago for replacing the building was \$150,000.

Erving Elementary School requested \$95,700 for window replacement, repairs to road and sidewalk pavement, classroom furniture, kitchen equipment, and technology leases. Smith suggested that windows might be replaced with Green Communities funds.

Police chief Chris Blair requested \$5,000 for new bulletproof vests, and \$5,000 for a carport for a cruiser normally stored outdoors. Blair said the town has usually received grants from state and federal agencies for the vests, but he planned to pay for them first and then apply for reimbursement.

The recreation commission, operating without enough members to have a quorum (until two new members were appointed by the board at Monday's meeting), submitted an approximate estimate of \$22,000 for renovating the tennis courts at Veterans Park and possibly constructing a pavilion or parking area there and \$14,000 for a track at EES. Smith said that he expected the commission would meet soon to review their capital improvements plan.

Paula Betters provided the board and fin com members with photos of a storage shed and furniture and equipment for the senior and community center, for a total of \$14,250. Betters said she spent time looking for the best prices: "I'm really shopping," she said.

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### Other Business

The board appointed Jeff Rollins and Erik Eichorn to the recreation commission.

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## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was February 1, 2007: News from the Montague Reporter's archive

### A Bridge Too Far

When the Sawmill River flooded a few years back, one of the only casualties was an old farm bridge that spanned the river at the end of North Street. The cresting water took the top of the bridge right off the abutments, but local residents found it a short way downstream, and hoisted the beams and cross-wise back into position.

The bridge continued to get residents and their dogs across the Sawmill to what is popularly known as "the conservation land" at the end of North Street for a few more years, until the winter of 2005, when, as local resident Alice Armen remembers it, an ice dam undermined the central bridge abutment. This time, the old bridge was damaged beyond repair.

A month ago, an unnamed resident or residents put up what Ralph Taylor from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

called "an illegal, unsafe bridge" to allow easier access to the wildlife management area. The new bridge, assembled from stout cables secured to trees on either bank, with a swaying platform made from shipping pallets in between, and handholds made from extra cables strung at waist height, was dismantled on the morning of January 24 by Fish & Wildlife employees.

Since then, a flurry of phone calls and emails to Taylor and to new Montague town planner Don La Roche have been a gauge of local sentiment about the difficulty of accessing the public land.

### War Protest Sign Vandalized Again

A permitted sign protesting the war in Iraq placed by a Taylor Hill resident in a selectboard-designated "Free Speech Zone" on the Montague Center town common has been vandalized for a third time in two weeks. Eric Chester put up the hand-lettered sign two weeks ago, six months after he first requested permission from the selectboard to

place the sign on the town common.

Chester has said he sought equal time on the town common in response to the selectboard's annual permitting of a crèche scene put up by the Firemen's Relief Association, and to protest US foreign policy, specifically in Iraq.

According to Chester the sign was put up Wednesday, and the next day found folded up and hidden behind a utility pole. On noon Friday, somebody had torn off the hinges and destroyed one of the boards.

Chester continued, "I couldn't get the sign back up until Wednesday the 24th." After that, "It was OK for a few days. On Saturday, I found that someone had ripped the paper sign off the wooden support."

"Someone who disagrees with the sign's message did this. They are violating my right to free speech, and that is a hate crime."

Ferd Wulkan, who lives directly across from the common said, "Being of Jewish heritage, the crèche never really sat well with me. Now that it has been declared a free speech zone, I am much more comfortable with the entire thing."

### NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## Keller Mends; Likely Scam Delinked; DiDonato, Schwartz Rejoin Broadband Effort

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Selectboard member Dan Keller stayed home with a broken hip January 25. Selectboard chair Christine Heard and Jeoffrey Pooser came to the office building early for the joint meeting of the broadband operating committee and the construction committee, which started at 5:30. They left that meeting to move down the hall to hold their regular selectboard meeting.

Michael Idoine came in at the start of the selectboard meeting, and agreed to take Keller's place as an alternate representative to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) on January 26. Keller may be able to come to the next selectboard meeting, and if that is too difficult, it is legal for him to participate by speakerphone.

Jeff Budine agreed to be the town's committee member at the Franklin County Technical School school committee, allowing Rick Drohen to leave the position. A longtime school committee member, Drohen has been trying to retire from that position, but did not want to leave Wendell without its member on the committee. Budine met the selectboard early in the meeting, but his appointment is one of two that are made by the town moderator instead of the selectboard. Town moderator Kate Nolan has said she will appoint him.

The selectboard could, and did, appoint Stephanie Parker to the recreation committee.

Also early in the meeting, Pooser wondered if there is some mechanism

to deal with a person who is rude and disruptive, again and again, and who regularly comes to meetings, which are public meetings and open to all citizens. He suggested that a town constable might come to a meeting and assist, and he asked town coordinator Nancy Aldrich to consult with town counsel about that and other ways to deal with such a person.

Aldrich gave to Pooser and Heard public records compliance instructions that town clerk Gretchen Smith compiled. Heard said she would email the instructions to Keller.

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute is holding a training session about procurement of broadband services. Only Alistair MacMartin can attend.

Nan Riebschlaeger reported that Vehicles for Veterans, which the town added to its website, has had many complaints, and is likely a scam. Heard and Pooser agreed that the group's information should be removed from the website.

Following the lead of the Baker administration community compact, FRCOG has offered Wendell technical assistance with several improvements in town operations. A few are relevant to a small town, but Wendell has put those measures into practice already. Preparing for an expected cut in federal aid, FRCOG is doing a survey of town projects that depend on federal funding, and asked for a list from Wendell. For FY'17, Wendell has nothing.

Pru Smith considered using the meeting room for a yoga class, because it has the blank wall the class

needs, but so far she has not followed up with a formal request.

In support of the Municipal Coalition Against the Pipeline (MCAP) the town is writing a letter that opposes an electricity tariff to fund gas infrastructure.

Librarian Rosie Heidkamp mentioned several pieces of surplus library furniture. She will put items that were donated out for free once weather allows, and the items that the town bought, including the old card catalog, will be available at the next town auction of surplus property.

The selectboard is sending a second letter to tell Andy Hamilton that he must reduce to two the number of unregistered vehicles on his property. After February 28 he will be subject to a fine of \$25 per day per vehicle.

Hamilton does not have a mailing address, and so the job of delivering the letter will fall to police chief Ed Chase.

The state is abandoning its use and support of CAMA software for assessing property and setting taxes, and so Wendell needs to keep up. Tax collector Penny Delorey needs to request a new software that can interface with the state. Muniware, created by Dale Kowacki, will cost \$9,600 to buy and install, and \$4,281 the next year, with an annual increase of 3%.

Near the end of the selectboard meeting Ray DiDonato and Ben Schwartz, both from the single broadband committee of FY'16, came in and said that they would be happy to be appointed to the joint broadband committees.

I feel your warmth around me  
like you're so very near,  
I close my eyes and visualize  
your face when you were here,  
I cherish the time we spent together  
And I keep the memories locked away,  
When I'm sad and missing you  
I look back at them and smile,  
For then I remember you didn't go away,  
You just realized it was time for you to go home.  
And someday I will do the same.  
When I do, don't forget,  
I'll meet you at the gate.

John & Family



### NOTES FROM THE WENDELL TOWN CLERK

## Town Election News

The Town Clerk thanks all of the dedicated election workers, the Election Warden, Election Clerk, and the Town Constables who put in long hours on Election Day throughout the busy 2016 election year. Looking forward, we should have a much easier time of it in 2017, with only the Annual Town Election on the docket.

Nomination papers for the Annual Town Election on **Monday, May 1** are available *now* at the Town Clerk's office. The last day to obtain nomination papers is Thursday, March 9, and the last day to submit nomination papers to the Board of Registrars for certification is Monday, March 13. *Papers must be signed by candidates for re-election as well as new candidates.*

The list of offices that will be on the May 2017 ballot include the following: Selectboard, Board of Assessors, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Treasurer, Board of Health (*newly vacant*), Cemetery Commissioner, and Road Commis-

sioner all have one position open for a 3-year term; School Committee and Library Trustees have two positions open for a 3-year term; Planning Board has one position open for a 5-year term; and Moderator and Tree Warden each have one position open for a 1-year term. Cemetery Commission has one position to fill a 1-year vacancy and School Committee has one position to fill a 2-year vacancy. A willing candidate is needed for the open Board of Health position.

There are also several vacancies on Town Boards and Committees. Please consider submitting your name to the Selectboard for consideration of an appointment to the Finance Committee, Historical Commission, or New England Trail Stewardship Council. There is also a paid position available as Planning Board Clerk. For more information on vacant elected and appointed positions, call the Town Clerk at (978) 544-3395 x2.

## Town Census Update

In January, you will receive in the mail your 2017 Annual Street Listing Form, also known as the Town Census. Please update the information on the form for every individual in your household including children of all ages. Please correct any mistakes. If someone in your household has moved out of town and you know their new address, please write that information on the form.

Don't forget to have the Head of Household *sign and date* the form before returning it to the Town Clerk, P.O.

Box 41, Wendell, MA 01379. You can save a stamp by dropping off the signed form at the Town Clerk's office/mailbox. Office hours are 9 a.m. to noon on Monday, Friday, and Saturday mornings, and Wednesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m.

Please help us make the Town Census as complete and accurate as possible. If you did not receive a form, please call the Town Clerk at (978) 544-3395 x2, leave your name and contact information, and we will mail you a blank form to complete.

## Dog License Reminder

It is time to renew your dog or kennel license. Licenses and tags are available between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and noon on Monday, Friday, and Saturday mornings, and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. In bad weather, please call first to make sure the office is open.

The fee is \$4 for a spayed or neutered dog, and \$8 for an intact dog. Every dog must have a valid rabies vaccination certificate presented to the Town Clerk at the time of licensing. If we have your certificate on record from last year, and it is still valid, you do not need to bring in the paperwork again this year.

Dog owners age 70 and up and owners of service dogs do not pay a fee, but must still license their dogs. If you need the dog license and tags mailed to you, please provide a double-stamped, self-addressed envelope

with your written request.

If 4 or fewer dogs are under one ownership, the owner has the option to buy individual licenses or a kennel license for \$10. Five or more dogs constitute a kennel, and the owner must pay for a kennel license and be subject to the state inspection regulation. The kennel fee is \$25 if more than 4, but not more than 10, dogs are kept.

The dog license deadline is April 1. After that date, dog owners will incur a fine determined by the Dog Officer in consultation with the Selectboard, and only after an effort has been made to reach the dog owner directly for a "last chance" reminder or explanation. The Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk, Dog Officer, and Police Chief all thank you for licensing your dog in a timely manner.

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NINA ROSSI PHOTO

The current facility's double bay is too small to hold two plow trucks side by side.

#### GARAGE from page A1

The selectboard created the six-member committee in December 2015, charging it with overseeing a feasibility study funded by a \$15,000 town meeting appropriation. That study was completed in April 2016, whereupon town meeting appropriated \$40,000 for an "additional site investigation," which was completed in August.

Both studies were produced by the consulting firm Weston & Sampson, which will assist the committee in preparing its report to the 2017 annual town meeting.

On Tuesday night, several committee members noted that town meeting would want to know how the \$11.5 million price tag compared to similar projects in similar towns. Morin said that Weston & Sampson had assured the committee that the cost was comparable to

other projects. He cited a \$25 million project in the town of Holden (population 17,346) and an \$8 million project in Deerfield (population 5,125). Montague's population is reported to be 8,437.

In 2008, Montague voters approved a debt exclusion of \$5.6 million for a new public safety complex, which was completed for several hundred thousand dollars

below that cost.

Town planner Walter Ramsey noted that the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) is considering building a bus garage near the proposed highway facility site. This could mean that the transit authority will pay for infrastructure development that would benefit the highway project, and Ramsey estimated that this could bring down the projected cost by as much as \$300,000. However, several members of the committee raised the question of timing, since FRTA has not made any decision on its Sandy Lane project, and has not negotiated an agreement with the town.

Ramsey has also, at previous meetings, raised the possibility of using revenues from the proposed solar array in the same area to offset the garage's cost. During Tuesday's meeting, he suggested that revenue from the solar project, which he has estimated at around \$200,000, could help balance the budget in the face of increased debt service, but that project would not produce a revenue stream dedicated to the highway project alone.

The committee also spent a good



Gabriel Lee Mason  
2/5/1984 – 3/25/2008

His smile and laughter  
so contagious  
His warmth and kindness to all

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Uncle, nephew, cousin, friend  
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"Peace Out." We miss you!

COURTESY WESTON &amp; SAMPSON



A "conceptual rendering" of the proposed facility.

deal of time discussing the cost implications of the current DPW facility at the end of Avenue A, and of the so-called Butler Building, which the department uses for additional storage, behind town hall.

Ellis argued that the building proposal should be "part of a [broader] facilities proposal." He noted that there would be significant costs incurred by using the current highway building for "cold storage," and that a private developer had shown interest in the property behind town hall.

Jensen also stressed the development potential of the current highway garage site, and argued that the town needed an "exit plan" for the building.

The committee was asked how an \$11.5 million project would impact other proposed town projects, such as a new library and a new senior center. Morin stated that this was not an issue for the building committee, but rather for the town's capital im-

provements committee (CIC).

The group discussed what kind of public process would be necessary to present the proposal, and receive input from town meeting members and the public. Several members advocated holding a public informational meeting similar to "pre-town meetings" that once preceded the May annual town meeting.

Committee member Jay DiPucchio suggested that the committee make a brief presentation during the upcoming special town meeting on March 2. Ellis agreed, noting that putting the issue on the agenda might help ensure that meeting achieves a quorum.

"We have three months for community education," DiPucchio stated.

The committee will discuss the presentation at its next meeting, which will be held on Thursday, February 16 at the town hall.



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B1

## Eugene Mirman Drops By the Shea Theater



Eugene Mirman.

By JEN HOLMES

**TURNERS FALLS** – Are you a fan of *Bob's Burgers*? Or *StarTalk Live! With Neil deGrasse Tyson*? What about “absurd and anecdotal” comedy?

If the answer to any of these is “yes,” then Turners Falls has plans for you! Next Thursday, February 9, comedian and actor Eugene Mirman, along with special guest Maeve Higgins, will be stopping by the Shea Theater Arts Center as part of their stand-up comedy tour.

“I’ve been wanting to do a show at the Shea for a long time, and this seemed like the perfect time to do it,” explains Mirman of his choice to add the village of Turners Falls to his list of tour dates.

Mirman, who currently resides in Cape Cod and New York, attended Hampshire College and continues to enjoy spending time in the Pioneer Valley.

“I go back to Turners, specifically, to visit friends,” he says. “They own the Rendezvous.”

For the unacquainted, Eugene Mirman is probably best known for voicing the middle sibling and “light-hearted goofball” Gene Belcher on the animated series *Bob's Burgers*. He’s also a frequent co-host on *StarTalk Live! With Neil deGrasse Tyson*, and has an hour-long special currently available on Netflix titled *Vegan on His Way to the Complain Store*.

Mirman has recorded a number of comedy albums, including his most recent, and most ambitious, release *I'm Sorry (You're Welcome)*, which can be purchased in various formats on Sub Pop Records.

“It’s a seven-LP set, a nine-volume digital download, and then we also sold it as a robe and a chair,” says Mirman. “We sold the two chairs that were made, which were these sort of nice refurbished chairs that we sewed MP3 players and speakers into,” he explains. The robes, which Mirman said are possibly still available for purchase, also have headphones and an MP3 player, with the album pre-loaded, sewn in.

Mirman says these ideas were borne out conversations about the “future of formats,” and that he was “obsessed with the idea that the future of audio formats will be chairs.”

“When I was in college, I remembered talking to a teacher and saying that I thought anything could be comedy, as long as it was funny,” he recalls. “And I think my example at the time was a chair – that I think you could make a funny chair. So now, 20-something years later... I have made a funny chair.”

The chairs and robe – as well as a dog collar, also implanted with speakers – were part of his mission to make an album “in a bunch of silly formats,” but Mirman made it clear

see MIRMAN page B5

### THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

## The Bully Pulpit



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

By LESLIE BROWN

### Immigrant

*Magic doesn't work in this new place.  
Native poetry has lost rhythm and rhyme,  
Familiar food is labeled a curiosity,  
And hostile stares replace familial love.  
To be an immigrant  
Is to be solitary in the midst of millions.*

– Ancient Chinese poet

**MONTAGUE CITY** – Immigrants leave their native lands in expectation or hope of a better life.

These are the peoples who founded our nation, and we are all immigrants. Over time we have become something called Americans. We have had pride in our nation and we have loved it.

But we have never been One.

This is both the beauty and the downside of democracy. When it is working well, people of diverse ideas and opinions meet, talk, even argue but find ways to come together in compromise and still achieve good.

There has always also been the ugly side. The discoverers of the Americas claimed it for their own, and thought nothing of wrestling

the ownership from the indigenous peoples they found there. We have done the same with the Native Americans and felt justified as we consigned them to small territories of their own. We brought slaves from far places to do the jobs we didn't wish to do.

There are many divides of belief, of wealth, of education and of opportunity, and they have been exploited by a demigod who fans the fires of hatred and who gives voice to it. We have never been so divided since the Civil War. And we have forgotten our heritage as immigrants who brought a wealth of traditions and skills from England, from Ireland, from France, from China and Japan and most recently from Africa and the Middle East and many other places where the people have suffered from the hatred of others and the desires of ownership.

All those cultures and languages and customs; arts and crafts and culinary delights. We have music and art and regional cuisine, but we have forgotten that they are based on music and art and cooking from other cultures, once our own.

Even in the garden, little is indigenous to America except the hybridized and the genetically altered.

Our sturdiest fruit tree is the Siberian apricot; our hardiest roses are English; my favorite irises are

see GARDENER'S page B3



By JOE PARZYCH

**GILL** – There had been a snow storm a day or two prior to the '78 blizzard. It had been a tough winter, and the Massachusetts DPW had exhausted all of the money authorized for the entire year with a January Northeaster. DPW Commissioner John J. Carroll was meeting with the Ways and Means committee of the Massachusetts legislature to get money to fight future storms on February 6, the very day the blizzard began.

Snow started falling early that day, and would drop 30 inches or more in the western part of the state – and more than 40 inches in the Boston area, with drifts up to 15 feet high. Hurricane winds of 100 mph sent waves crashing into beachside homes, wrecking them.

The storm began slowly in the western part of the state. The DPW foreman in Erving called me to load trucks with sand and salt, and then, later, to plow with my Mack truck.

By evening, bone-chilling winds shrieked unmercifully, blowing snow sideways, piling it into drifts. Windblown snow made it harder and harder to see the road.

Driving toward Turners on



The storm made drifts up to 15 feet high.

## Music, Movement and More at the Montague Public Libraries

By ANNE HARDING

**MONTAGUE** – Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. happy families come together to listen and play at Music and Movement with Laurie Davidson and Tom Carroll. The program rotates through the town's library system: from September to December at the Millers Falls Library, from January through April at Carnegie Library in Turners Falls, and from May through August at the Montague Center Library.

According to library director Linda Hickman, the first Music and Movement series featured Happy Dan the Music Man and later, Donna Lee. Initially, there were two programs per week and lots of federal funding through early childhood grants. Over time, smaller grants came from the Family Network and the Community Partnership for Children but as expected, grant funding has diminished.

The program now runs once a week and is entirely funded through the library system's operating budget. As popular as ever, an average of 50 participants attends each week, following the program from library to library.

## One Tough Assignment: The Blizzard of '78



Joe's Case loader, on the left, helping clear Route 138.

Route 2, down Chappell's hill, driving snow completely obliterated the road. I could not see a thing. The windshield and side windows looked as if they'd been painted white. I put on the brakes, and felt the truck slide against the curb.

There I sat, in a quandary, not daring to continue for fear I'd slam into a car, and at the same time fearing a car, or truck, would slam into me. When the storm subsided momentarily, I turned the truck around and crept back to the DPW yard, straining to see, hoping a car wasn't sitting, hidden by snow, waiting out the storm.

The other snow plow trucks had also returned. Wind howled and gusts shook the DPW building as we waited for the blizzard to abate. When it let up a little, we plowed all night and into the next day.

I worked 20 hours, slept 5,

worked 20 more, slept 5, and reported to the Mass DPW garage in Erving on Thursday morning, bleary-eyed and dead tired.

“Forget about working here,” Superintendent Mike Zewski said. “They need you in Boston to help dig out. Go home and get pajamas and your toothbrush; they'll fix you up with a place to sleep. Route 2 is closed. Go down 91 to the Turnpike, and report to Ken Ross at the DPW depot in Wellesley.”

### An Army Outpost

The Massachusetts Turnpike was strangely deserted, except for a few trucks carrying snow removal equipment. The HOJO service center was jammed with tractor-trailer units. State police manning roadblocks waved me through.

When I swung into the state DPW depot in Wellesley, it looked like an army outpost. Jeeps, 6x6 Army trucks with olive-drab tarps covering the back, olive-drab front-end loaders, mammoth wreckers, and other Army and civilian equipment clogged the yard.

Army sergeants barked orders at soldiers milling around in typical military chaos. A helicopter *whup-whupping* overhead completed the illusion of a beachhead. When I drove in with my Mack truck and Case loader on the tag-along trailer, there was hardly room to park.

I climbed out of the truck cab  
see BLIZZARD page B4



Kids move around during the Music &amp; Movement series.

Laurie Davidson moved from Brookline to Montague in 2001. Having an 18-month-old toddler and a need to meet people first brought her to the Music and Movement program. Now Davidson and her husband Tom Carroll are the star attractions!

I've had the good fortune to enjoy the program myself, as I started attending last year with my grand-

daughter Sophia. It's a great mix of songs, activity and language learning with Carroll on guitar and vocals and Davidson's exuberant puppetry, performing English and Spanish songs and lead-by-example hopping, slithering, dancing and sound effects.

Carroll and Davidson met in Lakeville, Connecticut but spent  
see MOVEMENT page B8

# Pets of the Week

I am Flowers, and I would like to go home with my friend Bennet. We are friendly, but may take some time to warm up. We like to have places to hide and lots of room to hop around and explore things. We enjoy getting treats, especially fruits and vegetables.

When we're excited or happy, we jump in the air – it's quite adorable! Ask an adoption counselor to meet us! Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at [info@dpvhs.org](mailto:info@dpvhs.org).



## “FLOWERS & BENNET”

### Senior Center Activities FEBRUARY 3 TO 10

#### 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 2/6** 1 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Tuesday 2/7** 10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga (new time) 12:45 p.m. COA Meeting  
**Wednesday 2/8** 9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach 11:30 a.m. Friends Meeting 12:30 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday 2/9** 9 a.m. NO Tai Chi 1 p.m. Cards & Games  
**Friday 2/10** Reflexology Appts 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 2/6** 9 a.m. Tai Chi 10 a.m. Healthy Bones Last RAD Class  
**Tuesday 2/7** 8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics 10 a.m. Stretching & Balance 12:30 p.m. Coloring; Knitting  
**Wednesday 2/8** 8:45 a.m. Line Dancing 10 a.m. Chair Yoga Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs  
**Thursday 2/9** 8:45 a.m. Aerobics 10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
**Friday 2/10** 9 a.m. Quilting Workshop 9:30 a.m. Bowling 12:30 p.m. Movie & Popcorn

#### WENDELL

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

### MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

## This Week on MCTV

#### By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Well, folks, we’ve got some exciting new programming this week. Take a look yourself at *MontagueTV.org*. Here’s a summary:

- The Discovery Center presents *Listening to a continent sing: The land, the birds, the people!* Donald Kroodsma tells us all about his journey bicycling across the United States, the landmarks he

encountered, like silos in Kansas and hotspots in Iowa, the people he encountered, and bird songs – particularly, insights into the rewards of listening to the song of the bird as an individual.

- In *Being There: The Women’s March 2017*, Janet Masucci shares with us a compilation of her footage and photos from the January 21 Women’s March in Washington, DC.
- Part 2 of the Turners Falls

Fashion Show 2016 is now available for viewing!

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 (413) 863-9200, [info-montaguetv@gmail.com](mailto:info-montaguetv@gmail.com), or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Thanks for supporting your community TV station!

## FEBRUARY LIBRARY LISTINGS

*Weather, etc., sometimes causes changes in library events; you may want to call ahead to confirm.*

### PHONE NUMBERS

Montague Public Libraries  
Turners Falls: Carnegie (413) 863-3214  
Montague Center (413) 367-2852  
Millers Falls (413) 659-3801  
Erving Public Library (413) 423-3348  
Gill: Slate Library (413) 863-2591  
Leverett Public Library (413) 548-9220  
Wendell Free Library (978) 544-3559

### ONGOING EVENTS

**Every Tuesday**  
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Craft Time w/Angela*. Children, all ages. 3:30 p.m.  
Leverett Library: *Qigong*. 5:15 to 6:15.  
**Every Wednesday**  
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time w/Karen*. Story, project, snacks. Young children w/ caregivers. 10:15 a.m.  
Wendell Free Library: *Sylvia’s Awesome Play Group*. A sand table and lots of activities for newborn to 5 years old and their guardians. 10 to 11:30 a.m. (Does not meet during school vacations or snow days.)

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *STEM Homeschool Science*. Hands-on Science for any age homeschooler. 1 p.m.

Through March 29. Leverett Public Library: *Story Time w/Heleen Cardinaux*. Developed for children newborn through preschool ages, but all families welcome. 10:30 to noon.

Leverett Library: *Advanced Tai Chi*. 1:45 p.m.

#### Every Thursday

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson* for children. 10 a.m. through April, then moves to Montague Center branch.

Wendell Free Library: *Introduction to Astrology with Mara Bright*. Starting February 16, a 4 week series to help participants learn the fundamentals of the topic. 4 to 5:30 p.m.

**First Thursday Each Month**  
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls:

*Adult Coloring*. Come enjoy our high quality supplies, or bring your own. 10 to 11 a.m.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Genealogy Club*. Sara Campbell leads an informal discussion of local genealogy. 6 p.m.

#### Last Thursday Each Month

Leverett Library: *Lego Club*. New building challenge each week, and snack.

See Events, Feb. 16, change for this month. 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.

#### First Saturday Every Month

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Book Sale*. Books, DVDs, CDs, etc. \$1 or less. 10 to 1:45 p.m.

#### Last Saturday Every Month

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Lego Club*. Children all ages and their caregivers build and play with Legos. 11 to 1 p.m.

#### Every Friday

Wendell Free Library: *Yoga with Shay Cooper*. Intermediate level. 10 a.m. \$ or barter.

#### Every Saturday

Leverett Library: *Tai Chi*. Beginners at 10 a.m. Advanced class at 11 a.m.

Wendell Free Library: *AA Open Meeting*. 6 to 7 p.m.

#### Every Sunday

Wendell Free Library: *Mostly Yoga*. 10 to 11:15 a.m. Donation.

Wendell Free Library: *AA Open Meeting*. 6 to 7 p.m.

### EXHIBITS

Leverett Public Library: *Nancy Emond + student watercolor class paintings*. Community room. Through February.

Wendell Free Library: *Breathing Room and Affectionate Tendrils*, Works by *Leah Moses*. Two separate exhibits, one of watercolors in the Herrick Gallery, the other is three-dimensional works in the Library’s lobby. Through February.

### EVENTS

Erving Library: *Friends Candy Sale, Make Your Own Valentine*. February 5 through 14, when library is open.

#### Saturday, February 4

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Valentine Party*. Make cards, crafts, projects. Supplies provided as well as snacks. Designed for children of all ages and their caregivers. 10:30 a.m. to noon.

#### Thursday, February 9

Slate Memorial Library, Gill: *Valentines Crafting Party*. 3:30 p.m. Leverett Library: *Ukelele Play-Along with Julie*. Bring your own or borrow one from us. 7 to 8 p.m.

#### Friday, February 10

Wendell Free Library: *Quabbin: Then and Now with Dale Monette*. Photographer Monette presents 1930s images of the Quabbin and his photos of the same shots today. 7 p.m.

Leverett Library. Free movie night; *The Light Between Oceans*. 7:30 p.m.

#### Sunday, February 12

Wendell Free Library: *Hat Making Workshop*. Knit and felt an artful wool hat – great beginner project. Continues next Sunday also. Please register. 4 to 5 p.m.

Erving Library: *Author/Illustrator Storytime; Henry and Lola: A Puppy Love Story*. 6 p.m.

#### Thursday, February 16

Leverett Library: *Lego Club* meets this Thursday because of school vacation. 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.

Leverett Library: Book Discussion Group: *Light Years by James Salter*. Library has copies to lend. 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Chocolate Tasting With Dede Wilson*. Gourmet chocolate from beans to bar. Registration required. 7 to 8 p.m.

#### Sunday, February, 19

Wendell Free Library: *Hat Making Workshop*. Knit and felt an artful wool hat – great beginner project. Please register. 4 to 5 p.m.

#### Wednesday, February 22

Erving Library: *Vacation STEM Activity, Muttbot Robotics Kit with Jean Daley*. 1 p.m.

#### Thursday, February 23

Erving Library: *Vacation STEM Activity with Jean Daley, Makey-Makey*. For school age children. 1 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Learn to Crochet or Knit*. Supplies and instruction provided. 6:30 p.m.

#### Friday, February 24

Wendell Free Library: *Active Bystander Training*. Led by *Quabbin Mediation*. Please register. 6 to 8 p.m.

#### Saturday, February 25

Wendell Free Library: *Movie Wolf with Jack Nicholson*. Part of the Science Fiction/Horror Movie Series sponsored by the Library. 7:30 p.m.

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**GARDENER’S** from page B1

Japanese. Some of our favorite tomatos are heirlooms from Nepal, Germany and the Amish.

At our best we are an eclectic people; at our worst we are self-centered and self-righteous.

But what a democracy means is that we can choose. We can look back to our roots and be proud yet still mindful of the needs of others. We can try to think of the common good rather than the good of a small group. We can be a strong nation of people who have concern for the greatest good, focused internationally for the needs of all members of

this planet and for the preservation of this marvelous earth.

Or we can listen to the voices of isolationism and hatred and close our doors and our hearts.

We do have a choice, because that’s what a democracy means.

**Mosaic**  
*Tiles of carnelian, lapis and jade,  
The muralist sets his picture  
One centimeter at a time.  
Every piece alone is precious;  
Together they make a priceless whole.*

—Ancient Chinese poet



TV REVIEW

“Six” (History Channel)



By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

The History Channel is airing a TV show about Navy Seals and what they deal with in their personal and professional lives. The show, whose first season will be eight episodes long, is inspired by the real-life missions of SEAL Team Six.

One of the show’s creators is David Broyles, a military special operations veteran. Retired US Navy SEAL Mitchell Hall is the series’ technical adviser and associate producer. A 2012 movie called *Act of Valor* focuses on those types of military men involved in active duty Navy SEALs, and was done quite realistically. From the previews I have seen of “Six”, it looks like it will be done as realistically as that movie.

The first scene shows a mission where the team is dealing with a particularly dangerous terrorist. Some time later, we see that one team member, a man named Rip, has become like Ahab and the white whale from Moby Dick when it comes to this one terrorist.

The team goes on another mission to attempt to get this man, and Rip makes a few decisions that one

could say were not the greatest calls to make. It would seem that he is starting to lose it a bit. We are treated to a bit of the personal life of another SEAL, who learns he is going to be a father of a girl with his wife.

Cut to two years later: the new SEAL has joined the team. Rip, the former SEAL, is a bit of a mess and is now working as some sort of independent military contractor in, I believe, Nigeria. We see the job he is working on go to hell; people with guns show up at a school and start shooting. Rip is the first one to notice something is about to happen.

A bit more of a SEAL’s personal life is shown; members of the team are at a party for one man’s daughter, and then they are told what kind of trouble Rip is in. It would seem that they place some blame on one another in connection with Rip’s last mission. Despite that, they are resolved to rescue him from his current situation, which will get much worse if the people who have him, learn that he is a former Navy SEAL.

This show gives what I think is a realistic view of these military people’s professional and personal lives. My impression from the previews turns out to be correct, when it came to how they were going to be portrayed as realistic. “Six” also shows the incredible loyalty that the team has for each other. This is done through one member who, on the verge of leaving the team, stays because they need all of their best effort for saving Rip.

I believe these next seven episodes will be about the team trying to find, and save, their former team member. It should be one very good drama to watch.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Pan Am Train Left Idling In Millers; Mean Dog Loose In Montague City; Brush Fire In Downtown Turners

**Monday, 1/23**  
5:12 a.m. Caller reporting what she thought was two skunks being chased by another animal down Central Street towards Spring Street. Animals were “squealing.” Caller concerned that the animals may have rabies. Advised caller that there was no action for MPD to take when it comes to small wild animals running down the street at night. Caller also indicated that she thought her female neighbor and her children were acting “weird” this morning by leaving the house in the car at 4:30. No action needed.  
5:58 a.m. 911 caller (operator) reporting single-car accident on Main Street. Same advises that he was traveling a little too fast and swerved to avoid an animal in the road. He is now in the yard of a house in Montague Center. Responding officer requesting fire and ambulance. All units clear; medical attention refused. Summons issued.  
6:58 a.m. Caller requesting to speak with an officer regarding her son refusing to go to school.  
7:40 a.m. Caller requesting assistance getting a raccoon out of his barn. Animal control officer responded and advised the raccoon had found its way out prior to arrival.  
9:03 a.m. Caller reports that two days ago he was forced back into his vehicle by an aggressive pit bull in the area of the Masonic Lodge in Turners Falls. Neighbors advise that dog in question resides on Rod Shop Road and is often loose. ACO advised; spoke with caller and checked area; no sign of dog. ACO will continue to check area and monitor situation.  
**Tuesday, 1/24**  
2:44 a.m. Officer out with vehicle parked behind Third Street. Officer clear; parties were hanging out in car due to family inside.  
7:20 a.m. DPW truck vs. utility pole on Union Street. Wires down on vehicle with entrapment; pole is leaning. Officers, MCFD, MedCare, and Eversource advised and en route. No injury. Report taken.  
7:45 a.m. DPW requesting assistance with male operator who is plowing snow into the road on Avenue A. DPW attempted to speak with operator, who reportedly became belligerent. Officer spoke with company boss, who advised his employee told him that the DPW work-

er who confronted him was yelling and unprofessional. Company boss and DPW superintendent advised of complaints.  
5:41 p.m. Caller states that he was involved in a two-car accident on Avenue B. No injuries, smoke, fire, or fluids. One vehicle was parked at the time of the accident. Services rendered.  
11:29 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.  
**Wednesday, 1/25**  
3:23 a.m. Officer checking on two suspicious male parties walking in the area of Ja’Duke on Industrial Boulevard carrying backpacks and wearing dark clothing. Parties were walking home from work at LightLife.  
8:20 a.m. Report of unshoveled, icy sidewalk on Main Street. Officer advises that there are a few houses in that area where the snow/ice has not been removed; since it has been less than 24 hours since the snow/sleet ended, he will follow up once the allotted time has lapsed.  
5:43 p.m. Caller reporting an unknown vehicle out behind Montague Machine near the canal. Not suspicious; just an employee on break.  
6:07 p.m. 911 caller reporting she has struck a deer on Dell Street. She’s not injured, but the deer is. No damage to vehicle. Deer was no longer alive when officers arrived. Deer removed by DPW.  
7:55 p.m. Caller wants on record that around 3:30 this morning, a man in dark clothing wearing a hoodie was across the street from her home on Fairway Avenue for close to an hour, just standing there smoking a cigarette. She did not recognize him from the neighborhood and was concerned as to why he was out there. Night shift will drive through the area a couple of times to see if party is around again.  
8:30 p.m. Report of assault at Turners Falls High School. Investigated.  
**Thursday, 1/26**  
11:27 a.m. Report of a potentially unattended burn or brush fire on South Street. Flames visible from road. State police have a burn permit on file for a Federal Street address. MCFD determined it was the permitted burn on Federal Street.  
5:36 p.m. Caller reporting that somebody hit his car in the parking lot of Food City and left the scene. Report taken.  
11:06 p.m. Caller from Avenue C complaining of loud noise from neighbors; can hear screaming, laughing, and loud music. Caller is requesting that neighbors quiet for the night so that his child can sleep. Neighbors advised of complaint.  
**Friday, 1/27**  
2:39 p.m. Caller reporting that some kids were using a skateboard ramp on the sidewalk in front of his house on Second Street. The kids went inside but left the ramp on the sidewalk. Ramp removed from sidewalk; parties advised of town bylaw.  
3:38 p.m. Caller states that a silver jeep was speeding on Industrial Boulevard; a passenger in the vehicle got out and was being driven around on the hood. Unable to locate.  
9:04 p.m. Caller from Between the Uprights states that an intoxicated male in an orange vest is in the bar and refusing to leave; party is beginning to damage property, and dispatch could hear him yelling over the phone. Officers responding. [redacted] was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct.  
**Saturday, 1/28**  
12:05 a.m. Caller from Erving complaining of

train idling in Millers Falls; requests that police have train moved. Caller advised to file complaint with Erving PD or state police. State police and Erving PD advised of call. A short time later, female called stating that her husband had just called regarding the train. Female advised of same options and told that there was nothing MPD could do in this situation. State police advise they received call from female, who was unhappy with options given. Call placed to Pan Am; dispatcher advises train has been there since the afternoon and no crew is available at this time. Train will most likely be there the whole night. State police advised.  
12:32 a.m. TFFD captain advises that he and the state fire marshal just ordered the owner of the Pioneer Tavern to shut down music and karaoke for the night due to violations.  
12:37 p.m. Caller from Fifth Street has a complaint about a neighbor’s cat that keeps attacking her cat. She also feels that this cat is left alone without food for a day or two at a time. ACO notified.  
8:59 p.m. Caller advises that two gentlemen were walking up the hill on Mountain Road in Greenfield, and one of them threw their bike in the middle of the road and postured at the vehicle. Greenfield PD advised.  
**Sunday, 1/29**  
7:56 p.m. Officer requesting that dispatch call Pan Am to see what time the train in Millers Falls will be moved. Pan Am advises train will be moved by end of night.  
8:39 p.m. Caller reports strong odor of fire and visible smoke at Fifth and K streets. TFFD en route. Small brush fire located at Fifth and L. Services rendered.

**MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!**

**DONUT IRANZAPOYYM**

**VTRHHZAQ DZYY DUOT COTV**

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BLIZZARD from page B1

tired, stiff, and hungry. I joined others in the cafeteria awaiting orders. Ken Ross was in a meeting with John Carroll, commissioner of public works, commanders of the Army units, and the National Guard.

A ruddy-faced old Army man barged in. “You sell beer?” he boomed. The waiting men grinned and snickered. The old soldier didn’t wait for an answer. “Must think he’s in the PX,” someone said.

Southbound in the Northbound Lane

Ross came out of the meeting showing the strain of working around the clock. Commissioner Carroll sent him home to sleep, and instructed me to take my loader off the trailer and go south in the northbound lane of Route 128 to join Jim Norcott.

I’d traveled 128 in the past, and it’d always seemed like the Indianapolis 500. Heading south in the northbound lane didn’t seem like a good idea.

Outside, the Army equipment had disappeared, and the yard seemed deserted. The streets were eerily silent – no traffic, trains, planes, trolleys or buses; not even pedestrians. Stores, gas stations, factories and businesses – all closed.

At the foot of the off-ramp to northbound 128, a soldier stood, rifle slung, warming himself next to a 55-gallon drum of burning wood. The northbound lane was open, while the southbound lane was clogged with an unending line of snowbound cars. It began to get dark.

Narrow Road Jammed

After a few miles, I saw lights ahead. An enclave of snow removal equipment in the southbound lane worked going in both directions. The steel guard rails had been cut to gain access from the northbound lane. Cars sat on the shoulder after being unburi

Radio messages had been broadcast, repeatedly, telling people to leave cars unlocked and keys in the ignition. Rescuers, picking up stranded motorists with buses, gave motorists the same instructions, so the cars could be moved. Still, workers found cars locked up tight, keys gone, wheels cramped. They paid dearly when tow truck operators got tired and lost patience. They yanked the cars out of the snow, and bunted them to the side of the road like hockey pucks.

I came upon enclave after enclave of lights and equipment, but Jim Norcott wasn’t to be found. I felt like the baby chick that had just been hatched out and went around asking, “Are you my mother?”

When I began seeing signs for Rhode Island, I stopped at a work-site clearing the exit for Route 138. The man in charge was Parker Carr. It seemed like an odd name for someone digging out and parking cars. He told me I’d been sent to the wrong place, but he needed me to stay there to help out.

Route 138 was worse than 128 in many ways. Two tractor trailers had jackknifed, and about one thousand cars and trucks were stuck in a two-mile stretch of road that narrowed down to two lanes, with houses on both sides.

Cars and trucks were abandoned, bumper to bumper, as far as the eye could see. There were no interchanges from whence to start clearing.

From a helicopter, Commissioner Carroll had spotted a bulldozer next to a golf course, about midpoint of snowbound traffic. Carroll contacted



This photograph was taken on Route 128 on February 8, 1978 by Jim McDevitt of the US Army Corps of Engineers. Courtesy of the National Archive.

the bulldozer owner to get someone to bulldoze a road across the golf course, and cut the guard rails. I worked with the crew headed south.

In One Piece

I fell into a routine of sweeping snow left and then right; right left, right left, right left, and finally a careful scoop behind the car. Tow truck operators hooked up to pull the cars out.

My loader was running low on fuel as the night wore on. I worried that I would run out of fuel. A soldier, fueling Army loaders, filled the tank for me. The Army operators were from the South, and hadn’t seen snow before. Some, I suspected, hadn’t seen loaders before, either.

This was an airborne unit. The loaders were articulated Fiats. The paratroops said that the loaders could be taken apart at the hinge pins and parachuted to the ground.

The operators spun their wheels, motors roared, and once they got moving, they rammed snow at the cars until it was hard to know there was a car under all that snow. The Army loaders had fearsome teeth that kept them from scraping the snow clean. They dared not get too close to cars, they said, because one of them had punctured the gas tank on a station wagon and it burst into flame.

After burying the cars with snow, the soldiers poked around in the snow with long J-hooks until they hooked something. The wrecker operator would roar off toward the horizon and yank a bumper, or some other piece of car, out of the snow bank.

“We want you to get the cars out,” Carr said, “but we want them all in one piece.”

Carr then put them to work pulling out trucks. They wrecked the first truck so badly that Carr sent them to another trouble spot, far, far away.

Best and Worst

The storm brought out the best and the worst in people. Neighbors who’d lived side by side for decades gathered in knots to meet for the first time. A man made me a ham sandwich even though his supplies were low. A Dutch woman said it reminded her of WWII when people looked out for one another.

Residents took stranded motorists into their homes. A volunteer who

was bringing a cancer patient home decided to wait in the car with the patient, who was weak. Snow drifted over the exhaust pipe, and both were found dead in the morning.

Snowmobilers brought food and medicine to the sick or elderly. Sadly, there were some instances of looting. Police clamped down with a curfew and only emergency personnel could travel in any way.

A sandwich shop operator took in a whole Greyhound bus full of people and fed them all his food without charge. When it was gone, he slogged home to get more from his freezer. The shop was down to chocolate cake and coffee when he invited us in to warm up and share what was left.

Temperatures were getting bitterly cold. I had no side windows or heater in the cab of the loader. Diesel

began gelling, and the engine would sometimes only run at an idle until I thawed the filters with a road flare.

Monster Arrives

A gigantic loader arrived from Pittsfield, big enough to scoop up an entire car. The operator could have doubled for Ernest Borgnine. The strain of trying to maneuver the huge, awkward machine in the narrow street showed in his face. The supervisor put him back to work pushing back snowbanks.

Ernest pushed snow, earth and stumps far to the side. Then he hit a fire hydrant. Water shot a geyser 50 feet in the air.

In the frigid cold, the street soon became a skating rink. By the time the water department got there, six inches of ice had formed over the street and gate boxes. The water mains had to be shut down a considerable distance away. Ernest parked the monster, and the supervisor took him for breakfast to calm his jangled nerves.

It was hard to keep track of time. Thursday morning to Saturday afternoon was just one long day. It seemed strange to work around the clock, to see the sun come up, and the sun go down, over and over without getting any sleep and few chances to eat.

I had the ham sandwich, a hamburger and fries at a shelter, and a piece of chocolate cake and coffee during all that time. After a while, I didn’t feel like eating.

Curfew Lifted

Saturday morning turned sunny. Roads were opening, and the curfew lifted. People came out to watch, and others began arriving to drive their cars home.

The sun reflected off the snow and seemed to sear my eyeballs. A man wearing sunglasses stood watching. I offered to buy his glasses. He refused to sell. He stood watching for a while, then walked over and handed them to me, refusing to take any money.

With the roads opened, I headed

back to the DPW depot in Wellesley to load up for the trip home. My eyes began playing tricks and I started to see things. Parked cars sometimes appeared to move.

Twice, red lights appeared green until I saw cars crossing in front of me. Too late to stop, I’d turn hard right and smash into snow banks piled high, snow flying everywhere. I’d circle the block and head for home again.

I rolled down the windows so the cold air would keep me awake. I shut off the heater. But each time I turned it off, it would soon be on again. So, I reached down and tore out the wires. I began to realize I wasn’t acting completely rational.

On Route 2 just past Gardner, a locomotive lay across the road in the distance, steam rising into the sky, cars and people everywhere. As I neared the scene, it dissolved. The steam became clouds in the sky, and the locomotive just a patch of blacktop in the still-snowy road. I was sure I’d flipped out.

When I got home, my wife and daughter were all dressed up, ready to go to the Valentine Ball. They were so happy I’d gotten home in time to take them. I didn’t tell them I’d been working around the clock and hadn’t slept a wink for three days.

We had a great time, but at 11 o’clock I was all done, and my wife drove the car home. I didn’t need anyone to sing me a lullaby that night.

There was a lot more that happened. I wrote it all down and sent it to *Yankee Magazine*. They accepted, paid me, and said it would be in the next February issue.

For the next several years, they ran other stories I sent them, but didn’t run the blizzard story, for one reason or another. Yankee Books ran an edited version in *New England’s Hazardous Weather*. The magazine didn’t publish the story until 19½ years later. By then, they’d lost the original article, and just ran the excerpt.

This account isn’t complete, either, for lack of space!



# GSB Honors Black History

**TURNERS FALLS** – Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls is proud to present a month of Saturdays hosted by local presenters in honor of Black History Month. On February 4 and February 11, **Belinda Lyons Zucker** of Turners Falls brings her talents to the community room at the Avenue A branch. February 18 features local performers Moonlight Davis and Morningstar Chenven.

Belinda is an African American doll artist and sculptor teaching and selling her art in local galleries. Both events are entirely free, thanks to Belinda’s generosity!

The event on the February 4 showcases Belinda’s private collection of dolls, with a narrative on the West African tradition of dolls and how the traditions made their way to the Americas. In West African culture, dolls have important functions to teach and entertain as well as appearing in rituals. Many dolls are handed down through the generations.

February 11 will be a mask making event and is open to 12 to 15 participants who will make a collage mask from cut, decorative paper. During the event, Belinda will provide a narrative on the importance of masks in West African



*Says Belinda Lyons Zucker about this mask: “I was visiting a friend who had a stroke. Sitting and watch the landscape of his face intrigued me the slope of the eye and slack jaw. I thought it was beautiful. He is a great friend and a talented artists. Even though he was wearing this mask I still liked his smile.”*

tradition. Create a mask to take home, and one to leave to exhibit in the GSB lobby. Call 413-863-4316 to reserve your spot!

On February 18, **Moonlight Davis and Morningstar** will offer an hour of tradition from 11 a.m. to noon. This talented local husband

and wife duet will offer African songs and poems, with emphasis on traditional clothing and musical instruments. While Moonlight and Morningstar have promised some music, there will also be time available for a discussion with points of interest. The couple have created programs and workshops for adults and children on the themes of social justice, cultural understanding and the honoring of the earth and all of its inhabitants throughout the region, and are skilled leaders and facilitators as well as gifted performers.

For the week of February 20 and Saturday, the 25<sup>th</sup>, Belinda Lyons Zucker will have her entire collection of dolls and masks on display in the bank lobby. Each unique doll has a name and a story. You will not want to miss this enchanting and delightful array of characters, which appear to come to life and share their story with you. The bank invites the community to “come to look and bring a friend, but do not handle the dolls. Thank you, and sincere thanks for the talents and generosity of Belinda Lyons Zucker for preparing this exhibit.”


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MIRMAN from page B1

that he was solely the conceptual artist in this endeavor.

“Sub Pop hired someone who could do the thing,” he says of the chairs. “I mean, it’s **not that I couldn’t** do it – it’s **that it would be terrible**.”

The album’s clever quirks don’t end with its format. It includes traditional stand-up, tongue-in-cheek guided meditation, a basic Russian language course, and a “vast array of sounds” including sound effects, binaural tones (also known as “digital drugs”), and a lot of crying.

“I really wanted to have a sticker that said ‘Features Over 45 Minutes of Crying,’ so I **knew I’d have** to cry for over 45 minutes,” Mirman explains. Having to listen to it over again in different phases of the recording process wasn’t **something** he had considered until it was too late, but he persevered.

The album’s **sound effects** include common noises like “doorbell ringing,” “tea kettle,” and “cat purring,” all created by Mirman himself. “I am the Foley artist who created all those sounds. They’re **all made with** my mouth,” he says proudly.

Mirman explains that the sounds he and his recording team set out to create were done to the best of his ability, and that the comedy was more in the concept and attempt, rather than perfectly accurate execution.

One concept that didn’t **make** the cut however, was “Jokes for Animals.”

“It was a really good idea, but slightly impossible to accomplish,” he says, much to this animal-obsessed writer’s **disappointment**. “I believe there might be some animals

who do have laughter, but it may be very few – not to say that the animals who have laughter would get jokes, though.”

The February 9 stand-up show will include some parts of that album, according to Mirman, as well as material not included on his most recent hour-long special.

“I’m **trying to work out a new** hour for my next special,” he says, which he hopes to develop over the next few months and record in the fall, though no definite plans have been set. Mirman explains that the process for him is always just getting on stage, trying out different material. “What works sort of becomes your act,” he says, “and what doesn’t, **you either try to fix or get** rid of. You never really know until you try it.”

Like a trial and error process? “Yeah – stand-up is like a very fun form of science.”

Science, at least in the traditional sense, was not always Mirman’s forte, which is what makes co-hosting *StarTalk* with world-renowned astrophysicist and all-around cool guy Neil deGrasse Tyson such an amazing experience.

“I was such a bad student in high school,” Mirman recalls, “but I really feel like... what a great way to catch up now, to have Neil and epidemiologists and astronauts,” like Buzz Aldrin, “teach me the things I forsook at one point.”

After finishing high school in Lexington, MA, Mirman attended Hampshire College in Amherst, where he was able to design his own major in – what else? – comedy. His curriculum included subjects like “independent studies on Lenny Bruce’s

cultural impact” and “the physiology of laughter for science.” His senior thesis was a one-hour standup act.

Mirman clearly knew, much younger than most, what he wanted to do for a career, and explains that he “never tried to do anything other than comedy.” That fact made it all the more difficult to answer my question of what he thought he might do otherwise, perhaps in some alternate reality.

“Maybe Saudi Arabia would want to re-brand themselves, and they need a guy like me,” he considers. “Yes, that will be my answer – from now on, when people ask ‘what would you be doing instead of comedy?’ I will say: Re-brand Saudi Arabia,” he says, in his trademark deadpan-silly fashion.

Currently, Mirman is working on recording the next season of *Bob’s Burgers*, which he says has a unique process among animated shows.

“With a lot of cartoons, you go in and record alone, but with *Bob’s Burgers* we’re **actually on an** ISDN line across studios,” – an ISDN line is like a digital conference call – “so we’re **getting to do the scenes in real** time together.” He says that the format encourages more improvisation from the cast, and gives the writers the opportunity to offer different versions of jokes, to see what works and what doesn’t. **The show is going on** to its seventh season.

Mirman is also working on a podcast called *Hold On*, which is “basically a story-telling show where people tell stories and I ask questions,” and has included Weird Al Yankovic and Jim Gaffigan as guests.

Lastly, there’s the Eugene Mirman Comedy Festival in Brooklyn, celebrating its 10-year anniversary this fall, an impressive feat for an event that started as a joke.

“I can’t **remember why**, but I made a joke that I was going to do a Eugene Mirman Comedy Festival,” he recalls. “But then I said, ‘I’m **obviously not going to do that**, because that would be a ludicrous thing to do,’ **and then we decided to do it**.”

No plans have been made yet in terms of dates or guests, but Mirman confirmed that he, at least, will be there.

Montague is very lucky that instead of having to travel to Brooklyn next fall, an opportunity to see Mirman and the very funny Maeve Higgins (see sidebar) is right around the corner. When asked about who would enjoy this show, Mirman says that if “they’re a fan of *Bob’s Burgers* or *StarTalk* or my stand-up, they should come.”

“They’re also welcome to **stay** home,” he adds. “I **don’t know how** cold it will be that day.”

“I’m interested in people who are neutral, or who already like me,” he continues. “But I think if you’re already not interested – totally reasonable, and stay away.”

Lastly, Mirman shared these general thoughts:

*On Donald Trump:* “Not a fan, but who knows, maybe today’s the day he finally gets some rest and decides to be a good person – we’ll **find out** in the morning!”

*On Donald Trump:* “I think the most inflammatory thing I could say about Donald Trump is that I think he’s **doing a really good job**.”

*On advice:* “If anyone needs advice on how to raise someone up to the age of 5 months... I guess... well, no, I don’t **want them coming** up to me. Never mind.”

*On music:* “You should check out Jethro Tull’s album *Benefit*.”



## MISS STEMPLE RECALLS THE PAST

### Beginning with Part II (May 14, 1941)

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

– Montague Reporter eds.

The *Turners Falls Reporter* was established in July, 1872, through the efforts of the far-sighted founders of what was then a brand new village which it was confidently expected would soon blossom into a city. There were industrial giants in those days and such men as Alvah Crocker, R.N. Oakman, John Keith, B.N. Farren, George Marshall, Joseph Griswold and others who were the guiding spirits of the mills and various other industrial enterprises of the village, naturally wanted a newspaper which would help put the infant town on the map and which would tell the world what the new manufacturing site and the big dam on the Connecticut river had to offer. They were very wise in their day and generation even though all their rosy expectations did not immediately come to pass.

Addington D. Welch, a fine, well trained and efficient newspaperman, who had, however, the rather prevalent weakness of his time, was to be the editor and publisher of the new venture. The industrial nabobs put up the money, the blessings and the necessary promises to inaugurate the publication whose office was located in the small frame building which grew to be the Tupper block on Fourth street, where Joseph A. Harlow’s furniture store now is.

Mr. Welch actually started work on the initial issue of the paper and possibly he got out the first number without other help but I am not positive on this point. Anyhow, right at the most momentous time he fortified himself not wisely but too well to tide him over the stress of publication and was incapacitated from continuing the project.

In order to get the paper under way, Cecil T. Bagnall, a keen witted, energetic, brilliant young newspaperman and master craftsman, then winning his spurs and attracting attention through the Providence, R.I. *Sunday Dispatch*, which he and another journalist had just started, was prevailed upon to come to Turners Falls to help the young *Reporter* get going and on his feet. He was assured by the backers that if he came to the rescue for the duration of what was supposed to be a brief emergency, he would be handsomely compensated. So he came and found things at the newspaper office in a decided mess. Equipment was inadequate but by working day and night with the phenomenal energy and well

directed skill which was characteristic of him, the paper was issued and was hailed with pleasure.

I have often heard Mr. Bagnall tell of those strenuous early days and how he landed in Turners Falls with a thousand dollars hidden in his money belt. On the strength of promises made by the promoters he bought whatever was lacking in equipment and made other necessary expenditures paying for them with the contents of that money belt.

Soon it became apparent that the newcomer was the man for the job he unwillingly undertook in the emergency. The industrialists having recognized the ability and the brains of the young man who had stepped into the breach, he was prevailed upon to remain and identify himself permanently with Turners Falls and the infant newspaper. To save the investments he had already made in the plant and relying on further promises and inducements held out, he agreed. From then on the name of Cecil T. Bagnall stood at the masthead of the *Reporter* and remained there until fifty years later when the weekly ceased to exist as a separate entity.

From the first it was apparent that the proprietor of Turners Falls’ new newspaper was an individualist and a force to be reckoned with. He led, but would never be led. He was no yes man, no “joiner,” nor anything approaching small town calibre. The industrialists and other townspeople did not dictate to this young fellow with the brilliant, penetrating eyes and the rapier like wit. With his trenchant pen and his ready tongue, he could and did make his readers howl with delight as readily as he made them weep with rage. Never a dull day for many years while he was at his best. He hewed to the line, let the chips fall where they would and they usually flew in all directions, striking right and left without the slightest partiality. He was the most independent individual the town ever harbored. Though I did not enter his employ until about twenty-five years after the *Reporter* was launched, I know that in the beginning he was even more fiercely independent and even more of a crusader and even more of a fighter against sham and skulduggery and pretense and wickedness in high places than he was during the years I was in his office. And that is saying much.

*Next: Bagnall can’t be bribed!*

## Opening Act: Maeve Higgins

By JEN HOLMES

Maeve Higgins is a writer and comedian from Cobh, County Cork, Ireland, currently living in New York City. In addition to performing all over the world, she has a podcast, *Maeve in America*, has written two books with a third in progress, and has a very hilarious show you can find on YouTube called “Maeve Higgins’ Fancy Vitles”. She will be doing stand-up at the Shea Theater on Feb. 9, accompanying Eugene Mirman.



Maeve Higgins.

but I’m grateful for that. God’s greatest gifts are so often unanswered prayers, I guess.

**MR:** *If you weren’t working in the comedy realm, what do you think you’d be doing?*

**MH:** I’d be making radio, which is what I do most of the time. I make a podcast called *Maeve In America* that’s all about immigration. It makes me crazy at the moment, because of the anti-immigration zeal of the White House, but I’m glad to meet people from all over the world who’ve made America their home.

**MR:** *You’ve co-hosted StarTalk Live! a number of times - how did you come to be involved in that show?*

**MH:** Neil deGrasse Tyson keeps a comic around as a co-host so that he looks smart. We are literally the only reason he is head of the Hayden Planetarium.

**MR:** *Have you ever visited western Massachusetts?*

**MH:** I have never been, and Eugene has filled me with tales of your dairy prowess! I can’t wait to get amongst the butter.

**MR:** *How did you get to know Eugene and get involved in this tour?*

**MH:** I met Eugene in Edinburgh at the comedy festival there way back in 2006 when he was only 15 years old! I find him so hilarious and also super nice, which is an unusual combination. He also voices Gene in *Bob’s Burgers*, a.k.a. the best person in the USA.

**MR:** *What can people expect from your show on February 9?*

**MH:** How can I describe an erotic puppet show crossed with an aggressive mime act?

**MR:** *Are there common themes in your stand-up?*

**MH:** I talk about my family, because they are 5,000 miles away and can’t fact check me. And I also mention my crush on Steve Bannon. That last part is a joke.

**MR:** *How did you get interested in comedy?*

**MH:** I always dreamed of being Ireland’s answer to Bill Cosby. In some crucial ways, I have failed,

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# NatureCulture: The Science Page

WARREN ONDRAS PHOTO

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Lisa McLoughlin, editor

## Portugal's Azores

By LISA McLOUGHLIN

The Azores Islands are an autonomous chain of volcanic islands belonging to Portugal, about one third of the way between Europe and North America. Due to their isolated, mid-Atlantic location, many whales and other large sea creatures stop off at the Azores for a snack on their migration route. The diving is rumored to be excellent (the dive guides were on winter break when I was there), but there are whale watching tours available.

The gulf stream keeps the Azores comfortably warm, but not tropical. While Turners Falls was experiencing the first snow storm of the season, it was in the mid-60s on Terceira (literally "Third Island").

Terceira has played an important part in European trade for 600 years, and claims to have launched the Courte Real ships that found the North American continent in the early 1400s, before Columbus, as well as Columbus' ships. My guide was a descendant of the noble Courte Real family, with her coat of arms gracing many historic buildings.

The overall history of the island is mysterious. Some believe it was first visited by St. Brendan of Ireland in 400-500 AD, while others credit some of its many mysterious caves to the Phoenicians, thousands of years earlier.

The Azores are mostly Roman Catholic, which includes a large percentage who are members of the Spirit Movement which goes back to 1200 AD. Their festivals coincide with the Pagan seasonal celebrations, and have many elements in common with traditional European Paganism including crowning a seasonal king and queen. The festivals survive, as do impérios, small "spirit houses," at least one of which is found in every village, all brightly decorated. For more information on the Spirit Movement in the Azores, visit: [sjsu.edu/](http://sjsu.edu/)



McLOUGHLIN PHOTOS

Atlantic Ocean from Island of Terceira, Azores, Portugal.

[faculty/watkins/holyspirit.htm](http://faculty/watkins/holyspirit.htm).

No fewer than four volcanoes formed Terceira, having erupted at different times. One is still active, emitting sulfurous fumes which are an eerie tourist attraction. The last devastating volcanic eruption was in the 1980s. Near the eruption the sea was lit from below and according to residents, it looked like a new, urban island at night. For more information on the Furnas do Exofre sulphur pit, visit

[hasslberger.com/terceira/pages/volcanoes-terceira.html](http://hasslberger.com/terceira/pages/volcanoes-terceira.html).

Nearby the steaming sulfur pits, is an inactive volcano you can enter, Gruta do Algar do Carvao. It is spectacular, and only one of two in the world of this type that humans can visit. The one in Iceland costs \$300 to see – the one on Terceira costs about \$7, which is typical for Portugal – everything on the islands seems pleasantly underpriced.

For the tour, you walk on very



Furnas do Exofre (sulphur pit).



Gruta do Algar do Carvao

sturdy stone steps, taking your own time. Guides are stationed on a landing and will explain that the volcano was formed of trachytes from one blast that left air bubbles that received lava from a different volcano, so there are two kinds of rock available to see, as well as ghostly white stalactites that contain living algae that build the structures like coral.

The cave is drippy and cool, but lit spectacularly – unique and amazing. For more information visit the website of the private volunteer organization that runs both Terceira caves open to the public: [\[nheiros.com\]\(http://nheiros.com\) \(please note that the scientist-guides speak perfect English, even though their website is only in Portuguese\).](http://monta-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

I thoroughly enjoyed researching the stones and history of Terceira. Here's a photo from one of the many Miradouro (viewing areas), this one on Cerra do Cume, a volcanic ridge on the east side of the island – the view is looking west. Anyone can drive or walk on farm roads through the mysterious labyrinth of stone walls, likely but not certainly built by the Portuguese, encountering herds of cows moving from one field to the next.



One of the many long views on Terceira.

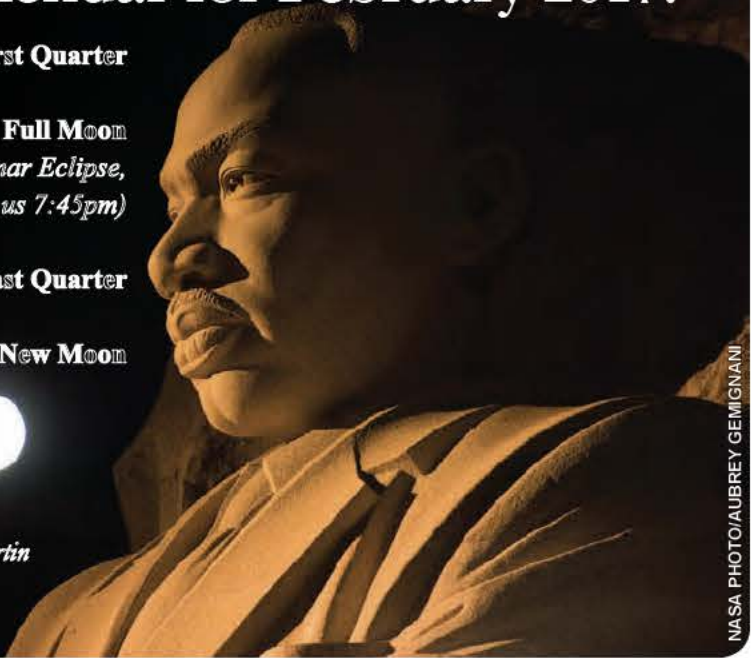


Cave on Mount Brasil, Terceira.

### Moon Calendar for February 2017:

Friday, February 3: **First Quarter**  
Friday, February 10: **Full Moon**  
(Penumbral Lunar Eclipse, most visible to us 7:45pm)  
Saturday, February 18: **Last Quarter**  
Sunday, February 26: **New Moon**

The moon, setting over the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Washington last November.



NASA PHOTO/AUBREY GEMIGNANI

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



The Bork, Tinen, & Kahn Trio will play this month's Great Falls Coffeehouse at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls, on Friday, February 10 at 7 p.m.

## ONGOING EVENTS

### EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

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

### FIRST SUNDAY MONTHLY

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

### EVERY TUESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls-*Play Group*. Unstructured play-group. Grown-ups can chat and connect with other parents and caregivers while supervising their children's play. 10 to 11 a.m.

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*: Thematic stories, projects, and snacks for young children and their caretakers. 10:15 a.m.

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

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

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Homeschool Science. Hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)* activities for homeschoolers of all ages, with Angela or special guest. 1 p.m.

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

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

### 3rd WEDNESDAY MONTHLY

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

### 1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAY

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

### EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

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

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

### 2nd AND 4TH THURSDAY

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

### FIRST THURSDAYS

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

Underdog Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Open Mic*. 7 p.m.

### EVERY FRIDAY

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

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

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

### EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

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

### EVERY FOURTH FRIDAY

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

### FIRST SATURDAY MONTHLY

Dickinson Memorial Library, Northfield: *Harry Potter book*

discussion; trivia, activities and a snack. Each movie will be shown the following Friday evening. 1 to 3 p.m.

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

## EXHIBITS:

Artspace, Greenfield: *2017 Annual Franklin County Teen Show*, an exhibition of works by local teens. Through February 19.

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

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: Beginning February 2, *What Does Your Flag Look Like?* Three-dimensional lines of paint, wire, cloth, wood, metal and more consider how the symbolic language of the flag can be used to communicate who we are in the year 2017. Until March 25.

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

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

Sawmill River Arts Gallery: February show *Small Works Art Exhibit and Sale*. No entries larger than 6" x 6". Reception Saturday, February 4, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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

## EVENTS:

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Collected Poets Series featuring Brad Crenshaw and Chard de Niord*. Poetry reading. 7 p.m.

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

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kiddleidoscope!* This week it's River Otters. There will be a story, a game, and a craft project. For ages 3-6; siblings and friends welcome accompanied by parent. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Dickinson Memorial Library, Northfield: PG movie *Storks*.

Free popcorn. 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Four Rivers Charter Public School Annual Variety Show*. 7 p.m. \$

ArtsBlock, Greenfield: *Professor Louis & The Crowmatix*. Roots/Rock/Americana. 8 p.m. \$

Underdog Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *The Butterfly Effect - Pan Morigan and John Caban*. 9 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Alex Preston*, 8 p.m. *Lexi Weege*, 10:30 p.m. \$

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

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Dickinson Memorial Library, Northfield: Book Discussion *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. 4th to 6th graders and adults. Led by *Deb Potee and Ann Linge*. 1 to 3 p.m.

Wendell Town Hall: *Wendell Yule Concert* rescheduled from December due to bad weather. Performed by *Francis Doughty and the Wendell Community Chorus*, with guest vocalist *Moonlight Davis*. Fundraiser. 7:30 p.m. Donations.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Ray Mason*. Indie Rock. 8 p.m.

ArtsBlock, Greenfield: *Tundra Toddler, Solo Sexx, Streiber, Conversion Therapy*. 9 p.m. \$

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

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

ArtsBlock, Greenfield: *Jazz Sundays w/Ethel Lee Trio*. 5 p.m. \$

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Dickinson Memorial Library, Northfield: Monthly Movies to Talk about Series - 1993 Kenneth Brannagh's version of *Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing*. Followed by discussion led by David Roland. 6:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

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

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

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kiddleidoscope!* This week it's Bobcats. There will be a story, a game, and a craft project. For ages 3-6; siblings and friends welcome accompanied by parent. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

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

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Coffeehouse presents the Bork, Tinen, & Kahn*

*Trio*. Contemporary acoustic/electric music. Monthly fundraiser by the Friends of the Discovery Center to support educational programming at the Center. 7 p.m. Donations.

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

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

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



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**Friday, 2/3 9:30 p.m.**  
The Equalites

**Saturday, 2/4 - 9 p.m.**  
Shadow Twisters

**Thursday 2/9 - 8 p.m.**  
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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

## School Alarm on Fritz; Denmark Troubled; Runaway Recovered

Sunday, 1/1

5:15 p.m. Reported gunshots on Mountain Road. Under investigation.

Monday, 1/2

6:35 a.m. Checked on suspicious motor vehicle on Munns Ferry Road. Parent from NMH.

10:10 a.m. 911 misdial from NMH daycare center.

Tuesday, 1/3

1:45 p.m. Attempted service of court order to past resident on French King Highway. Unable to locate same.

3:15 p.m. Issued harassment order to resident on French King Highway.

Wednesday, 1/4

5:55 a.m. Reported hazard on Hoe Shop Road. Removed limb.

9 a.m. Reported past overdose on Highland Road. Under investigation.

5:58 p.m. Harassment order issued to resident on French King Highway.

Thursday, 1/5

8:40 a.m. Investigation of past resident making threats to local banks.

11:30 a.m. Firearms issues from resident on Main Road.

5:05 p.m. Alarm at NMH. Error.

Saturday, 1/7

12:40 p.m. Loose dog on Chappell Drive. Located returned to Highland Avenue.

1:45 p.m. Alarm at elementary school. Proper code provided en route.

Sunday, 1/8

11:30 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on Main Road. No injuries reported.

Monday, 1/9

4:04 a.m. Alarm at elementary school. Checked OK.

Tuesday, 1/10

5:40 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on French King Highway, no injuries.

9 a.m. Suspicious activity at NMH. Checked OK.

Wednesday, 1/11

6:10 p.m. Firearms issue on River Road.

Friday, 1/13

10:10 a.m. Assisted Denmark Special Services with past resident in Gill making threats.

8:15 p.m. Suspicious activity at business on Main Road. Checked OK.

Saturday, 1/14

12:46 p.m. Medical assistance at O'Connor Health Center.

3:45 p.m. Suspicious person reported on Walnut Street. Under investigation.

6:35 p.m. Medical assistance call from resident on Center Road.

9:38 p.m. Motor vehicle vs. deer accident on Main Road.

Monday, 1/16

12:50 p.m. Medical assistance at NMH.

1:50 p.m. Resident from Riverview Drive issued a harassment order.

4 p.m. Arrest of subject for motor vehicle charges.

6:45 p.m. Runaway reported from Myrtle Street. Located.

## MOVEMENT from page B1

several years in Brookline, Massachusetts before moving to Montague Center. Carroll, a singer-songwriter, has been making music for 30 years and has a thriving solo business in addition to performing with Davidson as the duo "Canto for Kids." He can be found playing gigs at ski resorts all winter, and has a special one-hour program on the evolution of classical guitar from the late Renaissance to contemporary times. He has released several CDs which are available on-line.

Davidson holds a BA in Spanish from Tufts University and Masters in Bilingual Education from Boston University. She taught for five years in a two-way bilingual program in Chelsea, MA, where she taught the first grade curriculum in Spanish to an integrated group of native Spanish and native English speakers. In addition to Music and Movement, she owns and operates Mucho Gusto Spanish, an interactive language program for children and their parents at various locations in the valley.

The duo has three children aged 15, 13 and 10 who have been raised in a bilingual environment. In the early years of Music and Movement, Davidson and Carroll would fill in periodically for Donna Lee (not always together) but often with a nursing child carried in a sling. Davidson said she met one of her closest friends at the program, and remembers the feeling of community being important, and she is thrilled to be providing the same kind of community for the families of today.

Brendan Leowolf attends the program with 2-1/2 year-old Eula, who loves to watch the performers. He finds it a good way for adults and children to meet. Geneve Rege and Brian Meunier's daughter Aveline has been coming since she was 2 months old. Meunier didn't get to come along in the early months but now that Aveline is getting mobile he's been adjusting his work schedule to join the family.

Greenfield's Analee Wulfkuhle started coming to the program five years ago with her eldest grandchild who is now in school but is delighted to be back with her second grandchild. She loves the exposure to beautiful world music. Samantha Calden attends with two-year-old Abel and started coming last April. She finds it particularly important in the winter when it's more difficult to get children together.



KAREN BRUETT PHOTO

Montague Center residents Laurie Davidson and Tom Carroll host the Music & Movement series at the libraries.

Typically the music and live animal programs are the best-attended features of library programming, but there is a wealth of other programming for families and adults. Check the library listings in this paper to find when children's librarian Angela Rovatti-Leonard will be teaching after-school craft programs or running story hour, or you might want to join a Wednesday homeschool science group for Hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) programming. Montague's libraries were awarded a \$7,500 grant to expand science programming and there will be some interesting after-school additions for older children.

You might want to join the monthly Lego club or special parties from time to time – this Saturday is a Valentine party with crafts, cards and other projects along with light refreshments.

There are plenty of programs for adults with lectures, historic newspapers on line, history talks, an adult coloring club, and frequent meetings of a genealogy group.

For more information: [Montaguepubliclibraries.org](http://Montaguepubliclibraries.org)  
For more information about Laurie Davidson and Tom Carroll visit their websites [muchogustospanish.com](http://muchogustospanish.com) and [tomcarrollmusic.com](http://tomcarrollmusic.com)



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