



The Montague Reporter

also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 16, 2017

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Fire Chief To Go Full-Time, "If He Wants It"

By KATIE NOLAN

"It's the chief's job if he wants it," selectboard member Scott Bastarache said at Monday night's Erving selectboard meeting. Bastarache was referring to the proposed full-time fire chief position, included in the May 2017 annual town meeting warrant, and to current fire chief Philip Wonkka.

In December, the board and finance committee both approved \$120,000 in funding for a full-time chief and two full-time firefighters for the FY'18 budget. This is a significant change from the current system of a part-time chief and call firefighters, who are paid only when they are actively responding to calls or when training. The proposed staffing budget must be approved by town meeting.

At the two public meetings held to discuss the change, residents had asked how the full-time chief and firefighters would be appointed. According to Bastarache, the board appointed Wonkka as chief under the current system, and if the annual town meeting approves the staffing change, "the duties haven't changed, the hours have changed." He added, "We have a current working chief."

As a "strong chief" under state law, the Erving fire chief would appoint any full-time firefighters.

see **ERVING** page A7

NEWS ANALYSIS

From a Lack of Understanding: A Lack of Justice

By DAVID DETMOLD and CHRIS SAWYER-LAUCANNO

Amid America's lengthening litany of names of unarmed black males killed by the police – and by their untrained and unsupervised adjunct volunteers, like neighborhood watch captain George Zimmerman in Sanford, Florida – the killing of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in 2012 stands out.

Trayvon Martin's killing adds more weight to the heavy statistical evidence that unarmed black males are being shot to death by police and their auxiliaries in America at a rate three and a half times that of unarmed white males.

The subsequent not guilty verdict for his shooter, George Zimmerman, adds another urgent call for our system of justice to finally come to terms with the burden of discriminatory acquittals which have plagued the white marble courtrooms of America since well before the time of the Scottsboro Boys, Emmett Till and Rodney King, right down to the present day acquittals of police on trial for the murders of Freddie Gray in Baltimore and David Latham in Norfolk.

Now, thanks to the groundbreaking work of Stanford Professor of Linguistics Dr. John Rickford and

see **MARTIN** page A5

A LATE-SEASON DUSTING



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

On Tuesday, a nor'easter called Winter Storm Stella swept through, blanketing area towns with a foot or more of snow. Schools and many workplaces were closed, and a town-wide parking ban was imposed in Montague. Pictured above: Avenue A in Turners Falls, as the storm let up late in the afternoon.

"100 Who Care": A New Model for Fundraising – and Community Building

By JOE KWIECINSKI

TURNERS FALLS – The evening of Wednesday, March 22 might just be a very significant one in the annals of these parts. That night marks the inaugural meeting, here at the Shea Theater of "100 Who Care – Franklin County".

100 Who Care is a brand new, volunteer-driven giving group. Four Franklin County residents are collaborating in a mission to put together a local chapter of the 100 Who Care Alliance, a worldwide movement to produce local giving circles in communities.

The quartet of volunteers – Rebecca Rideout, Carolyn Moore, Lawson Wulsin, and Meaghan Carr – form the Franklin County chapter's steering committee. Rideout is the owner and operator of Told Video, producer of videos for schools, businesses, and nonprofits. Moore is the video editor at Monadnock Media in Hatfield,

while Wulsin is an architect at the firm of James Whitsett. Carr is a licensed mental health counselor. All four are county residents.

"Members who join 100 Who Care Franklin County commit to at-

tending only three meetings a year," said Rideout, "and donating \$33 at each meeting to a non-profit organization in our county. We want people to join us, that's why we made

see **WHO CARE** page A7



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

The organizers of 100 Who Care Franklin County, in the Shea lobby: from left to right, Carolyn Moore, Meaghan Carr, Lawson Wulsin, and Rebecca Rideout.

Ice-Off Winner Declared in Lake Pleasant

By DAVID JAMES

LAKE PLEASANT – Although the naked eye is well known not to lie, at precisely 5 p.m. March 1 from the midpoint Raisin Rosen picket on

the Bridge of Names, Chief Justice Patrick L. Otto, Sr., of this community's Supreme Judicial Court of Last Resort applied the traditional terminal test – a 180-degree lake-scan with a pair of antique

bird-binoculars – then issued declaratory judgment that the 41st Annual Ice Off the Lake Contest was history, and Robert Quinn-O'Connor of Wendell was its winner.

Since 1977, the contest has been a ritualized rite of seasonal passage in this smallest of Montague's five villages. Participants pay a dollar to play and take their chances with a blind-luck draw of a date of departure when judges declare not an ice cube remains afloat in the lake.

Traditionally, as winter is well on the wane, contest judges gather daily on the wooden footbridge which joins the two parts of the village. From that vantage point, judges survey as much of the surface of the lake as is visible.

According to contest common law, if no ice can be seen, no ice exists... no matter that the judges may have passed ice pockets near the

see **ICE OFF** page A6



JAMES PHOTO

Ice began receding in mid-February, and vanished from the lake on March 1.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Board Reviews Testimony on Berkshire Gas Moratorium

By JEFF SINGLETON

At Monday's brief selectboard meeting, Montague's energy policy liaison, Ariel Elan, reviewed "expert testimony" which, the town argues, shows that the "Berkshire Gas Company could swiftly and inexpensively end its moratorium on new natural gas service in eight pioneer towns."

The testimony is part of a review by the state Department of Public Utilities (DPU) of Berkshire's mandated five-year Forecast and Supply Plan. Montague and several other towns in the region have been granted intervenor status in the proceedings. They are using this status, which allows them to cross-examine witnesses for the company and engage in legal discovery, to challenge the Berkshire moratorium.

The company imposed the moratorium on new customers in December of 2014, pending the construction of a natural gas pipeline proposed by the company Kinder Morgan across Franklin County. Berkshire argued that its current pipeline infrastructure, which transports gas from a connection in Southwick, had reached capacity.

The Kinder Morgan project was cancelled in April 2016. In response,

see **MONTAGUE** page A8

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Revised Solar Farm Proposal Still Waiting for Con Com's OK

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Haskell Werlin of Sunnectivity was in the selectboard office when the March 8 meeting opened, waiting for his appointed time of 7:15. When the time came he gave the board an update on and maybe a pitch for Sunnectivity's most recent proposal to build a solar farm on property off Wendell Depot Road owned by Dave Arsenault.

As originally proposed, that project would have covered two acres and generated two megawatts, but Wendell's conservation commission gave that plan enough restrictions that Sunnectivity considered its options unworkable, the conditions too restrictive, and they brought the town to court.

The court date has been postponed several times, and the next scheduled date is April 21. Werlin said he hoped that court date would not be needed.

Sunnectivity appealed to the state DEP, which issued superseding conditions and worked to create a suitable plan. The new plan is smaller. It would generate only one megawatt, cover only one acre, have an improved drainage and infiltration solution for both access roads and panel runoff, and be 200' or more

see **WENDELL** page A6

The Montague Reporter

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About Face Computing

Founded by
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August, 2002



Dennis Lynch recently started stocking spirits at the Montague Village Store, which he has operated since 1984.

Putting One’s Money Where One’s Mouth Is

Of all the red herrings in this year’s controversy over the Turners Falls High School sports team name – for eighty or so years, the Indians – one that stood out was the argument that the name shouldn’t change because it would cost the district money.

Every decision, right or wrong, costs something, and if the school committee believed the question itself came down to one of right or wrong, they shouldn’t have taken cost into consideration.

After all, if you think something is the right thing to do, but you don’t do it in order to save cash, you’ve sold your ethics out. It surprises us that anyone on either side of the issue thinks that’s a good value to demonstrate to the district’s children.

On the other hand – between adults – money is a real factor to worry about. Public schools are being squeezed from all directions: health insurance costs, standardized tests, a competitive climate driven by school choice and charter schools, and long-term stagnation in the tax base of most American towns and cities.

Gill-Montague has been on the fiscal ropes in recent memory. And the administration’s estimate that the name change will cost \$7,800

looks likely to be a bit low, as many parents and athletic boosters have pointed out.

This year looks to be a reprieve, as a tax windfall from a utility should make Montague able to put more money into the district. Tuesday’s Gill-Montague Regional School Committee meeting was postponed to Wednesday, so we were unable to include coverage in this week’s issue. But as we went to press, we heard that the committee approved a “final” FY’18 budget, 7-1. Difficult cuts in staffing were avoided. The athletic department budget is \$4,000 higher than last year’s.

Fortunately – for those who supported the retirement of the Indian, and for those who didn’t but who see the logic in moving forward – a group of private citizens have stepped forward with a goal of raising an extra \$10,000 online to defray the cost of uniforms and supplies. In the first couple days, they’ve raised over \$1,500, in increments ranging from \$5 to \$150.

Good. The adults in this district have some real disagreements to work out over the coming months and years. But first, let’s show our students they have our undivided, and unconditional, support.

To contribute, go online to www.gofundme.com/SupportTFHS.

Thanks to Firefighters

I’m writing to send a public thank-you to the Turners Falls Fire Department and the Montague Police (non-emergency) dispatch. On March 9, my tenant notified me that there were loose wires hanging down on the side of our house.

I called the electric company and spoke to someone in their emergency department, who listened to my description of the wires, and was able to ascertain that the wires in question were not related to the electric service. We hadn’t lost power, so this sounded right.

He told me not to go near the wires, since we didn’t know if they were live or not, and suggested that I call the phone company next. We hadn’t lost phone service and all the internet-related devices in the building were working, so I didn’t think that the phone company would be able to help me figure it out.

So, after thinking about my options for a few minutes, I called the non-emergency dispatch number for the Montague Police. I gave the per-

son who answered a brief description of my situation, and she said she would forward my information to the Fire Department so they could come check out the wires.

About 15 minutes later, a fairly large fire truck arrived in front of my house and three firefighters, in full regalia, checked the wires and talked to me about them. It turned out that the wires are old, long-unused cable wires that had come loose in the high winds that night. The firefighters said that they would call the cable company and ask them to come remove the wires for me.

These firefighters were so nice, so helpful and concerned, and I am so happy to be living in the wonderful town of Montague where this kind of help and caring and response is available. What a blessing!

The Turners Falls Fire Department and Montague Police dispatch ROCK and that’s the truth. Thank you so much!

Lynne Rudie
Turners Falls

Letters to  the Editors

A Gigantic Battery Could Still Be Useful

I am writing in regards to the article on the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Station in your March 2 issue. While none of the statements in the article were totally false, many were somewhat misleading when it came to energy storage and the electrical grid.

In two instances, the article called the pumped storage a “net loss” system. While this is technically correct, it is true for *any* form of energy storage, from batteries to belly fat (though we don’t use that last one for electricity so much).

Energy storage by definition does not generate electricity, and it must operate at a loss. To quote Homer Simpson, “In this house, we obey the laws of thermodynamics!”

It is important to note that numbers from the International Energy Agency (IEA) do suggest pumped hydro is generally not as efficient as other technologies: 50 to 85% efficiency, vs. 75 to 95% for batteries (International Energy Agency, *Technology Roadmap: Energy Storage*, March 19, 2014).

The March 2 article also made the questionable claim that a renewal of Northfield Mountain’s license would give it a regional “monopoly” on energy storage. The IEA estimates pumped hydro accounted for more than 99% of energy storage worldwide as of 2010.

Despite its near-universal use, pumped hydro is unlikely to prevent other energy storage systems from being built. This is because we already need more energy storage than we have, and this need will only continue to grow.

Nuclear and coal plants have been closing. These plants provided consistent “baseload” electricity

production to the grid. (In fact, this is why pumped hydro storage tends to be located near nuclear power plants: nuclear plants generate electricity 24/7, regardless of demand, so high-capacity storage is built nearby to store the excess electricity during low-demand periods such as the middle of the night.)

Conversely, renewable energy capacity is growing, but renewable output is often weather-dependent, and not as consistent as nuclear or fossil fuel plants. Energy storage is needed to ensure electrical supply equals demand, by taking in the excess energy produced when it is sunniest or windiest and releasing energy when electrical demand is high but generation is low.

Storage can reduce use of “peaking” power plants, which get used in times of high demand but tend to be less efficient and fossil-fueled. Thus, energy storage will, in many cases, reduce emissions, even if the energy it stores originates from fossil fuels.

And if it stores renewably-produced energy, well, that is just gravy. *Mmmmm, graaavy...* (Homer again).

To be clear, I am not writing to argue for or against the renewal of the Northfield Mountain station. I am providing a little clarity about the (very complicated) electrical grid.

When facts are not fully presented, perhaps in order to further a particular argument, it hinders people’s ability to make informed decisions, and in turn can hurt the democratic process. *D’oh!*

Nicholas Skarzynski
formerly (and always)
of Montague

Missed It

In the March 9 edition of the *Montague Reporter* there was a photo of Rob Gronkowski on Page B2, with a short paragraph of his visit to Sheffield School in recognition of the school for winning the statewide “One Mission Buzz Off Challenge” raising nearly \$17,000 in the last few months for kids with cancer.

This is a phenomenal story, and contribution by a small school/community in competition with other schools statewide. We were very disappointed that our local newspaper, the *Montague Reporter* didn’t see fit to feature this more prominently in the newspaper.

The participants, including Sheffield students, high school/middle school students/athletes, Fire and Police personnel, staff, principal, volunteers from the Tech school, and community members were in no way acknowledged for their efforts in support of a student/family personally affected by cancer.

Being a newspaper that has always featured “feel good” stories about our small community, we were disappointed in the lack of coverage of such an important event. We hope that “Gronk” felt the love of our community that he so richly deserved.

Buddy & Kathy McCord
Turners Falls

We share your pain on this one. We had heard the event would be closed to the press, received no invitation from the school to cover it, and were surprised when other outlets were allowed in.

Our community’s success in the Buzz Off Challenge is indeed worth celebrating. Hats off to all the students and adults who pitched in over the last several months!

Mike Jackson
Managing Editor

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The Four Rivers Charter School proudly presents “**Sherlock Holmes and the West End Horror**” on March 17 and 18 at the Shea Theater, Avenue A, in Turners Falls. Both evening shows start at 7 p.m.

On Friday and Saturday morning, from 10 a.m. to noon, the Greenfield Savings Bank branch in Turners Falls will host two musical events.

Dance a jig over to the bank this Friday, March 17 to join the “**Wearin’ of the Green**,” featuring Irish folk music thanks to Ray MacIntire and his wee friend, Robert Lord.

These two gentlemen are sure to amaze you with their good humor, fancy dress, handsome countenances, and quick wit! They will charm the shamrocks off your socks. That’s no blamey!

And on Saturday, March 18:

Grab your dancing boots, your cowboy hat and mosey on over to kick up your heels with the **North County Line Dancers!** Learn some new moves and have fun with the members all at the same time. Why, you can dance right in the bank lobby!

The branch is located at 282 Avenue A in Turners Falls.

Who pays their fair share and who doesn’t? What gets funded and what doesn’t? Can we make the system more fair?

On Monday, March 20, Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution is sponsoring an educational evening at the Greenfield Public Library for community members to **learn about the state budget and our tax system.**

Come hear a clear presentation about our state budget and our tax system by Kurt Wise, tax specialist with the Massachusetts Budget

and Policy Center, an independent non-partisan nonprofit organization. This will be of interest to anyone concerned about education, local aid, healthcare, senior issues, transportation, or any of the other services we count on from the state.

Admission is free; snacks at 5:30 p.m., and talk begins at 6 p.m. For more information please contact Ferd at (413) 367-2373 or ferdwulkan@gmail.com.

The Friends of the New Salem Public Library invite you to a special local author’s night with Tommy Shea, who will present his book “**Dingers: The 101 Most Memorable Home Runs in Baseball History**,” which he co-authored with Joshua Shifrin. Whether it’s “The Shot Heard Round the World” or Hank Aaron’s 715th blast, the audience is sure to get an inside scoop on some of the most famous moments that now live in baseball lore.

The Friends encourage baseball enthusiasts, young and old, to come hear first hand from the author of “Dingers...” these exciting, unforgettable times! Tommy Shea was a reporter for the *Springfield Republican* for forty years, including six covering the Boston Red Sox. His work has appeared in *Baseball*

America, *New England Monthly*, and *USA Today*.

In 2003, Shea received the New England Associated Press News Executive Award for best local New England Column. He has also taught journalism at Springfield, Holyoke Community, and Elm colleges and at Bay Path University.

This event, held on Thursday, March 23, starting 7 p.m. at the New Salem Library, is free and requires no preregistration, so please join the Friends for a unique author’s night during baseball’s Spring season. For additional information, contact (978) 544-8916.

To show their patriotism, the **Gill Memorial Committee** is accepting donations for the placement of flags on utility poles in the center of Gill. Depending on funds received, they plan to expand the area in the future. The flags will be displayed from Memorial Day through Veterans’ Day.

Each flag, flag staff, and bracket cost approximately \$43. Donations may be sent to: Town of Gill Memorial Committee, Flag Project, 325 Main Road, Gill, MA 01354.

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More Letters



to the Editors

Forest Vigil

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), headquartered in Greenfield, is one of the organizations promoting a climate crime in western Mass.

In keeping with the below-the-radar machinations of those behind yet another biomass scheme, FRCOG feigns concern about climate change, while at the same time they are promoting a wood biomass scheme that could result in the construction of one or more wood pellet plants, and the devastation of untold acres of forests in our region.

Parts of the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership plan FRCOG supports actually do seem beneficial, but all that is lost to the

underlying contrivance for a pellet plantation in our region.

Some of us in the forest protection community are thinking it is time FRCOG’s leadership is called out in public for their nefarious actions, and strongly urged to work for real climate protection, rather than its destruction.

With that in mind, we are calling for a silent vigil in front of FRCOG on Tuesday, March 21 – International Day of Forests – from 4 to 5:30 p.m. rain or shine at the Olver Transit Center, 12 Olive Street, Greenfield.

Don Ogden
Leverett

Conflict Calculation

At Montague’s recent Special Town Meeting a member suggested that Town Meeting members who are also town employees should identify themselves when voting on articles that may affect them or their family members.

The suggestion was not adopted, but it called to mind some comments I’ve heard, over the years, to the effect that our “representative” membership is weighted toward employees, who can thereby influence their own compensation.

To satisfy my curiosity, and set to rest any concerns, I compared the list of the 120 current TM members to the approximately 88 people who receive wages or a stipend from the town. I found 10, which is about

8% of the membership total. Five of them relate to people who draw only stipends, and 2 others relate to part-time positions, so that leaves only 3 related to full-time wage-earners.

Another thought to keep in mind is that many town employees do not live in Montague, and therefore cannot vote on anything affecting their compensation – including at least 8 department heads, who have the strongest role in proposing budget spending.

In sum, though I would not call my quick comparison perfect, I don’t see a problem here.

John Hanold
Turners Falls

Was Joking

I feel a need to clarify a comment that I made which was reported in the March 9 *Montague Reporter*.

I did quip “Maybe it’d be better to have less people,” but it was not said without irony, and I was clearly not serious. In fact I had pointed out that half of the folks at a meeting in Leverett that I attended the night before said they would not be able to make an April 29 Town Meeting.

It is a tricky decision to change the date of the Town Meeting to accommodate residents choosing to participate in a socio-political cause.

Meanwhile, this is a difficult decision I am personally confronting, as my son and his family (farmers in Vermont) want me to go with them to the Climate Change March in Washington DC on April 29. At this point, I am inclined to miss town meeting and add my body to the march for climate sanity.

Julie Shively
Leverett

Flag Problem Resolved

I was appalled last Saturday after leaving the US Post Office in Turners Falls. I went to send off some mail in the morning. Upon entering the building, I noticed that the American flag hanging there was in distress. It got caught on the flag pole itself, like stepping on a nail. The flag can only free its self by tearing completely to the end.

I reported this situation to the four employees working at the front at that time. One spoke to me only from inside his office. The other three were standing right in front of me. I was told that they had called it in already.

Then it was added that a tree is too close to the flagpole now, and that was the real culprit. That the town of Montague was going to replace the sidewalk, and that a request was going to be made to remove the tree at that time.

I stated that in the meantime, it would be best to take down the torn American flag, and further added

that it was not proper to leave that flag hanging in that manner.

The conversation was all polite and cordial. However, I left the post office feeling like my concerns were falling on indifferent ears. I started to feel my indignation about being dismissed without any resolution to this unacceptable situation.

The flag should have been removed from the pole immediately, and if another flag could not fly as it should, no American flag should hang there until the situation is remedied.

I wrote to the Montague town administrator, Steve Ellis, on Sunday. He wrote back quickly saying that he would check it out. Then he later let me know that the tree would be cut back next week by DPW after the blizzard this week. Also, he relayed that Al Cummings, a trustee with the Soldiers Memorial in Turners Falls, went down to speak with them at the post office, and to offer assistance in getting a replacement

American flag if it was needed.

I received an email later on Monday that this flag had been taken down.

I am pleased that the torn American flag has been removed. I am also delighted that before a new American flag is hung, the area will be cleared enough to let it fly in all its glory.

As an American citizen, an Elk, and a past District Deputy in the Elks, I hold our American flag as a symbol of our great nation. Our privileges and freedoms in this country have been fought for by many who would die, or have died, for our American flag and ways of life. Now the least we can do is to treat our American flag as the gem that it is.

I appreciate everyone coming together in a true community effort to correct this situation so rapidly!

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Pamela J. Lester, PDD
Montague 2521

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Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

week ending 3/10/2017:

Grade 6
Alina Bocharnikova

Grade 7
Joseph White

Grade 8
Taryn Thayer

GUEST EDITORIAL

By GARRY L. EARLES

A few local school districts have made the news lately regarding the use of, or the impending creation of, a School Resource Officer (SRO) position. *An Act Relative to the Reduction of Gun Violence*, Chapter 284 of the Acts of 2014, was signed into law on August 13, 2014. It required school districts to have a least one SRO, "subject to appropriation."

Recently, the Pioneer Regional SRO presented a pie chart breakdown of his time to the school committee (*The Recorder*, January 31, 2017, B1). While Pioneer's school committee members have questioned the use and cost of an SRO, the Deerfield police chief praised the Frontier SRO position (*The Recorder*, February 17, 2017, B1).

And just the other week, Montague selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz went on the record advocating that some of the district's newfound school budget money be spent on a Gill-Montague SRO (*The Montague Reporter*, March 2, 2017, A1).

Prior to approving the position and appointing an SRO, decision-makers need to "study up" on the subject, in order to lead an informed discussion, and arrive at an informed decision.

What do these police officers actually do in the schools? Why are they there? What sorts of roles do they play and what sort of training do they receive about what? In essence, what's the scoop?

Offering opinions not based on research of the topic is not a good educational model. And as we all know, opinions are not facts – or at the least, informed positions – alternate or otherwise.

The priority for the placement of SROs is to enhance school safety, spotlighted most dramatically by, and in response to, the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy. The Pioneer SRO's pie chart indicated that 52% of his time is spent in "meet and greet" activities with students, while only 3% was attributed to crime.

Meet and greets are "... informal interactions... in order to build relationships." One has to wonder why police officers are doing that. What's the point, the goal? Are they trained to do that?

As a licensed independent clinical social worker, I have a clinical graduate degree, as well as oodles of supervision and training required to take and pass a clinical exam, followed up by ongoing continuing education requirements to maintain my clinical license.

Despite the supposed "informal" nature of such relationships, relationship building, especially in schools, is better left to trained personnel – social workers, guidance personnel, etc. – whose job it is to do so, without the addition, or at times the imposition of, "law-abiding authority." Do we not trust school personnel that, if really necessary, the police

can, and will be contacted?

Law enforcement will, no doubt, insist that SROs do enhance school safety, a "heading off at the pass" of potential problems, so to speak. Unfortunately, that isn't necessarily the case, as an April 2016 journal article by two University of Tennessee researchers associated with the University's College of Social Work, revealed: School Resource Officers and Students' Feelings of Safety at School (See: *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice* 2016, Vol. 14(2) 130-146).

Another article, *False Sense of Security: Police make schools safer – right?* by Maya Lindberg (*Teaching Tolerance*, Spring 2015) raises serious implications about the use of SROs.

When Montague Chief Chip Dodge was advocating for establishing an SRO for the Gill-Montague district at Montague's annual town meeting a couple years back, he proffered a detailed description. In response, I stated that he presented a job description for a professional social worker, one trained to provide counseling, support, and instruction, as well as one versed in making home visits, services that necessitate in-depth training and supervision.

While SROs receive training – e.g. a 40-hour basic course developed by the National Association of School Resource Officers (see nasro.org/basic-sro-course) – there's a lack of consistency, and even more so of supervision.

Regrettably, that Association's website provides no list of their trainers, or of their backgrounds that would qualify them as trainers. Given the broad scope of the 40-hour training, information about the expertise of the trainers is important.

In line with training is supervision. In professional social work, a portion of one's educational training, and subsequent employment time, is set aside for supervision wherein senior clinical staff supervise "new in the field" workers. Such experienced supervisors are lacking for SROs. To me, this is critical, as police officers I've asked say the students who come into contact with SROs are, quite often, those students challenged by mental health conditions.

To be clear, I am not questioning the character or sincerity of such personnel, rather the appropriateness of police officers in schools, whether as teachers (of certain classes), as trainers, as mentors, and especially as informal counselors. If they wish to act in those capacities, they should do so in the community, where their purpose is generally known and accepted, so as not to muddy the water as when playing their trade in schools.

Or, as many choose, help kids as a private citizen. Or consider obtaining a degree in social work.

Sadly, there have been recent instances of SROs, who despite their love of students and specific SRO training, acted authoritatively and

callously. Their lack of knowledge about child and adolescent development, and child and adolescent mental health in particular, was obvious from the videos that circulated online. (See the CNN videos, "Deputy sued for handcuffing disabled children," August 2015; "South Carolina student's violent arrest caught on video," October 2015; and "North Carolina officer slams girl, 15, to floor in video," January 2017.)

Such incidents are more common than imagined. The usual responses offered by law enforcement personnel are that the SROs acted accordingly, that they intervened at the behest of school administrators, that they did what needed to be done (as in de-escalated a situation?), and that they really understand and love these kids.

After all, many – and not just in law enforcement – assert that the students "know the rules," and when breaking them, should "suffer the consequences." There are those who insist, despite a student's mental health profile, that students

consciously choose to behave in certain ways and therefore will be held, rather than accountable, responsible.

It is as if to say to them, "Just because you have [ADHD, bipolar, OCD, Tourette, etc.], you still have to behave like the rest of us." Zero tolerance rides to the rescue!

Before investing time, money and energy in establishing local SRO positions, those advocating for such personnel, as well as those charged with making the decision about filling the position, would do well to inform themselves via researched articles and discussions with knowledgeable community persons. Isn't that what we challenge students to do... read up on a topic before making a presentation?

Gather diverse information, read it, take notes, and then discuss it or write about it from an informed perspective. That's education.

Garry L. Earles is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW). He lives in Turners Falls.

March 18: Deadline for Democrats to Run in Caucus

MONTAGUE – Democrats who would like to be placed on the March 29 Town Democratic Caucus ballot for nomination to run as a party candidate in the May Town Office election must make their declaration of candidacy by Saturday, March 18 at 5 p.m.

Written notice should be sent to town Democratic Party Chair, Jay DiPucchio, at 35 Central Street, Turners Falls, or emailed to jdipucchio@verizon.net by the deadline.

So far, only Democratic incumbents have filed intention to run in the caucus, scheduled for Wednesday, March 29 at 6:30 to 7 p.m. in the second floor meeting room of town hall. There are open seats for Library Trustees.

Anyone interested may contact Jay by the deadline to inquire of the current status of positions and candidates. Only Democrats registered as of December 31, 2016 may run in the caucus, but any Democrat or registered un-enrolled voter as of December 31

may vote in the caucus.

The Democratic Town Caucus is a parallel mechanism to the nomination signature-gathering process with the Town Clerk for encouraging and identifying citizens to run for office who can bring their talent to serving Montague through its formal government.

The caucus is operated just like precinct balloting, with checkers confirming eligible voters at the door, secret balloting with a ballot box, and counting and securing of ballots at the end of voting. Anyone arriving and in line to vote by the close of balloting at 7 p.m. will be able to vote.

The Democratic Town Committee is also operating the State Democratic Convention Delegate Nomination caucus immediately following town office balloting. That meeting will select 5 delegates to attend the June 3 Convention in Worcester. Any registered Montague Democrat may participate.

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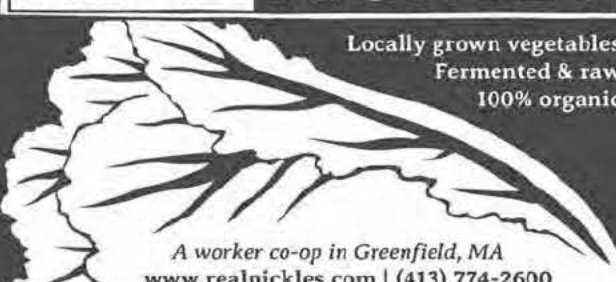
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MARTIN from page A1

Stanford graduate student Sharese King, we have more evidence of the institutional racism pervading the American justice system.

Delving into an important and previously unexamined aspect of the case of *Florida vs. Zimmerman*, in a lecture delivered to a capacity crowd on Friday, February 17, at UMass’s Integrative Learning Center, Rickford demonstrates the barrier to justice presented by the failure of the State of Florida to provide an interpreter for Martin’s girlfriend, Rachel Jeantel, who delivered her crucial testimony in a Caribbean inflected variant of African American Vernacular English.

Rickford’s careful analysis of Jeantel’s speech patterns and lexicon shows not only that she is an entirely credible and cogent witness, but also tells us that Jeantel, the only contemporaneous witness to Martin’s killing, was in practical terms unable to be heard in court.

Her testimony was not even considered by jurors during their deliberations leading to Zimmerman’s acquittal.

An ear witness, Rachel Jeantel was on a cell phone call with her boyfriend as he ran from Zimmerman. She continued talking with him up until the very moment of his death. Yet, as reported in Lois Bloom’s urgent new book, “Suspicion Nation,” Jeantel’s six hour testimony was entirely disregarded – never even referred to during 16 hours of deliberations – by the six member jury, not one of whom was African American.

Rickford sets out to show that language itself has been colonized in the American courtroom. White standards for speaking English dominate and help determine the sentences of black Americans who speak a regular, easily transcribed and translated dialect, but who are too often misunderstood or ignored by white judges and juries.

On the warm and rainy night of February 26, 2012, as Trayvon Martin (17 years old; 158 lbs; 5 foot 11 inches tall) returned from a trip to a 7-11 convenience store carrying the unopened bag of Skittles he had just purchased, he had a fatal encounter with George Zimmerman (28 years old; 185 lbs; 5 foot 8 inches tall), a volunteer neighborhood watch coordinator for The Retreat at Twin Lakes, the multi-ethnic gated community in Sanford, Florida where Martin was staying temporarily with his father and his father’s fiancée.

Zimmerman told police he was driving to a grocery store when he spotted Martin, on his way back from the 7-11, taking a shortcut between the apartment buildings at the Retreat on his way home.

Aware of a number of recent break-ins at the Retreat, Zimmerman called Sanford police at 7:09 p.m. to report Martin as “a real suspicious guy,” who was “just walking around looking about” in the rain.

“This guy is up to no good, or he is on drugs or something,” Zimmerman told the police dispatcher. Dur-

ing his six-minute phone call with police, Zimmerman is also heard to say, “These assholes, they always get away.”

The police dispatcher asked Zimmerman if he were following the young black male he’d spotted walking in the rain.

Zimmerman replied, “Yeah.”

The dispatcher said, “We don’t need you to do that,” and told Zimmerman a cruiser was on the way. Zimmerman agreed to meet responding officers at his parked truck, by the mailboxes at the front entrance to the gated community.

But Zimmerman did not wait for police to arrive. He left his truck, armed with a 9 mm semi-automatic, and followed Trayvon Martin. Less than a minute and fifteen seconds later, Zimmerman had encountered, struggled with, and fatally shot the unarmed 17-year-old.

Had the jurors in the 2nd-degree murder trial of George Zimmerman been able to understand the testimony of Martin’s girlfriend – if a court interpreter had been provided, as one certainly would have been for a French-language speaker or a speaker of Louisiana Creole, for example – they would have heard a witness speaking in compelling terms of her knowledge that Martin was not the aggressor in the encounter with Zimmerman leading up to his death.

Zimmerman, acting against police advice, was stalking and pursuing Martin, not “standing his ground.”

He killed an unarmed teenager carrying a bag of Skittles. His acquittal on grounds of self-defense stands as an indictment of America’s inability and unwillingness to understand the words of black crime victims and their witnesses.

If Black lives matter, so do the testimonies of Black victims of crime and the witnesses to it.

Dr. Rickford laid out his case in the UMass lecture, leading students and faculty (many linguists among them) in a careful, step by step analysis of Rachel Jeantel’s mode of speaking, showing how her specific expressions led to multiple misunderstandings by jurors in the Zimmerman trial.

Language, as Rickford points out, does reflect culture and background. In conducting his examination of her discourse, Rickford focuses on examples of Jeantel’s distinctive African American Vernacular English (AAVE).

Rickford is aware of potential criticism. In a recent article with Sharese King which won the “Best Paper in Language” award for 2016, they write:

Why should Rachel Jeantel and her testimony in this historically significant trial be of interest to linguists?

As a close friend of Trayvon Martin, talking with him by cell phone about Zimmerman’s profiling and following him until moments before his death, Jeantel was akin to Trayvon’s being in the courtroom himself, testifying on his own behalf.

She was the prosecution’s star

TURNERS FALLS HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS - WINTER STATS

Boys Basketball:					Girls Basketball:				
	Three-pointers	Free throws	Total points	Points per game		Three-pointers	Free throws	Total points	Points per game
Tionne Brown	21	55	284	12.3	Maddy Chmyzinski	44	92	342	15.5
career	41	116	633		career	93	296	987	
Josh Obuchowski	3	5	114	11.4	Aliyah Sanders	10	34	160	7.3
career	5	39	298		career	22	99	403	
Nick Croteau	25	11	130	5.9	Abby Loynd	7	31	114	5.2
career	48	27	259		career	21	85	252	
Tyler Lavin	30	14	176	8.0	Chloe Ellis	3	30	119	5.7
career	40	21	255		career	3	74	239	
Kyle Bergmann	0	36	160	7.0	Kylie Fleming	10	24	134	6.1
career	0	53	243		career	13	36	197	
Anthony Peterson	0	37	167	7.3	Emma Miner	4	9	39	1.9
career	0	45	211		career	4	25	149	
Ricky Craver	17	10	127	5.8	Hailey Bogusz	0	9	23	1.1
career	33	11	208		career	0	20	58	
James Vaughn	10	22	128	5.6	Lexi Lacey	0	6	22	1.1
career	13	31	172		career	3	10	55	
Jeremy Wolfram	0	4	36	2.1	Dabney Rollins	0	5	25	1.8
career	0	5	91		career	0	7	47	
Javonni Williams	0	8	68	3.1	Sarah Waldron	0	1	1	0.4
career	0	9	77		career	2	3	17	
Ian Moriarty	0	0	14	0.7	Taylor Murphy	0	3	25	1.6
career	0	2	18						
Marcus Sanders	3	0	13	1.4					
Chase Novak	2	0	12	2.0					
Kyle Dodge	0	0	8	1.6					

Ice Hockey:									
	Points	Goals	Assists	PPG		Points	Goals	Assists	PPG
Doug Hanieski (F)	25	9	16	1.7	Cassidhe Wozniak (F)	5	2	3	1
career	43	19	24		career	5	2	3	
Bryan Baumann (F)	24	12	12	1.7	Michael McGoldrick (D)	5	3	2	.08
career	24	12	12		career	5	3	2	
Ethan Lafleur (F)	15	6	9	1.2	Chris Urgiel (F)	4	2	2	1
career	22	8	14		career	10	6	4	
Bryce Jordan (F)	14	9	5	1.3	Zach Smith (F)	2	1	1	1
career	25	14	11		career	3	1	2	
Mason Whiteman (F)	11	6	5	1.4	Alec Jordan	1	0	1	1
career	19	8	11		career	6	2	4	
Camden Barnes (D)	8	3	5	1.1	Joyzan Gonzales (F)	1	1	0	1
career	9	3	6		career	1	1	0	
Dalton DeForest (F)	6	0	6	1.2					
career	10	2	8						
Aurel Pydych (F)	6	0	6	1	Goalenders	Save percentage			
career	8	1	7		Michael McGoldrick	83.5%			
Adam Coffin (F)	5	4	1	1	Jordyn Lavallee	80.5%			
career	8	5	8		Nathan Pelletier	79.3%			

witness, testifying for nearly six hours, longer than any other single witness at the trial.

However, her vernacular speech was pilloried on social media, and one of the six jurors (B37) said, in a TV interview with CNN’s Anderson Cooper after the trial (July 15, 2013), that she found Jeantel both “hard to understand” and “not credible.”

In the end, despite her centrality to the case, no one mentioned Jeantel in [more than 16 hours off] jury deliberations... In a sense, Jeantel’s dialect was found guilty as a prelude to and contributing element in Zimmerman’s acquittal.

In an attempt to unlock how Jeantel’s specific manner of speaking impacted the jurors and general public, Rickford and King analyzed Jeantel’s usage in nearly fifteen hours of trial-related events in which she was recorded.

To perform their analysis, they extracted a great many examples of Jeantel’s speech patterns, ably analyzing her pronunciation, the internal structure of her words and the way she put those words together to create phrases, both qualitatively and quantitatively. This method, common to linguistic investigation of dialects, is termed variationist phonological and morphosyntactical analysis.

Key to refuting the central point of the defense, the claim that Zimmerman was “standing his ground” and acting in self-defense when he shot Martin at point blank range,

during the course of their brief final struggle (witnessed by residents of the Retreat at Twin Lakes), are passages in Jeantel’s testimony like this one: “I told him, ‘Keep running.’ He – and he said, ‘Naw,’ he’ll just walk faster. I’m like, ‘Oh, oh.’ And I – I ain’t complain, ‘cause he was breathing hard, so I understand why...”

Among the many phrases of interest that Rickford considered “striking examples of dialect misunderstanding or clash in the courtroom,” was the term “creepy-ass cracka,” which Jeantel quoted Martin as using in reference to Zimmerman, who was following him. Rickford and King note that “the creepy-ass cracka” [cracker or White person] expression, was “shocking and alienating to the White jurors.” And yet, as they point out, the expression “derives from a common, productive process in AAVE that is heard as neutral in uncensored mode.”

While Rickford and King perform far more exhaustive analyses of Jeantel’s speech, their reason for doing so is not simply academic: “Trayvon Martin and Rachel Jeantel were ‘heard’ as nonstandard, therefore less credible and more culpable than George Zimmerman, who, it should be noted, never took the stand.”

In short, dialect unfamiliarity coupled with institutionalized racism essentially freed Zimmerman and recast Martin as the “outsider” culprit.

According to the Fifth Amendment’s proscription against double jeopardy, there is no way to appeal

Zimmerman’s not guilty verdict. Two civil cases have since been fought in an effort to seek damages and a measure of justice for Trayvon Martin’s family; both cases resulted in a failure to convict Zimmerman.

It may be too late to seek justice for Trayvon. But Rickford and King are calling on all of us to push for interpreters or facilitators of African American Vernacular English to be present in the courtrooms for the next Trayvon Martin, the next Rachel Jeantel. And not just in courtrooms – but in classrooms, job fairs, doctors’ offices, “and everywhere where speech and language matter,” and where justice for African American speakers of non-standard English is absent.

After all, as the authors note in “Language and Linguistics on Trial: Hearing Rachel Jeantel in the Courtroom and Beyond,” *Language Vol. 92, No.4 (2016)* – the journal of the Linguistic Society of America – “in 2010 the Drug Enforcement Association put out a call for nine Ebonics (AAVE) translators in the Southeastern United States to help interpret wiretapped conversations involving targets of undercover drug investigations.

“Clearly, the need for AAVE translators or interpreters has been recognized in the United States for assisting police investigations, but not (yet) for assisting witnesses or defendants (or transcribers or court reporters) in prison and the courtroom.”



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WENDELL from page A1
from any documented vernal pool.

One wetland would be impacted, and Sunnectivity worked with DEP to find a suitable replacement site. The fourth site that they looked at was one that DEP scientists felt had the proper conditions for it to succeed as a new wetland.

The company reviewed the new plan with Wendell’s conservation commission, at its February 7 meeting, at which con com chair Robin Heubel asked for more information so the con com could, at its March 14 meeting, make an informed ruling on how the proposal fits with Wendell’s wetlands protection bylaw.

That March 14 meeting was postponed to an unspecified date because of this week’s snowstorm.

An update for the wetland protection bylaw is on the agenda of the March 16 special town meeting, but since the original application was made under the old bylaw, those are the conditions that Sunnectivity must meet. The state has changed its SREC (solar and renewable energy credits) incentives for renewable energy to SMART, another acronym, and a program that gives less support for projects than SRECs do.

Werlin, speaking for Sunnectivity, also offered to pay the \$5,100 that the town paid for its wetland consultant. Selectboard chair Christine Heard was not sure if that could be done legally. Werlin suggested a brown paper bag, left conveniently, but no one came up with a good location.

If the project is built according to the new plan, Sunnectivity will pay Wendell \$12,500 a year as payment in lieu of (property) taxes, and will give the town a 20% discount on its municipal electric bills. Residents will be offered a 10% discount on their electric bills.

Board members signed an agreement to accept the 20% discount.

Another solar project is being worked on as a true “community” solar project. Under this proposal, a resident can buy panels as he sees fit, and get credit towards the electric bill just as if the panels were on his home or property. It would be a good

choice for someone whose property does not have good exposure to direct sunlight.

The property that proponents are looking at is the town-owned house and lot at 97 Wendell Depot Road, a property that has also drawn interest for its historic value and a place to keep town relics, and as a potential ball field.

Werlin said that this project would face wetland considerations just as the Sunnectivity project. An update of the town’s 1988 wetlands protection bylaw is on the warrant of the March 16 special town meeting, and if that update passes, the community solar project would have to comply with the new bylaw.

Broadband Update

The selectboard moved along the slow and murky process of bringing internet service to homes in Wendell by agreeing to sign a letter that has two resolutions to be forwarded to the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), as proposed by the broadband committee.

The first resolution confirmed Wendell’s interest in “working with Westfield Gas & Electric (WG&E) through WiredWest to provide design and engineering services and construction project management for a town-owned fiber to the premises network, based upon the fee schedule that was in the WG&E response to MBI’s private partner RFP.”

The second confirmed the selectboard’s “preference to build a municipally-owned fiber to the premises broadband network.” It continued, “At this time, we support the WiredWest Regional Broadband Solution to manage and operate the Town network on a regional basis, in conjunction with other towns that subscribe to the services offered by Wired West.”

Selectboard member Dan Keller said the plan is an improvement over the original WiredWest plan, but he still has concerns about the numbers. Financing does not include paying for a depreciation reserve, and the borrowing would not be through a bond, but through revolving one year notes. That would save bonding and

audit fees, but interest rates over the next 20 or 30 years are unpredictable. He said the town should ask MBI to “unlock” the spreadsheets showing the formulas that it uses.

Selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser said that people have contacted him prepared to just start construction, independent of MBI financing. (There are also towns-people who do not want an internet connection at all.)

The 2015 annual town meeting authorized borrowing \$1.9 million for building an internet network, but the whole landscape has changed since that vote. The WiredWest figure for basic service was \$49 a month, and now one more current figure for that basic service is \$100 a month.

Both Pooser and Keller felt that another vote taken with the new information might be a good idea.

Other Business

Keller reported that town facilities engineer Jim Slavas bought a new \$1,800 grinder pump to replace the one that has ground and pumped waste water from the library up to the town common where it can flow by gravity to the town septic system.

While he was in the hole changing the pumps, librarian Rosie Heidkamp held keys to the library washrooms, but still Slavas was treated to a flush.

Heard said she spoke with police chief Ed Chase, who has not yet reached retirement age of 70 years old, but does not necessarily want to retire when he does reach that age.

Keller said the town should contact state senator Stan Rosenberg to file home rule legislation that would allow Chase to remain chief beyond his 70th birthday, but that the town should also continue to look for a replacement.

Heard said that minutes of selectboard meetings on the town website are not listed in order as they occurred, but instead follow the dates so that all January meetings are followed by all February meetings, and so on. Pooser asked town coordinator Nancy Aldrich to send an email to the website committee and see if they can make the default listing

WENDELL SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Under Deliberation...

By **JOSH HEINEMANN**

This article will appear in print in the afternoon of Thursday, March 16, the day of Wendell’s scheduled special town meeting, and so this summary of the warrant will only give a short head start for someone who wants to understand the articles ahead of time.

The ten-article warrant is posted on the town office building entryway and the town website. **Article 1** would pay a \$47.70 highway bill of prior year.

Article 2 would correct a misprint of a 1986 discontinued Cold Brook Road. The town has been maintaining and plowing to the end, where selectboard member Dan Keller and others live, the only place a truck can turn around, but the coordinates of the discontinuance have maintenance stopped midway in the road.

A survey done in the process of creating a conservation restriction found the discrepancy, and this article would bring the road lay-

out in line with what the town is already doing.

Article 3 is designed to oppose the president’s effort to target recent and undocumented immigrants, and **Article 4** would require Wendell’s schools to educate immigrant children, regardless of legal status.

Article 5 is a nine-page update and clarification of Wendell’s wetland protection bylaw. The original bylaw was passed in 1988, and has not been revisited since then. It has been found needing clarification and some specificity.

Article 6 would create a meetinghouse historic district, which might allow the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse to get grants for restoring the meetinghouse.

Articles 7 and 8 deal with long-term camping on private property, and the sanitary requirements for stays of longer than 14 days.

Article 9 states that invalidation of one part of a bylaw does not invalidate the entire bylaw, and **Article 10** is for any other legal business, and usually closes the meeting.

chronological.

Three important town positions follow three-year rotations, but those three – town clerk, tax collector, and treasurer – all are on the same cycle. Keller suggested making a one-time four year term to put them out of phase with each other.

Margo Culley suggested a town meeting article that would instruct our federal representative to look into illegal activity by the current president with the idea of initiating impeachment. The warrant for the March 16 special town meeting is already posted so it is too late for that meeting, but there is time to put such an article on the annual town meeting warrant.

Aldrich reported that the town’s free cash is certified at \$173,989.

She also said that New Salem’s assessment for Swift River School is up \$100,000 and Wendell’s assess-

ment is up \$160,000. Fin com chair Doug Tanner and others requested a joint meeting of the two towns’ selectboards and finance committees.

Garden committee chair Katie Nolan and member John Craddock made a budget request of \$600 for the garden. After an initial outlay by the town for tools and the toolshed, which also houses the town’s snowblower, committee members have used their own money for replacement tools, for stakes, for wood chips and stone dust for the paths, for mulch and fertilizer, and for parts of the watering system that were not paid for by a grant.

Board members agreed that the request could be a line item at the annual town meeting, and Nolan and Craddock will bring their idea to the fin com at their March 15 meeting.



ICE OFF from page A1

shore, as they wended their way from one end or the other of the bridge to arrive at the judgment picket above a sluiceway that carries lake overflow to a stream which empties into the Sawmill River in Montague Center.

The event date range was February 22 through April 19. Those dates represent the earliest and latest dates ice has left the lake since the contest began. The contest’s end date was determined by ice departure results in 1978.

The start date was established in 2012, and this year’s winning date is the second earliest.



SCENE REPORT

The Standing Rock Sioux March on Washington

By **DAVID DETMOLD**

WASHINGTON, DC – Was it the largest gathering of Native Nations in North America – as some described last Friday’s Stand with Standing Rock March on the White House?

I can’t say; but it would not surprise me.

Tribal People from all corners of Turtle Island were there – including the young people’s drum and dance troupe I followed most of the mile long route past the Capitol to the White House. I followed them through intermittent snow and rain and chilly winds. These great

young dancers were clearly from somewhere south of our border.

There were certainly First Nations from Canada among the 5,000 to 8,000 marchers gathered to support the Standing Rock Lakota Sioux tribe. Demands were delivered to the White House calling for a halt to the Dakota Access Pipeline – which threatens Standing Rock’s water supply, as well as that of other downstream communities on the Missouri River.

The streets were filled with Natives in feathered headdresses, beadworked shawls, lofting banners of tribes from coast to coast. They resounded with the ululations of the

women, the war cries of the men; the smell of burning sweet grass and sage rose to the rooftops.

Tourists wandering across the marchers’ path responded in various ways – some got right into the rhythm of the drums, others held their wives close, struck by a sudden feeling that their sightseeing tour had suddenly turned wild.

The march departed from Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters, after prolonged harangue from a deep voiced man shouting through a bullhorn: “Are you not honorable people?! Why are you not honoring the treaties the Sioux forced you to sign in 1851 and 1868? Check your

Constitution! These treaties are still the law of the land!”

But no one from the Army Corps would come down to talk with the Lakota on the finer points of law.

At the White House, monks and nuns from Leverett Peace Pagoda were joined by Medicine Men and Fancy Dancers in a circle of chanting, drumming, and dancing until the sun suddenly burst through above them – to great cheers from the crowd.

Did the Administration hear the plea of the Standing Rock Lakota to stop the pipeline and protect the water on which all life depends?

Perhaps. We’ll see.

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ERVING from pg A1

Bastarache and selectboard member William Bembury stated that the board would appoint a three- to seven-member hiring committee to review applications for the firefighter positions and forward recommendations to the chief.

If the current chief declines the full-time position, a fire chief hiring committee would be created.

Wonkka, who was present at the selectboard meeting, did not indicate whether he would accept the full-time chief position.

If the May annual town meeting approves the full-time staffing budget, the full-time chief and firefighter positions would start on July 1. Selectboard chair Jacob Smith, an Erving firefighter, recused himself from the discussion.

Proposed Library

At the March 6 joint selectboard and finance committee meeting, the board and fin com voted to recommend supporting funding for the new library building project, subject to receiving a grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

According to minutes of the meeting, fin com member Benjamin Fellows “raised the concern that if the building is built, and a large taxpayer is lost, that the town would have to find a way to support the facility.” Also according to the minutes, Fellows “wants it clear that an affirmative vote on the article at annual town meeting will authorize the building of the library.”

At Monday’s meeting, selectboard chair Smith asked that the annual town meeting warrant article specify the percentage of reimbursement offered by the MBLC grant.

Library building committee member Jacqueline Boyden said that the committee had been told that the town will be reimbursed for 58% of the eligible costs, and the reimbursement could be raised to 60%, depending on the features included in the final building plan.

The board decided to include the phrase “58% of the eligible project costs” in the article.

The building committee will hold an informational meeting about the proposed building on Tuesday, March 21 at 5 p.m. at town hall.

Town-Wide Custodian

The selectboard also met jointly with the recreation commission on March 6 to discuss grounds and facility maintenance for town properties, including parks.

The board is proposing a grounds and facility maintenance

position considering “the comprehensive needs of all town departments,” according to meeting minutes. Formerly, the town had a part-time building maintenance worker and a part-time recreation facilities maintenance worker.

The board and recreation commission decided to post a part-time temporary parks maintenance position for the 2017 recreation season, and develop a job description for the town-wide maintenance position. Administrative coordinator Smith and highway foreman Glenn McCrory will work together to identify the custodial needs of all town properties.

Snow and Ice

The board reviewed a snow and ice removal bylaw proposed by the police department. The town currently has two bylaws: one stating the abutters on concrete sidewalks must keep them clear of snow or ice, and that people should not move snow or ice from private property to streets or town-owned land.

The proposed new bylaw would require removal of snow or ice from sidewalks within 24 hours of the end of a storm.

Administrative coordinator Bryan Smith provided examples of winter storm on-street parking bans from three other towns. The parking ban would be in effect during a snow emergency, and for six hours after the storm is over.

The board considered using the reverse-911 system to notify residents of a snow emergency. The board discussed potential fines of \$25, \$50 and \$75 for first, second and third offences, and also use of a warning sticker rather than fines for those parking on the street during a snowstorm.

The board plans to finalize the bylaws at the March 20 meeting.

Annual Town Meeting

The selectboard decided not to include an article transferring money to the stabilization account on the annual town meeting warrant. Instead, money will be transferred to stabilization at the last special town meeting prior to the end of the fiscal year.

The board and fin com voted to recommend increasing the annual town meeting capital expenditures article for the highway department to \$155,000. The funding will include the Erving Elementary School parking lot and sidewalk work, as well as other road work.

They also voted to recommend articles regarding authorization of the Council on Aging food service revolving fund, the Medicaid ride

revolving fund, and the senior/ community center facility use revolving fund.

They voted to recommend \$20,000 for permanent preservation of town records.

The town barn repair capital request was set at \$5,000, to include removing the office area, repairing the office wall and reinforcing existing doors. Bastarache recommended working over the next year to find a long term solution to the repair of the town barn.

Other Business

Mountain View Landscapes and Lawns provided estimates for laying electrical conduit to the Riverfront Park bandshell and pavilion (\$9,775) and for installing electrical service to the bandshell (\$22,975) and to the bandshell and pavilion (\$48,825). The board decided to review the estimates in greater detail at the March 20 meeting.

The board reviewed and edited the job description for the members of the water and wastewater departments. The revisions formally incorporate the water department responsibilities under the chief wastewater operator.

Cabot Risk Strategies, the town’s insurance agent, has informed the town that the vacant residence at 34 Northfield Road, the site of the proposed library building, was not currently covered under the town’s insurance policy. Cabot quoted \$1,200 as the additional cost for including the property on the town’s policy.

The board asked administrative coordinator Smith to get more information from Cabot, especially since Cabot’s quote identified the property as “34 Brookside Road, Uxbridge.”

The board discussed an estimate of costs for annual audits of the town’s finances. Currently, an audit is conducted every third year, at a cost of \$15,000. Administrative coordinator Smith said that some grant applications ask for annual audit results. Selectboard chair Smith noted that an annual audit was “something to look at.”

Energy provider Eversource has asked the town to provide a letter supporting its application for a rate increase, or a letter documenting a positive relationship over the years. The board decided not to provide either letter.

Linda Downs-Bembury resigned from the personnel relations review board.

Arthur Johnson was appointed inspector of animals.



“We’re hoping to become part of the 100 Who Care Alliance,” said Rideout. The Bennington College alumna notes that the proposed local chapter is a perfect fit for people who are already busy but want to make an impact on and learn more about their community.

How did the idea for 100 Who Care Franklin County come about? “Carolyn [Moore] heard about a group in Keene, New Hampshire,” said Rideout. “She attended a meeting there and brought the concept to us.”

The Franklin County steering committee commenced planning sessions in December. The daunting task began to unfold as the fledgling group reached out to their individual personal networks, printed flyers, and began getting the word out.

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This 19 hour per week part-time job does not include benefits. Please send a cover letter expressing interest along with a résumé and references, by Friday, April 7, 2017 to airport085@netscape.net or by mail to:
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Invitation to public information session on
PROPOSED CHANGES to the MONTAGUE ZONING BYLAWS

In accordance with Town Plans, the Montague Planning Board is proposing several changes to the Zoning Bylaws that are designed to facilitate development in and around village centers and to balance new development with land conservation. The proposed changes include provisions that would permit flag-shaped lots, Open Space Residential Development, and Planned Unit Developments. The Board will offer the public an interactive opportunity to learn about these proposed changes on Tuesday March 28 at 6 p.m. at Montague Town Hall, One Avenue A. Your feedback and participation are encouraged. Draft proposals are available on the Town Website at www.montague-ma.gov or you can learn more ahead of the session by contacting the Montague Town Planner at (413) 863-3200 x 207.

Ron Sicard, Planning Board Chair

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WHO CARE from page A1

the price point \$99 for the whole year. It’s a quick, affordable way for busy people to help build community and collectively make a financial impact on some Franklin County charities.

“Any member is eligible to nominate a county-based non-profit. The names of three nominated organizations are chosen at random at the meetings. The nominating member then has five minutes to speak about the organization with time set aside for questions and answers.

“The members then anonymously vote for their favorite of the three nominations. The votes are tallied, and each member writes a check for \$33 on the spot for a collective gift to the association which receives the most votes.”

Rideout notes that the steering

committee wanted to make the event an enjoyable evening. That’s why the Shea Theater was selected for the venue: a warm, friendly environment where people can come after work, buy a beer, get a free snack, and socialize when the event begins at 5:30. The business portion of the meeting starts at 6. Networking follows the close of the get-together.

“We’re thinking about adding other features for future meetings,” said Rebecca, “like live music, guest speakers, special guests – all kinds of interesting offerings to make the night even more fun.”

The steering committee plans to invite the non-profit recipient of the first meeting of “100 Who Care – Franklin County” to attend the second get-together and speak about its non-profit specifically and the work of a non-profit in general.

about 100 Who Care,” said Rebecca, “is its truly democratic nature. Any member can nominate a non-profit of its choice followed by voting. It’s a real-time democratic process that happens before our very eyes. We hope eventually to get people involved and motivated. It’s a social event, too. It’s an ideal way to meet people in our community, while making small donations to local charities that need funding.”

The 100 Who Care Alliance currently has over 400 functioning chapters, with countless more in development. There are men’s, women’s, men and women’s, and children’s (teens and youth) groups throughout the world including Australia, the Caribbean Islands, Ireland, Mexico, and Singapore. The alliance is a powerful force, utilizing the strength and ideas of

one hundred people or more in each chapter to lift neighborhoods, regions, and even nations.

In 2006, Karen Dunigan of the Center for Family Health established the initial “100+ Women Who Care” in Jackson, Missouri. That group met four times a year. *Forbes Magazine*, the *Toronto Star*, and the book *Be the Miracle* by Regina Brett have written about the “100” phenomenon.

The March 22 event at the Shea will take place from 5:30 to 7 p.m. If you would like to sign up or get more information, please call Rebecca Rideout at (413) 658-8038, or e-mail her at 100wcfc@gmail.com. You may also learn more or join on Facebook by entering a search for “100 Who Care Franklin County.”



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MONTAGUE from page A1

Berkshire has proposed two system upgrades designed to end the moratorium. One would involve the construction of a new pipeline from southern Massachusetts to a point in near Northampton, which would also require an upgrade of the existing link to Greenfield. The other option would be a large new liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage facility in Whately.

Montague's experts, whose testimony was filed on March 8, argued that neither alternative is required to lift the moratorium. Kenji Takahashi of Synapse Energy Economics challenged the assumptions of Berkshire's Forecast and Supply Plan. He argued that the company could eliminate the moratorium through more aggressive energy efficiency policies, and by renegotiating contracts with two large customers to reduce their use of gas during peak demand periods.

While Takahashi focused on the possibility of reducing demand projections, John Rosenkranz of North Side Energy LLC focused on the supply side. He reviewed the twists and turns of Berkshire's efforts over the past decade to upgrade its existing pipelines in the region and expand its LNG storage capacity at Whately.

Rosenkranz argued that Berkshire should upgrade its feeder line from Hatfield to Greenfield, and increase the use of LNG from its existing facilities during periods of

peak demand.

Elan told this newspaper that Montague's intervention is being funded by a \$20,000 town meeting appropriation, originally designed to challenge the Berkshire contract with Kinder Morgan for capacity on its proposed pipeline. After that project was cancelled, town meeting last September approved a request to use the funds to challenge Berkshire's moratorium. Elan said the expert testimony is also being funded from private donations.

Montague's DPU intervention is the latest in a series of actions involving state and regional natural gas policy. On February 10, 2014, the town selectboard voted to deny Kinder Morgan the right to survey on town property for its proposed pipeline. A public presentation by Kinder Morgan representatives before a packed town hall audience that April failed to change the board's mind. On July 14 of that year, the board officially opposed the project.

In May 2015, Montague's annual town meeting voted, 51 to 11 to oppose the Kinder Morgan project. The following October, a special town meeting voted two appropriations related to the pipeline proposal. One appropriation funded technical assistance by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to evaluate the environmental impact of the pipeline. The other was designed to fund intervention in Berkshire Gas' proposed contract

with Kinder Morgan.

Berkshire has not responded to the recent testimony of Montague's expert witnesses. There will be public hearings at the DPU in Boston on April 4 and 5. Elan told the selectboard on Monday that while the hearings will be public, participation will be limited to the gas company and various interveners, who will be testifying and cross examining one another. "It's like a trial," she explained.

Other Business

The selectboard approved a request by building inspector David Jensen to allow members of the public, businesses, and agencies to take paper from the Strathmore Mill. Eliminating the paper from the town-owned former mill, where it was stored by a prior owner for recycling, is one of the requirements in a recent order by the state fire marshal.

Jensen told the board that he had been "flooded with emails" as a result of an article about the paper's availability which appeared in the *Montague Reporter*.

Jensen noted that many of the large rolls would require more than one person to handle. "Supposedly there's a pallet jack there," he told the board.

When asked if retrieving the paper would be a safe activity, he responded that "people with normal coordination will be OK." He did note, however, that the smaller rolls

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of paper are in a "dark place."

The board also approved a request by highway superintendent Tom Bergeron to hire David Adams as a new truck driver/laborer.

The board executed a letter to retiring police sergeant, Richard Suchanek thanking him for his service with the town.

Town administrator Steve Ellis noted that local activist Betty Tegel had suggested that the town use the opportunity provided by the March

clock time change to replace batteries in smoke alarms.

The board officially requested that the town clerk place the non-binding mascot/logo referendum question on the May 15 election ballot.

The board then went into executive session, to discuss ongoing litigation with the Penta Corporation. The next scheduled meeting will be on March 20.



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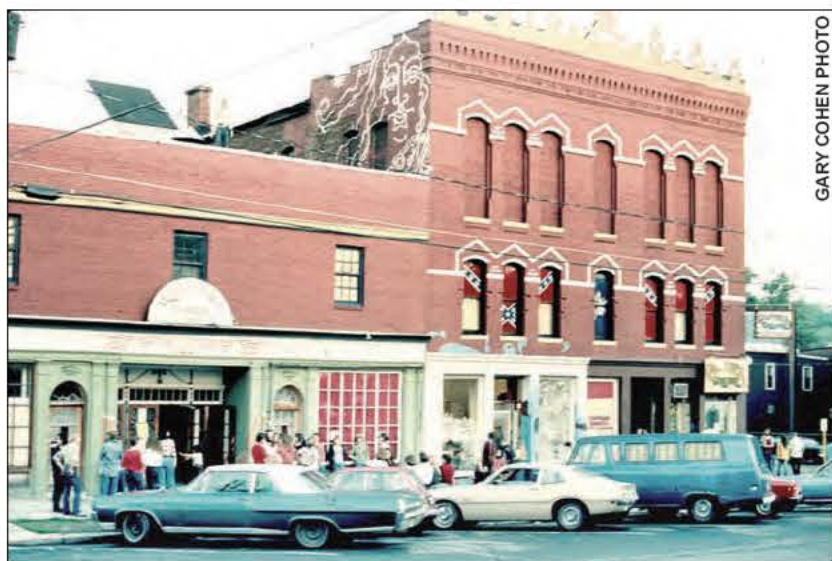
Voices From the Past: Big Fudge, Rock Bands, and the Hips...

The following narrative is taken from notes based on a recorded interview between Nina Rossi and Turners Falls native Roxanne Bonnette in 1995.

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

Rossi is now the Montague Reporter's features editor.

Roxanne Bonnette was 39 when this interview took place, and currently lives in Missoula, Montana. This is Part One of two.



GARY COHEN PHOTO

Cars and people line the street outside "The Block," a renovated theater used by the Renaissance Community, in 1976. Courtesy of the Special Collections and University Archives, UMass-Amherst Libraries.

TURNERS FALLS – My father used to own a business in downtown Turners on Third Street, called the Bonnette Coal Co. Every Tuesday I would have Girl Scout meetings at the First Congregational church, across from St. Mary's, and then we'd walk down to Equi's Candy store, which was the big place in my life at the time. I was about 8 or 9 years old, and getting a piece of fudge...it was probably a four ounce piece of fudge for ten cents! That was my treat of the week. Then I would go to my dad's business and wait for him until it was time to go home.

Other things I remember: the Shady Glen. It's been there for-

ever and I remember going there Friday's for fish, which we still do. After high school dances it was always a big thing to go to the Shady Glen, and you would see everyone there. As a freshman and sophomore you would go there to bask in the glory of the seniors. That's where they would be. We used to call it the Greasy Spoon – that was a pet name – we all liked it, and if it was greasy we weren't conscious of it at the time.

As a little girl, those were the things I was aware of the most: the churches – we went to St. Anne's – the St. Anne's bazaar, that used to be a really big deal. We always used to look forward to that, and shortly

after the bazaar there was always a carnival down in the park area.

Also the Rag Shag parades; the Memorial Day or Veterans Day parades used to be really big, too, a lot of WWII veterans. At Christmas time the Eagles Club would have parties. The Eagles used to be located where the Rod and Reel company used to be on Third Street. Also, Christmas parties at St. Stanislaus and St. Kazimierz.

It seemed back then, the men my father's age were a lot more civic minded and active and doing things for little kids. The Lion's Club used to have a broom parade and go to houses and sell brooms for three dollars. All the kids would carry brooms, and some of the kids would dress up like witches. Or they would go out and raise money for eyeglasses or hearing aides, another function of the Lion's Club.

As I got older, Turners sort of changed for me. When I got into high school, I remember having rock bands in the bandshell [at Unity Park] – it's not there anymore – once a month they would have a rock band, and during the week they would have the military band for the older people. Throughout the summer, there was always a rock concert with *Clean Living*, or *NRBQ*...

I was really sorry to see the bandshell go. It started to fall apart, and they didn't have the money to fix it up, so it was becoming a hazard.

see **BONNETTE** page B4

At the Wendell Free Library: Jessica Star, "After the Fair"

By **RICHARD BALDWIN**

WENDELL – The Wendell Free Library is proud to present *After the Fair*, Jessica Star's new exhibition of photographs. Nine beautiful prints all made from photographs taken at night at the Franklin County Fair fill the gallery with elegant works.

Though the setting of a county fair is not unusual, Star's decision to photograph lit up areas at night make all these prints seem otherworldly. The compositions use sprinklings of brightly colored lights against an inky black background to create both surprise and mystery. The visual contrasts are startling, and the objects in the photographs are often barely distinguishable. This makes for enticing and unique images.

Some of the prints, especially "TWOBG Round and Round," "Love the Ride," "Please Dumbo," and "Landslide," remind this viewer of a night sky filled with brightly colored stars. Other compositions like "In Her Dreams" and "Line dancing at Night" present sections of the fair with partially identifiable imagery which fade into the black background.

Star writes: "Out of over 4,000 photos taken during the Franklin County Fair in 2013, I have created

a series of images that capture the fair as we never get to see it, still and quiet. Some of the rides are being packed up; others are still in place. I am in awe of the spectacle of the carnival; however, I find the event itself to be too noisy and over stimulating. These photos give me a quiet space to reckon with the 'flashy glory' of the lights and the art of the rides at my own pace."

The prints are handsomely presented in identical black frames done by Ken Levine of Frames, Ink & Athol. All photographs are 10" by 13" and are printed on Epson Archival Inkjet paper from an Epson

R2880 printer. Star used a Canon 6D camera for this work as she does for many of her other photographs. The camera allows her much latitude for taking photographs, and the printing guarantees professional results. She has been taking photographs for about twenty five years and has shown her work in Boston, San Francisco and in Athens, Georgia.

The exhibition will run from March 3 to April 30. Library hours are Tuesdays noon to 7 p.m., Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Thursdays 2:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., Saturdays 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Sundays 11:30 to 3:30 p.m.



Jessica Star's photograph "Please Dumbo," at the After the Fair exhibit.

Ruth Flohr : A Writing Teacher Returns to Franklin County

By **JOHANNA BARTLETT**

WENDELL – A number of people in Wendell and surrounds have been exploring their writing skills in courses offered by Wendell resident Ruth Flohr, who has conducted several creative and memoir-writing workshops sponsored by the Arts Council in Wendell, New Salem, Orange, and Sunderland. She moved to the area in 2011, but what many people don't realize is that she is returning, after a long hiatus, to a place she happily called home for many years before.

Flohr lived first in Greenfield in the 1980s, and came to appreciate the natural beauty of the Pioneer Valley as well as the special aspects of its culture, including the enthusiasm for activism and social

responsibility. She was attracted to the forested landscapes of towns like Wendell, finding herself drawn to nature as it reveals itself in the wild, mountainous terrain. Eventually she bought what is now known as the "Blue House" on Farley Road in Wendell, situated between the Mormon Hollow Brook and Bear Mountain.

She enrolled at Greenfield Community College, intending to go into law, but gradually became more interested in literature and communications. One of her courses at GCC was taught by Phyllis Nahman, whose name now graces the college's Nahman-Watson Library.

While studying the writings of the Transcendentalists, Ruth was given an assignment on Thoreau,

see **FLOHR** page B8



BARTLETT PHOTO

Teacher Ruth Flohr (left) with Shelley Hines, Morningstar Chenven, and Ilna Singh, sharing their writing in class.



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

The Full Moon and the Ides

By **LESLIE BROWN**

MONTAGUE CITY – Mankind has been fascinated with the moon for centuries.

The oldest Roman calendar is based on the cycles of the moon, particularly on the full moons. The Native Americans named the full moons as they marked the seasons of the year and the times for certain activities. Farmers who read The Almanac will note many stages of planting rely on the stages of the moon with the timing of frosts, warm weather and wet.

The first place mankind visited when we developed the ability to travel in space was the moon: the bright light in the night sky, the symbol of lovers, rhyming with "spoon" and "June," and the definition of lunacy, in Latin: *lunaticus*, or moonstruck.

This month's full moon, March 12, is called by some tribes the Full Worm Moon and sometimes the Sap Moon. This month's moon is the highest of the year, as it hovers above Orion. The Worm Moon is named for the sight of worm castings pushing up from the softening ground and calling the robins and migratory birds to return and eat.

We won't be finding worm castings now, as the ground is rock

hard after an earlier thaw period in February. Still, we saw just today a fat robin as well as a flock of cedar waxwings. We hope the latter will not find our yard again this year, as last April they thoroughly stripped our burgeoning crop of apple blossoms, guaranteeing no fruit for the year.

Nonetheless, the daffodil bulbs are up about an inch and are in a holding pattern now, waiting for another thaw. That in turn will bring up the worms and their castings.

In the meantime, we have brought in another large cart of cordwood in preparation for the upcoming snowstorm on March 14, near another auspicious date, the Ides of March.

In the old Roman calendar, the Ides of March coincided with the full moon, and was thus labeled as the beginning of a new month and in the case of March, the New Year, a cause for celebration of feasting and drinking. The Ides also marks the day of the assassination of Julius Caesar, which Shakespeare borrowed for the now famous phrase, "Beware the Ides of March."

We may well be wary as few of us look forward to another significant snowfall. We are more than ready for spring which will, Ides and snow or not, begin officially on March 20. This, the Vernal Equinox, marks the date on which the plane of the Earth's equator is lined

see **GARDENER'S** page B3

Pet of the Week

Frost is an adorable Syrian white hamster looking for a caring home. Hamsters make excellent pets for any kind of home. They are enjoyable for all ages, and they are on the easier side to care for. Hamsters are soft, cute, and so much fun to play with and watch. Frost has lots of love and entertainment to offer, and he would love to be a part of your family. If you are interested in this cute little guy, please speak with an adoption counselor at Dakin to have all your questions answered. Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.



“FROST”

Senior Center Activities

MARCH 20 TO 24

GILL and MONTAGUE
The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 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-Fri Noon Lunch
M, W, F 10:10 a.m. Aerobics, 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Monday 3/20
8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic Appts. Noon Pot Luck & Bingo
Tuesday 3/21
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Wednesday 3/22
9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach 12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 3/23
9 a.m. Tai Chi 10:15 a.m. Mindful Motion 1 p.m. Cards & Games
Friday 3/24 (events listed above)

LEVERETT
For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us. Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

ERVING
Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 2 days in advance. Call (413)-423-3649 for meal information and reservations. For information, call Paula Betters, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.
Monday 3/20
9 a.m. Tai Chi 10 a.m. Healthy Bones 12:15 TV Family Feud
Tuesday 3/21
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics 10 a.m. Stretching & Balance Homemade Lunch 12:30 p.m. Friends Meeting
Wednesday 3/22
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing 10 a.m. Chair Yoga Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs
Thursday 3/23
8:45 a.m. Aerobics 10 a.m. Healthy Bones 12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors
Friday 3/24
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop 9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling 11:30 a.m. Pizza & Dessert 12:30 p.m. Downton Abbey

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

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

This week we will highlight a video on our website, and in the TV schedule, called *The Doctrine of Discovery 3/3/17: Unmasking the Domination Code*. This event featured a showing of the film of the same name by Sheldon Wolfschild, based on the book *Pagans in the Promised Land* by Steven Newcomb. This event was held at the Mount Toby Meetinghouse in Leverett on March 3. Peter d’Errico introduced the film, and Grandmother Strong Oak Lefebvre facilitated a talking circle after the film showing. The film was presented by the Mount Toby Peace and Social Concerns Committee, and the event was co-sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee of Western Massachusetts, Arise for Social Justice, The New England Peace Pagoda, Traprock Center for Peace and Justice, and Visioning B.E.A.R. Circle Intertribal Coalition. D’Errico, a consulting attorney on indigenous issues, who formerly taught legal studies at UMass, was consulted in the making of the film. He introduced the film by challenging viewers to watch it with the awareness that history is not something just in the past, that it is very much alive through the ways it has affected the present. He challenges all to watch the film and not come away with the conclusion that they have watched a movie about something that happened long ago, but with the conclusion that they now understand the present in a new light, and understand the forces that have shaped the way they understand the world. To paraphrase d’Errico: The doctrine of “Christian discovery” was pronounced about 500 years ago by the Pope to authorize Spain and Portugal to colonize the Americas, and to authorize Portugal to conduct



slave raids on the African coast. These legal, religious documents underpinned the history of slavery and the history of colonialism. An 1823 Supreme Court case incorporated these notions into United States property law, to decide the question of, “Who owns the continent?” The Court decided that the US must own the land, because the Crown of England claimed to own the land under the doctrine of Christian discovery, and that therefore the Indians could not own it, but merely “occupy” it with permission. This case has been cited over 300 times since 1823 in making decisions about rights to the land, such as in the 1955 case *Tee-Hit-Ton vs. the United States*. Grandmother Strong Oak Lefebvre says that we have a chance to heal the culture we live in by telling the truth of how the current structure got put in place, by decisions such as the little-known doctrine of discovery which has been kept from the people to hide the violence, domination and occupation that happened in this land, and continues to happen all over the world. She opens the circle for the input of each person present in the room about how we can work on reversing what happened through the doctrine of discovery.

She argues that recent government mandates against the immigration of people of color into the United States may as well be going back to the 1493 doctrine, when the structure which set in place, that in 1794 law, only white Christians could come to this continent from overseas. She also reminds us of the many things Presidents have tried to do to deny humanity to indigenous people, such as removing them and sending them off to boarding schools. She underlines the importance of working toward decolonization. Watch the video at vimeo.com/207521645 to learn more about what was said in the room on March 3, and if you can, watch *The Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking the Domination Code* by Sheldon Wolfschild and Steven Newcomb. The event footage will also air on our TV channel this Thursday at 11 a.m., and Friday at 12:30 a.m. Something going on you think others would like to see? Get in touch to learn how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment. Contact us at (413) 863-9200, in-fomontaguety@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We’d love to work with you!

March 25 at the Shea Theater: “Music and Diversity II”



First Generation Ensemble's Performance Project, at 4:30 p.m. with Q&A to follow.

TURNERS FALLS – RiverCulture is pleased to announce *Music and Diversity III*, Saturday, March 25 at The Shea Theater in Turners Falls. Performances by Grupo Folklorico, Performance Project, Moonlight and Morning Star, and Tang Sauce are scheduled from 4 until 10 p.m. at the newly renovated historic venue. Art by Rodney Madison, Luis Felipe Gonzalez, and Nina Yagual will also be on display, and a community meal is planned for 6 p.m. Admission is sliding scale, with a \$5 to \$15 suggested donation. No one will be turned away. *Music and Diversity III* is co sponsored by La Mariposa, a people of color led/focused community center in Turners Falls. **Grupo Folklorico** starts off the line-up. They are a children’s dance troupe presenting traditional Mexican and South American dances, in addition to pieces of their own creation: 4 p.m. **Performance Project** presents “Tenderness Selections,” a blend of monologues, storytelling, movement, scenes, including five languages. Created by First Generation Ensemble, “Tenderness” underscores the dehumanization at the core of all violence, and contrasts it with the eternal power of human tenderness and connection.

Inspired by ensemble members’ personal experiences of human-rights abuse in war in the Darfur region of Sudan, Guinea, West Africa, and the school-to-prison pipeline system and mass incarceration in the US, “Tenderness” reaches beyond conflict and racism to find pathways for human connection. This performance, at 4:30 p.m., will be followed by a Q&A with the ensemble cast. **Moonlight and Morning Star** are known for their rich harmonies and intimate performance style. Their multicultural collaborations include original songs, spoken word, and arrangements of traditional music of the African-American and Jewish traditions. Moonlight and Morning Star work devotedly in the Pioneer Valley to promote social justice, multicultural awareness and empowerment for young people. 7 p.m. **Tang Sauce and DJ Stealth** provide high energy, danceable, captivating hip hop music, that will make you feel charged up. Tang Sauce delivers the complex, clever rhyme schemes; at the same time playing jazz-inspired trumpet, while DJ Stealth brings electronic sonic smoothness. This Hartford duo is truly an act you need to see! 8 p.m.

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GARDENER’S from page B1

up with the center of the sun, giving us approximately equal hours of day and night.

We have already begun Daylight Savings time, which, for a time, will mean later morning light and longer daylight into the afternoon and early evening. We are so eager for spring and more sunlight that we have artificially tweaked the clock to make this happen. Even without our assistance however, the angle of the sun is longer and more intense and the days a bit longer.

Out in the bright warmth of the sunroom, many of the tomato seeds we planted on March 4th have sprouted and stand up an inch high. A few have not yet broken the ground, but as the gardener is not exact in setting in the seeds at ¼ inch, we’ll give them a little more time. It is a joy to see them starting, as this makes the garden season seem a little closer.

During that energizing week of February thaw the ground was softening in the raised beds and we thought of setting out seeds for early greens. We are glad we did not, though, as they would have struggled to make any progress in the rock-like soil we see now.

Still, that time will come soon when the ground thaws quickly and we must make sure to put leaf crops

out right away. Once the weather breaks, these cool temperature loving crops need to get started before the heat rises up, as it can, in the month of May.

Right now it is enough to watch these tomatoes get their start for the long growing season ahead. It is nothing short of miraculous that such tiny little seeds will eventually morph into huge plants bearing tasty red fruits well into September.

In the meanwhile, we will watch the bright constellations as they etch the clear night sky and savor the increasing warmth of the longer afternoons. We can join the cat basking in the summer temperatures of the sun room and retiring to the rug in front of the wood fire at the end of the day.

We hope we will not again experience a bombogenesis of snow, but if we do, we also know it will not last forever. The vernal equinox is not far off, the pussy willows are up in the marsh, and the birdsong is loud and territorial, a harbinger of nesting to come.

Let the wind howl around the comers and pull the blankets up around your ears and dream the cold away. Spring will come, and with it the Full Pink Moon of the wildflowers. Enjoy every sign of it.

Happy gardening!



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

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

GMRSD Rescinds Another Vote

At the March 13 meeting, the Gill-Montague school committee rescinded their vote of January 23 to designate Montague Center and Sheffield elementary schools as kindergarten through fifth grade school, and to move the Sheffield sixth grade to Great Falls Middle School.

They subsequently passed a motion, made by Mike Langknecht, to proceed with the plan to move the Sheffield sixth graders to the middle school.

On February 13, the committee had voted to return to the present grade school configuration by rescinding a vote of December 19th, 2006 that would have closed part of Hillcrest school. But they neglected to rescind the January 23 vote at the same time.

Community Center Public Forum

What would you like to see in a new community center facility? This question, posed at the Gill-Montague senior center last Tuesday night, generated a deluge of ideas; a brainstorm in the truest sense of the world.

A public forum was held to get community input on a proposed community center in Montague to be shared by the senior center, the library, and the parks and recreation department. Facilitated by Michael Bosworth, business manger of the Brick House, and attended by 30 to 40 community members, the meeting was divided into four sections.

First came presentations by

directors of the library, the senior center, and the parks and recreation department about the various needs their organizations are facing. They all described shortcomings in their current facilities, and enthusiasm about an opportunity to address those needs with a shared facility.

The library has already explored plans for renovation of the historic Carnegie Library on Avenue A; cost estimates ran between \$4.6 and \$6.4 million to add a new wing to that building. The difficulty of adding onto an historic building led the library trustees to look to other town departments in need of new facilities, with the idea of pooling resources.

“The senior center and parks and recreation were obvious choices,” explained the library director Sue SanSoucie.

Seventy Degrees, with Snow in the Forecast

A break in the clouds came on Wednesday, March 14 as Turners Falls basked in 70-degree weather, short pants and shirtsleeves made their appearance, and daffodils broke through the crusted snow. Children were outside playing, ducks were migrating north along the migratory flyway above the canal, and some Turners residents were just trying to enjoy the warm weather while it lasted.

Those hoping for an early end to winter may have to go on hoping for a while longer, after these unusual mid-week highs. Area towns can expect some snow showers this Saturday and Sunday, followed by rain and more snow showers on Monday. The high temperature for those days is expected to be 34 degrees, 38 degrees, and 39 degrees, respectively.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Balloon, Burnt Popcorn Trigger Alarms; Parties Incoherent; Hole In Building

Monday, 3/6
7:21 a.m. Commercial burglar alarm at Greenfield Savings Bank; interior break room motion. Bank manager on scene. Building checked. Balloon in break room determined to have set off alarm.
4:49 p.m. Caller states that a male party with long white hair and a leather jacket is staggering across the Gill-Montague Bridge; appears to be intoxicated. Area checked; negative findings.
6:18 p.m. Assistant store manager at Aubuchon Hardware stating that she has video footage of someone stealing garden soil. Officers downtown on lookout for subject.

Tuesday, 3/7
11 a.m. Report of suspicious items in the creek in the wooded area off an ATV trail adjacent to the houses on Franklin Commons. Referred to an officer.
1:42 p.m. Report of breaking and entering into a storage unit in the alley near the Rendezvous. Report taken.
10:28 p.m. Caller just wanted on record that there is a loud train parked in the Lake Pleasant Road area.

Wednesday, 3/8
1 a.m. Officer checking on a suspicious party at Greenfield Savings Bank. Party affiliated with the janitor of the bank.
10:26 a.m. Caller from Goddard Avenue reporting a vehicle in her driveway that she does not recognize and did not permit to park there. Officer requesting tow; vehicle is parked such that it is blocking the caller’s vehicle and also partially obstructing the sidewalk. Officer en route to registered owner’s address to follow up. Report taken.
6:09 p.m. Caller states that there is a dark colored Chevy Impala parked in front of the garages on T Street. He has witnessed people coming up to the vehicle and doing hand-to-hand exchanges with the man who is sitting behind the wheel. Unfounded.
9:13 p.m. Caller from Avenue A reports that a known male stole her EBT card about an hour ago and drained her account. Dispatch spoke with caller and caller’s boyfriend to try to get necessary information; both were incoherent.
10:28 p.m. Caller from Avenue A reports that other tenants are yelling, running, and stomping up and down the stairs and hallways. Caller believes that they are intoxicated. Second caller states that the man who stole his girlfriend’s credit card



There was much excitement at Food City last Friday afternoon when a vehicle drove into the building’s exterior wall. Miraculously, no one was hurt, though the pizza department had to shut down after the oven moved several inches. Rau’s towed the car, and Montague Police provided a courtesy transport to an Erving address. “There were no injuries, there are no charges pending, and it was considered an accident,” Chief Dodge told us Wednesday. “The investigation appears to be complete, and the operator was found to be at fault for the accident, with no charges or citations being issued from what I can see.” Phew!

is now in her apartment fighting with her. Male subject reports that he did not steal card, that female left it at Family Dollar and that the store has called a couple of times saying that they have the card. Peace restored; all should be quiet for the night.

Thursday, 3/9
6:31 a.m. Caller from railroad is hearing over radio that there is a brush fire that some railroad employees are attempting to put out with extinguishers. Shelburne Control notified to tone out MCFD. Update from Pan Am that fire is close to the fish hatchery. Officer on scene advises best access is from Ferry Road to Greenfield Road. Fire out; fire departments clearing scene.
9:22 a.m. Report of trash from neighboring houses that was put out for collection today blowing into street and nearby yards. Caller advised of options. Officer checked area. No hazards located. Trash is blowing around today due to abnormally high winds.
12:56 p.m. Report of brush fire approximately 200 yards off Old Stage Road, in or adjacent to the woods; believed to be a rekindle from a fire yesterday where the caller’s neighbor had been burning brush. MCFD and MPD on scene. Fire out.
3:46 p.m. Caller reporting that he was just in an accident at Gunn Road and Route 63. Two cars; no injuries. Report taken.
7:52 p.m. Caller from Eleventh Street reporting that her neighbor is continuously setting off fireworks tonight. She came outside and asked if he would stop, but he became confrontational and was swearing at her. Officer spoke to involved male; he states that he has no more fireworks and will be quiet for the night.


Friday, 3/10
12:46 a.m. Officer conducting a motor vehicle stop on Keith Street. Operator uncooperative. Officer requesting second unit. Units clear; citation issued.
2:26 a.m. Caller from Avenue A reports that her boyfriend just returned home and told her he was jumped by a male known to them. Caller advises that boyfriend does not recall where the assault took place; he has significant facial injuries. Unknown where suspect is now. Med-Care and TFFD advised to stage short of scene. Officer advises scene is secure; medical personnel can proceed. Units clear of apartment and en route to suspect’s location on K Street. Officer following up at Baystate Franklin Medical Center.
7:44 a.m. Caller reports that someone has dumped six or seven tires along the riverbank on Main Street. Message left for DPW.
5:23 p.m. Multiple 911 calls reporting that a vehicle has just driven into Food City and there is a “hole in the building.” Officers, TFFD, and MedCare en route; voicemail left for building inspector. Fire bringing down several barricades. Support beam in front of store was struck and car drove about three feet into the building. Berkshire Gas en route; bent pipes, but no active leak at this time.
6:12 p.m. Report of big gray dog running loose on Turners Falls Road. Unable to locate.
7:05 p.m. Car vs. dog on Turners Falls Road; dog injured but has left area. Unable to locate dog. Owner called advising that they returned home and learned that their dog is missing and was possibly hit. Officer speaking to owner.
10:28 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street believes that his neighbor may be under

the influence of some sort of drug; neighbor lives alone but is banging on floor screaming loudly to himself. Subject advised of complaint and will remain quiet.

Saturday, 3/11
1:04 a.m. Two car accident on Millers Falls Road. No injuries. Both vehicles towed. Citation issued to one driver for failure to stop at stop sign.
4:54 a.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.
10:06 a.m. 911 caller reporting out of control brush fire on North Street. Shelburne Control notified; MCFD toned out.
3:57 p.m. Walk-in party states that when she went to Cece’s for food, one of the workers attempted to kiss her and it was not wanted. Officer at Cece’s to speak to staff. Other staff denies anything like that happened; second party on scene states that nothing like that was witnessed.
6:45 p.m. Fire alarm activation at Shea Theater. Burnt popcorn.
10:31 p.m. Caller reports that train has been sitting and running near Lake Pleasant Road since 5 p.m. Ongoing issue.
10:35 p.m. Noise complaint on Montague City Road. 4-5 carloads of people. Subjects advised of complaint and told to keep it down.
11:31 p.m. Second call regarding noise on Montague City Road; caller reports that after officers left, parties turned up music and began talking about drug and alcohol activity. Parties advised that this would be last warning before criminal charges are involved.

Sunday, 3/12
7:31 a.m. Third report of loud party on Montague City Road. Party has persisted; participants can be heard arguing about drug-related issues. Two summonses issued.

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BONNETTE from page B1

It was dangerous, but it was beautiful, it was one of my favorite places down there.

Turners really changed in the late '60s and early '70s when the Renaissance Community came in. There was Zapmia Pizza on Third Street, and the Noble Feast, which is now a parking lot next to the Rendezvous – it used to be a First National grocery store, then they made it into the Noble Feast.

The Noble Feast was really cool because the hippies – we used to call them “the Hips” – they did all this papier-mâché work, so that when you walked in, it was like you were walking into a cave. They had it all painted black with fluorescent shooting stars painted on the walls. I don’t remember any windows, it was always dark. The food was delicious, it was all vegetarian.

I liked to go there for lunch, and at the time I was working at the First National Bank in Turners, which is now the Fleet Bank [currently Greenfield Cooperative Bank].

That was one place I used to go, and then at night we’d go there dancing. And Rapunzel, a.k.a. Michael Metelica, who was one of the founders of the Community, always had some rock band from somewhere playing there, and then he’d get up and sing a few songs. That was a lot of fun, because it was a whole new cultural boom, and the hippies were all really different and came from all walks of life. I enjoyed getting to know them, learning about what made them tick. I was always very careful that I didn’t become one of them, but I was friends with them.

There was a fear in town that “the hippies were coming,” and it was “a cult,” and they were going to “take all of our kids away.” I had to make it clear to people that even though I looked like one of them, and dressed like them and hung out

with them, I was really a local girl. It was important to my parents to make that definition.

I think there were a lot of people that would say I’m friendly with them, but not too many in my age group or older were into it. A lot of younger kids would sort of run away from home and go up and live in the main lodge, and that was sort of a concern.

The ones that I associated with were the real entrepreneurs of the Renaissance Community. They were the people that really had a lifestyle vision that seemed really good to me. It was: living off the land organically, and being politically correct, being involved in politics.

For instance, the Cucumber Grocery, in the corner of the Colle Opera House. They sold things so cheaply, they were so into making it the most efficiently run business and they didn’t want to rip off people. They weren’t in it to make money, they were there to pay the workers a wage and keep the place going. They made all the other places lower their prices on milk and cigarettes. I was really glad that they were there.

Next door was the greeting card place, it’s what Silver Screen broke off out of. The greeting card company is up in Maine now and still doing really well, with beautiful greeting cards. So they were really talented people and they really walked the talk. They may have smoked pot, but they weren’t into really heavy drugs. They showed up for work everyday, they respected people in the downtown community. They weren’t loitering and harassing people, they were always very friendly.

In fact, my father, being a downtown business man, was very impressed. By this time, he was “Beaubien and Bonnette Sunoco.” The Community got these little yellow cars, my father went to some



Corn Records promotion billboard, on the roof of a Honda 600. Honda's first American model was a tiny vehicle with a two-cylinder engine that got nearly 50 mpg. Michael Metelica bought 35 of them from the interviewee's father in September 1973. Courtesy of the Special Collections and University Archives, UMass-Amherst Libraries.

Honda place and bought about fifty of them, a big package deal...

There were all these little yellow cars all over downtown Turners! It was like an invasion of insects; all the people in the Community had them. They had an account at my father's stations because he was the only guy in town, I remember they told me, that didn't treat them like scum, or talk down to them or be suspicious of them.

My father said they always paid their bills on time, they were always really courteous. The guy from Cucumber Grocery would sometimes walk down with a grinder for him, because they'd see that he'd be working through lunch.

They were very conscientious of senior citizens. If they knew some old guy that lived alone – even if he might have been the town wino

– Cucumber guys, Noble Feast or Zapmia Pizza would always make up a plate for him if they had any left over food. I bartended at Carney's at the time and I remember they would come in with plates of food for the guys there that were alone. It was my first exposure to feeding the homeless.

I can't speak for all kids in my age group, but they really raised my consciousness about a lot of things, and I rather enjoyed them. Being zany enough, I think they really helped me be my own person.

Toward the end there were a lot of kids that were tuning out and dropping out, the Tim Leary thing, and they were dropping acid and maybe doing other things, but that was really a small part. Michael/Rapunzel, the leader, really did get caught up in it.

There were almost like two Renaissance Communities. They had this solar greenhouse and all winter long they'd be growing things, and they were always ready to give you a tour up in the Community in Gill. And then, in the Opera house, there was Michael's podium and the Spirit in the Flesh Church. He was minister somehow.

They had gutted the Shea Theater, there was carpeting all over the floor, big pillows and it was painted psychedelic. Michael would get up on the stage and preach, he was very charismatic. I think that's what scared the townspeople about their kids going there. I remember my mother saying, "You going where?? I don't want you getting in too thick with them..."



Honoring Earl McGraw at the GMEF Gala

TURNERS FALLS – This year will mark the 40th anniversary of the death of Elvis Presley. In tribute to his music and his legacy, the Gill-Montague Education Fund proudly presents “More Jukebox Memories” for their 2017 Annual Gala on Saturday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the high school, featuring Elvis tribute artist David Lee. Also returning, The American Longboards with their high-energy tribute to music of the '50s, '60s, and '70s.

Tickets for the GMEF Annual Gala are on sale at the World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield, Scotty's Convenience Store in Turners Falls, by calling Sandy at 863-7296. or at www.thegmef.org. Tickets are \$25 in advance, and \$30 at the door.

The GMEF will also honor the late Earl S. McGraw, educator and former vice-principal at GFMS/

TFS, in three ways: a special tribute to Earl in the Gala Program; a special tribute during the concert itself; and by inviting tier-giving contributions in Earl's honor before the Gala.

The GMEF's annual tier-giving campaign runs from March 1 through April 14. There are six club levels for contributors: Einstein (\$1,000); Michelangelo (\$500); Galileo (\$200); DaVinci (\$100); Newton (\$50); and Patron (any amount).

All individuals and groups who donate will be acknowledged in the Gala Program. Donors making contributions of \$100 or more will be recognized on an engraved plate on the 2017 plaque displayed outside the theater.

There is a special page on the GMEF website, “Tributes to Earl McGraw,” with a tier-giving form for

Earl. The GMEF's Board of Directors recognizes Earl McGraw with a tier-giving contribution because Earl's life exemplified the Fund's mission of students: “hearing their needs, and enriching their education.” The Board voted unanimously to honor Earl's memory, combining their individual personal contributions for the “Einstein Club.”

This money will be awarded in future grants. The GMEF's collaborative effort with underwriters, sponsors, advertisers, and tier-givers has resulted not only in quality entertainment for our communities, but also made available more than \$106,950 of student enrichment grants thus far.

For more information about the Annual Gala, Tickets, and Tributes to Earl McGraw, see www.thegmef.org.

Wendell Scholarships – Help Minds Grow!

WENDELL – It's time to apply for scholarships from Dollars for Wendell Scholars! All students who live in Wendell and will be pursuing any kind of accredited post secondary education next year can apply by completing the short and easy application.

Applications for the scholarship are available at local high schools and at the Wendell Free Library.

They must be returned to the address below by April 15.

Our third annual fundraiser was initiated with a mailing to all Wendell residents in February. Donations may be made to Dollars for Wendell Scholars, PO Box 232, Wendell, MA 01379 with checks payable to Dollars for Wendell Scholars.

Or go to our crowdfunding site: www.youcaring.com/dollarsforwendellscholarsIII.

www.youcaring.com/dollarsforwendellscholarsIII.

Please help us support Wendell residents seeking post-secondary education (college, university, or technical school). For more information, call or email Carolyn Manley at (978) 544-7028 (cman19@wildblue.net), or Christine Heard at (978) 544-2282 (cheard59c@aol.com). You may also speak with Joy Brenneman at the Library.

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MONTAGUE REPORTER



ABOVE: Gabriel J. E. Rice reads an article about urine collection in the Montague Reporter in front of the White House. Gabe was in Washington DC on Friday, March 10, proudly standing with the Standing Rock Sioux.

Going somewhere? Take us with you! Send photos to editor@montaguereporter.org.

BELOW: Corin and Luke Wisniewski of Montague browse the newspaper while visiting the Museum of Science in Montreal, Quebec.



LEFT: Debbie Way and Leo Hwang take some time to catch up on the Reporter on the beaches of Culebra, Puerto Rico in February.

BELOW: Montague selectman Michael Nelson catches up on his hometown paper while vacationing in Majabual, Mexico.



ON THE ROAD

MISS STEMPLE RECALLS THE PAST Part VI (June 11, 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 are 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.

In her column last week, Miss Stemple described some of the "printers devils" who worked at the plant of the *Turners Falls Reporter*. She continues her story this week.

— Ed. Note

Another of our devils came from one of the upper crust families. It was quickly evident that he had no idea of what apprenticeship in a newspaper office involved. He apparently expected to adorn the front office exclusively and came attired for that role.

When he had to lug coal from the cellar and clean press rollers, his spirits flagged perceptibly. But he gallantly grinned and bore the indignities without saying very much.

The worm turned, however, when he was set to operating a perforating machine. This involved standing on

one foot and tripping a lever with the other. Admittedly this was a tiresome job and far from stimulating or interesting work. Ben stuck it out for a day or two and then incontinently resigned, announcing that he was not going to stand on one leg all day for nobody.

One of our lads came to us at a considerably older age than most candidates. He had worked in one of the factories for two or three years and then decided his forte was journalism or printing. He was a muscular, generously built, freckled faced Irish youth brimful of wit and fun and an earnest desire to get ahead.

As an apprentice he did remarkably well. In fact, he applied himself so faithfully that "The Boss" took particular pains to instruct him and advance him more rapidly

than was usual.

Tim had a keen nose for news and was always bringing in choice bits of information, usually the undercover activities and wire pullings of the town politicians. Much of this was merely gossip but a deal of it was truth and indicated the youth was alert and interested in doing what he could to help produce a live newspaper. He also had the proverbial Irish love for a scrap, verbal or otherwise.

In those days the tramp printer was a familiar figure in every printing office. One particularly obstreperous specimen invaded the *Reporter* office one day and made himself so obnoxious because of the firewater he had imbibed that he was ordered off the premises.

The tramp refused to obey the orders of "the Boss." Tim watched the proceedings with bright-eyed



PHOTOGRAPH BY EMMY COOK. COURTESY PETER S. MILLER

One of at least three buildings occupied by the Turners Falls Reporter office, above the "N.B. Hall Dining Room," now the Between the Uprights sports bar.

interest and seeing that Mr. Bagnall was making little progress in getting rid of the quarrelsome visitor, he could stand the situation no longer. So he sidled up to his employer, his hair bristling and the lust for battle gleaming in his eyes.

"Aw," he pleaded, "leave him to me, Boss; leave him to me!" and without waiting for permission he seized the tramp in the proper place in his rear and vigorously pushed

and booted him down the stairs and onto the sidewalk.

Tim came back from the skirmish positively radiant with delight over a job well done. He was so pleased with himself and got so much satisfaction out of his good deed that he did about twice the usual amount of work that day.

We were all very fond of Tim and his memory will never fade.

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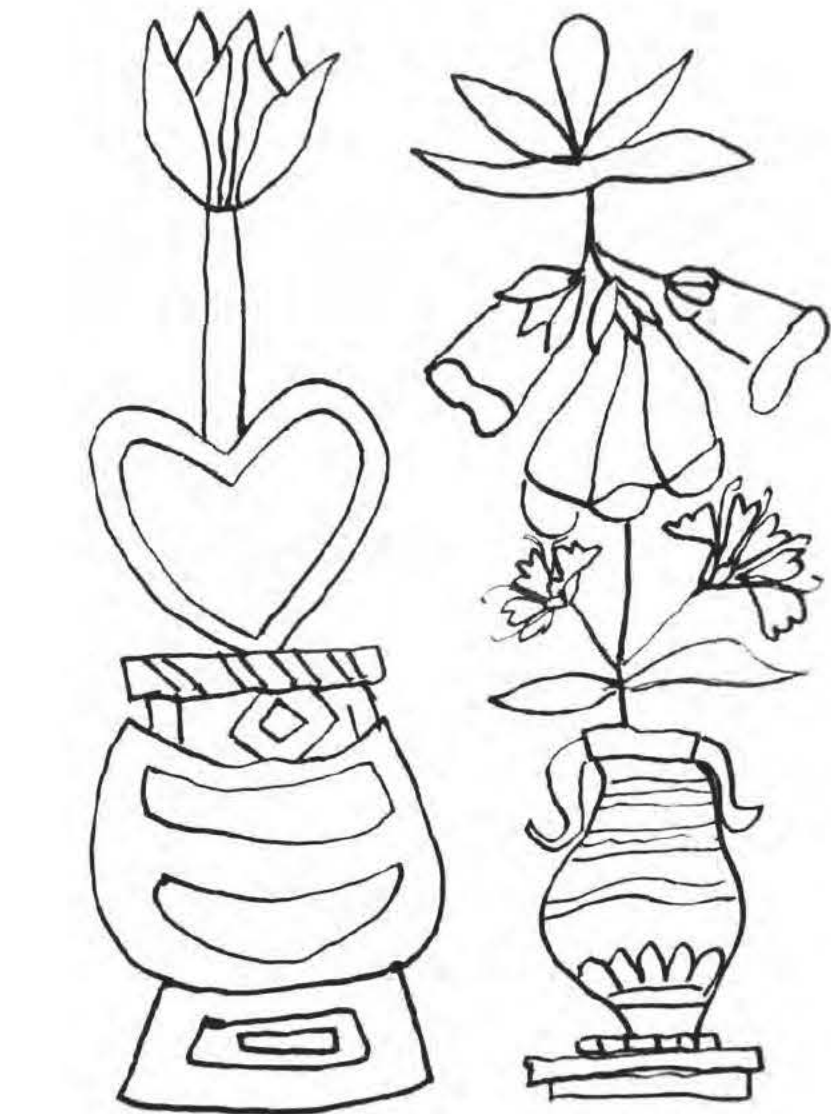
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The Children's Page

Coloring is the latest craze. Have fun coloring these pictures by local artists!

Edited by BEVERLY KETCH

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



ILLUSTRATIONS, CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT: ARIEL KOTKER; JOEL PAXTON, JOSHUA BURKETT, AND BEVERLY KETCH.

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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.

EVERY MONDAY

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

EVERY TUESDAY

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

3rd WEDNESDAY MONTHLY

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

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAY

Arts Block (4th floor), Greenfield: *Creacion Latin Big Band*

& *Late Night Open Mic JAM*. 20 piece ensemble play son, salsa, chacha and much more. 8 p.m. Open Mic starts at 9 p.m. Free.

EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

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

2nd AND 4TH THURSDAY

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

EVERY FRIDAY

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

Dickinson Memorial Library, Northfield: *Story Hour with Dana Lee*. For pre-schoolers and their caregivers. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

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

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

EVERY 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.

EXHIBITS:

Artspace, Greenfield: *The Real Remembered by Esther S. White*. Closing reception Friday, March 24, 5 to 7 p.m.

Domestic Darlings, Turners Falls: *Rumpled Beds*, photographs and collages by *Trish Crapo*. Through March.

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

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Montague Favorite Places Exhibit*. Fans of Montague created art about their favorite places in all of our villages. Come see the results! Through April 23.

Hope & Olive, Greenfield: *Anja Schutz exhibit "Photographs,"* landscapes, portraits, still lifes, and dogs. Through May.

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

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Nathan Hanford: Friendship Thread*; portraits of friends and artworks by *Veterans of Soldier On*. Embroidery, mixed media. Through April. Also, Lower Gallery: *Mohawk Trail Middle & High School Visual Arts Showcase*. Reception: April 8th, 4 to 6 p.m. Music by *The Paperweights*, and *Mohawk student performers* Through April.

Sawmill River Arts Gallery: *Guest Exhibit by Lana Fiala*, featuring recent paintings focusing on children. Through April 2.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Spring Preview*, a group show by member artists. Through March 27.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Jane Litwin Taylor's Catching The Light*. Mosaic art and beadwork. Also in the Herrick Gallery, *After the Fair, photography by Jessica Star*, taken at night at the Franklin County Fairgrounds. Both exhibits through April.

SUBMISSIONS:

Call for Art: *Exploded View* is curating a community art show at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls in May. Artists living in Western Massachusetts can submit wall art on the theme of rivers and water for this "Catch and Release" exhibit. Deadline April 22. Submit up to three jpegs to explodedviewma@gmail.com Questions? 413.834.8800.

Conway's Sestercentennial (250th birthday). Request for Proposals for one act plays to be performed on Friday, June 9, and Saturday, June 10th, 2017 at the Sportsman's Club Pavillion. Send all proposals and questions to Mike at verybratty@aol.com.

GCC's literary journal, *Plum*, announces the Michael Doherty Writing Contest open to all writers from the W. Mass., southern VT, and southern NH. Cash prizes. Deadline April 20. Submit to: plumeditors@gmail.com Questions?: mwilliams-russell@gcc.mass.edu

Slate Roof Press announces the 2017 Elyse Wolf Prize for their annual poetry chapbook contest. Deadline June 15. Details at: <http://slateroofpresscontest.submittable.com/submit>.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

New Salem Public Library, New Salem: Mycoterra Farm presents *Learn to Grow Your Own Mushrooms*. 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Long-*

fellows. Funky Blues with Tommy Filiault, Doug Plavin, and Klondike Koehler. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half-Shaved Jazz*.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Wet Tuna, Noise Nomads / Matt Krefling duo, Trevor Healy, and Green Hill Builders*. 8 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Four Rivers Charter School presents Sherlock Holmes and the West End Horror*. 7 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Jess Klein*, singer/songwriter, and *Joseph Parsons*, pop rock. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Vimana*. 8 p.m. \$

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Boys of the Landfill*. Traditional Celtic and fiddle music. 8:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Irish Twisters*. Great Irish Craic; come celebrate St. Patrick's Day! 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Four Rivers Charter School presents Sherlock Holmes and the West End Horror*. 7 p.m. \$

Guiding Star Grange, Greenfield: *Contra for Conway*. Special Fundraiser Contradance for the Conway Tornado Relief Fund. 8 p.m. Donations to Relief Fund.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Folk duo Austin & Elliott, and Michael Metivier, poet, singer/songwriter*. 8 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Community Smokes w/ Head Band*. Rock/reggae. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Lunar Carnival*. Folk, Jazz, Americana. 9 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern: *Watchdog with the Package*. 9 p.m. \$

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *Danse Cafe presents Festibal Benefit Music & Dance Party for the Conway Tornado Relief Fund*. Live music and Hors d'oeuvres potluck. 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Donations to Relief Fund.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Lazy Bones*. Old timey, jazz, blues, exotica and more. 7 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

New Salem Public Library, New Salem: Friends of the Library presents local author *Tommy Shea, co-author of Dingers: The 101 Most Memorable Home*

Runs in Baseball History. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Acoustic guitarists Julian Lage & Chris "Crittter" Eldridge, and Aoife O'Donovan*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rear Defrosters*, honky-tonk, and *Kate Lorenz* from *Rusty Belle* as a solo to open. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *An Evening with Holly Bowling*. 8 p.m. \$

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

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



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The Longfellows

Friday, 3/17 - 9 p.m.
Irish Twisters

Saturday, 3/18 - 9 p.m.
Lunar Carnival

Sunday, 3/19 - 7 p.m.
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SAT. 3/18
no show

SUN. 3/19 9pm
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FLOHR from page B1

which she fulfilled by inviting her entire writing class to Wendell to hike to the top of Bear Mountain. There they shared a picnic and wrote their responses to nature, *a la* Thoreau and Emerson. Now she points to this event as her first experience in creating a writing group, and recalls how she recognized it as something she wanted to do more of.

Ruth settled in, becoming a contributing reporter for the *Hampshire Gazette* and Gill correspondent for the *Greenfield Recorder*. She delved into the history of Wendell, and made friendships that last to this day, keeping up a correspondence with one friend for over 20 years after she left the area. She served one semester as an intern at the State House, commuting twice a week to Boston.

Eventually, Ruth enrolled in the Ada Comstock program at Smith and earned her B.A. in American Literature. She developed a minor in women's studies, carrying out a research project about working-class women going to college, at a time when she was one of the comparative few who did so. Her interest in theories of communication was also expanding.

Because she wanted to pursue an advanced degree, she moved to the Berkeley, California and attended San Francisco State College. While there, she embraced a communication theory that uses a system of "creative dialogue" to foster non-judgmental communication, and to

create meaning through story telling. She believes that writers succeed when they find their own words and get beyond their own expectations. In Berkeley she ran a popular workshop entitled "Women Who Run With Words." She earned a degree in speech and communication, and taught at San Francisco State College for seven years.

When the opportunity arose, she decided to move back to the area she had loved so much. Now she teaches communication at Holyoke Community College and conducts writing groups in her own community. Periodically, she offers a new memoir course for beginners, but two of those courses have evolved into longer-running groups, one of which has been together now for over four years.

Questioned about their experience with Ruth's classes, participants are very enthusiastic about her teaching style. Often they talk about her skill in drawing out the talents of her students. Participant Phyllis Lawrence says that "Ruth can help a writer choose and define a 'point of view,' and illuminate a 'voice' from which to speak."

As Kai Judd puts it, she "sees the potential in her students and gently draws out the voice that tells the stories of the heart." Her techniques ensure that a wide variety of responses are elicited.

Chris Queen says that "Ruth prompts us with phrases from literature and popular speech, postcards

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4:30pm: Performance Project
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from her exotic collection, and words that bring a rush of images – 'the kitchen,' 'hair,' 'far away.' Then she writes along with us. I never suspected I was that kind of a writer."

Linda Lau emphasized the accessibility of the teacher and material: "She manages to inspire all of her

students, including those non-writers who are apprehensive about beginning the writing process."

It's safe to say that Dvora Cohen sums up Flohr's success when she says, "I love being in the writing group. It's such a great way to be together – to write together and then

to listen to what others and you have written."

It appears that there are many people who are glad the Ruth Flohr has found her way back home.

Anyone interested in participating in a workshop can reach her at (413) 727-2002.

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