

ONE OF THE OLD
GUARD PASSES ON

Page A3



VIRUSES AS
MEDICINE?

Page B1



ADOPT THIS
HERE RABBIT!

Page B2



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 15 – NO. 20

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 2, 2017



ANJA SCHÜTZ PHOTO

NEWS ANALYSIS

Can New England's Great River Survive More Decades of Pumped Storage Generation?

Long-term FERC licensing could lock out new river-sparing energy storage choices.

By KARL MEYER

NORTHFIELD – Dr. Boyd Kynard, retired federal expert on the Connecticut River's migratory fish and endangered shortnose sturgeon, tells a story about bass fishing in Massachusetts around 1990. He was drifting near the French King Bridge, a mile downstream of the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Station's subsurface tunnels when he glanced up and realized his boat had switched directions. It was being pulled upstream, "and at a pretty good clip."

Turbines at that Northfield plant had sucked New England's river into reverse for at least a mile. This was nothing new, save that in this instance there was a daytime witness.

In December a radio feature from Boston's WBUR entitled "New England's Largest Battery is Hidden Inside a Mass. Mountain" was rebroadcast widely in the Northeast. Referencing Ben Franklin, James Bond, even the Bat Cave, it painted a rosy future for the 1200 quick-start megawatts stored in a reservoir at the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Station.

Roaring turbines were noted as company spokespeople staked claim to the plant's "green" future, as they bid to lock in a new 50-year Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license. The occasional ring of an old phone connected directly to ISO New England – the grid's "independent system operator" – was described as "the sound of money."

Altogether missing in that story was NMPS's violent mining of the Connecticut River. That ecosystem artery was never identified as the sole water source enabling it to regenerate electricity. Prior to Northfield construction the Connecticut had forever run seaward from the Canadian border to the tidal zone near today's Hartford, CT. But 12,000 years of New England natural history changed in 1972, on the day NMPS came on line.

On January 22, 1974, two years after it began operation using over-produced nuclear megawatts then available on the grid at night to fill a 5 billion gallon reservoir, the Fed-

eral Power Commission (today's FERC) notified Western Massachusetts Electric Company it required their "earliest response" on Northfield's impacts for a Draft Environmental Impact Statement: "Since the Northfield Mountain Project became operational, which of the conditions described have been observed to produce reverse flows?"

WMECO's lawyers belatedly replied on October 16, 1974, that they didn't have the information. Questions about environmental impacts, and reversing rivers, went unanswered.

In 1967 a federal Connecticut River migratory fisheries program to restore American shad to historic upstream reaches in Vermont and New Hampshire got underway. That same year, the embattled Connecticut River shortnose sturgeon was listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Exactly fifty years later, recovery goals for hundreds of thousands of spawning shad, and thousands of shortnose sturgeon, remain utterly unfulfilled. Spawning habitat access for both are impacted by Northfield's suck and surge flows, which also create daily bank-eroding four-foot "tides" along this reach, sometimes reaching to 10 feet.

Pictured in a less glowing light, NMPS is a 45-year-old dinosaur: a formerly nuclear-powered, net-loss energy transfer machine hacked out of the bowels of a mountain. With the region's nukes now shuttered, it runs daily on imported electricity, and has never produced a watt of virgin power. Today it's a quick-start, high-profit operation, relying on boatloads of fossil-fueled megawatts purchased in bulk on the wholesale market. Suctioning the river uphill, it later releases those waters down through its turbines in dense pulses – pumping out 25 percent less juice than the virgin power it consumes.

NMPS is not renewable energy, nor anything resembling the public's idea of hydropower. It reproduces just a fraction of New England's power at peak times, and peak prices, but can only generate for eight hours maximum. After

see RIVER page A4

Above: Photographer Anja Schütz of Turners Falls took this photo at Barton Cove Tuesday morning, while she and Kono were watching eagles perched on the island.

GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Power Lines Bring School Budget Relief

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – In a budget season that has been marked by belt-tightening, the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee heard some late-breaking good news Tuesday night.

The district's working budget would have asked Montague for

\$28,053 more than the town's calculated "affordable" assessment, while laying off staff and reducing spending on textbooks, teacher computers, and maintenance. But a new increase in the tax base – in particular relating to power companies – means that the affordable assessment is likely to rise by around \$180,000.

Many variables, including wheth-

er Gill will be willing to match this with an additional \$23,000 or so, have yet to be determined, but the administration and school committee discussed the range of options that opened up, including putting some or all of the windfall into a stabilization fund, avoiding staffing cuts, and pulling less money from

see GMRSD page A6

Up for Grabs: Paper, at the Paper Mill

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – "I found myself in a classic dilemma of a conflict of interest," Montague building inspector David Jensen explains. Flashlight in hand, Jensen is giving two local newspaper editors an impromptu red-carpet tour of what may be the single biggest material challenge faced by the town: the sprawling, damp, partied-in and hard-to-access former paper mill known as the Strathmore complex.

Jensen recently handed oversight of the town-owned Strathmore to the town's alternate building inspector, Rick Asmann, after deciding it didn't make sense for him both to order the

see PAPER page A7



JACKSON PHOTO

David Jensen hopes members of the public might be interested in taking some of the thousands of discarded rolls of paper the town must now remove from the Strathmore.

Montague, Comcast Come To Terms

By JEFF SINGLETON

What a difference eight months can make! Last June, Montague's broadband committee blasted the cable giant Comcast for being unresponsive to local needs. This was the committee's response to a state decision to award Comcast the right to extend cable service to unserved homes in the town.

At that time, the broadband committee argued that Comcast's build-out proposal, financed in part by a \$5 million state appropriation to extend last-mile service to rural towns, would leave over 100 Montague homes without high-speed internet.

"The hope that they will extend to more homes than originally proposed," said committee member Rob Steinberg last summer, "is not just unrealistic, but contrary to experience."

But at Monday's meeting of the Montague selectboard, Steinberg and fellow committee member Kevin

see COMCAST page A6

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Board Discusses FCTS Budget; Riverfront Park

By KATIE NOLAN

On February 27, Franklin County Technical School superintendent Richard Martin and business manager Russ Kaubris told the Erving selectboard that the school's \$5.8 million FY'18 budget represents a 3% increase over last year.

Martin said that costs were controlled by replacing a retiring culinary arts teacher with a part-time teacher, closing the Business Tech shop, which has had low enrollment, and making the librarian position half-time. Martin said that declining FCTS enrollment, and a declining high school student population in the county, were concerns for the school.

The FY'18 assessment for Erving is \$596,850, or \$18,086 per pupil.

The Usher Plant re-use committee presented one of

see ERVING page A5



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Kyle Bergmann scores a game-high 14 points as Turners Falls HS defeats Sizer in Round 1 of the Western Mass D-IV Basketball Tournament.

The Week in TFHS Sports: Round 1!

By MATT ROBINSON

This week, both the Turners Falls boys' and the girls' basketball teams were ranked high in the MIAA D-IV West rankings. The girls were a third seed, and had a bye in the first round. The boys were seeded fourth, and hosted the Royal Blue Tigers of the Sizer School, a charter school in Fitchburg.

The boys' team tamed Sizer's Tigers. Coach Mullins hit the triple-century mark, Tionne Brown and Colin Gould are heading to the Hall of Fame – and Turners Falls is preparing for an influx of Devils and Millionaires.

Boys Basketball

TFHS 57 – Sizer 75

On Monday, Turners defeated the thirteenth-ranked Sizer Tigers, giving Coach Gary Mullins his 300th basketball victory.

On Sunday, team statistician Sean Crowell gave me a heads up about this, with strict instructions not to say anything until after the game. Coach Mullins is an institution in Turners Falls, and I'm glad I was there to witness yet another

see TFHS SPORTS page A5

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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Technical Administration

About Face Computing

Founded by

Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August, 2002

The "Mining of the River"

When Karl Meyer approached us this week, asking if we'd be interested in printing a lengthy editorial piece of his that first ran on the *Vermont Digger* website last week, it didn't take long for us to agree. Meyer forcefully challenges readers to weigh the benefits of the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage project against its impacts on his – and our – beloved Connecticut River. (See page A1.)

His argument might not sway the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, but we hope it stimulates debate and reflection locally – both on its details, and on its overarching premise.

Rural communities such as ours easily grow dependent on large-scale infrastructure projects. Franklin, Windham and Cheshire counties are only just beginning to absorb the long-term impact of job loss associated with the closing of the nuclear plant in Vernon.

We all know folks who work at the Mountain, and many of us enjoy recreational facilities maintained by the power company. It's hard to imagine the facility just shutting down. (It's also hard to imagine FERC denying it a license...)

In terms of generating capacity, Northfield Mountain is the eighth-largest pumped-storage generators in the United States. All the larger ones use permanent lower reservoirs, mostly made by impounding rivers or creeks – though one draws from, and dumps into, Lake Michigan. These dams, aqueducts and reservoirs constitute significant encroachment on habitat, but they are visibly manmade, components of giant machines in the landscape.

Northfield Mountain is the biggest of these "batteries" to be

hooked straight up to a living, working river. Paradoxically, because it sometimes seems so close to being wild, the Connecticut's subsumption to humans' electrical and financial grids can seem all the more shocking.

How rural do we want this place to be? How *wild* do we want it to be? How can we all afford to live so close to the land?

Across page A1 from Meyer's commentary, the weekly headline news: the improvements in the power station and transmission lines at Montague City, a remarkable project residents of the Patch and patrons of the bike path got to watch up close last summer, might end up saving the jobs of teachers and paraprofessionals in the Gill-Montague schools next fall.

Huh. Certainly good news. And in Erving, the 85% or so of the town's tax base paid by the Northfield Mountain Project – where a split tax rate is cranked all the way toward commercial taxation – helps the town afford a new riverfront park, a new senior center, and soon, maybe even a new library and a professional fire department.

Conservation requires investment, too. In theory, it can even lead to financial returns thanks to eco-tourists and wealthy retirees, or more optimistically, money saved on healthcare thanks to clean water, fresh food and open spaces for exercise.

But those are long-term prospects. Most of the time, we're still muddling through a compromise between wild land and "development." There are no easy answers to that problem, but we're never going to do better if we don't keep facing it head on.

Run For Public Office; Don't Use Cell Phones; Etc.

To: All the people within the range of this newspaper and beyond:

Our world is in trouble: our children's future is at stake. Put away your video games for a moment and hear me. Do not look to others to rise to the occasion: look to yourself.

I call on each and every one of you to stand for public office – run against the establishment – run for town meeting in every precinct – for every school committee seat – for every cemetery commission – for each selectboard post. Come to the next caucus of your town committee – fill the seats on every board of every li-

brary and public housing authority in the land – and beyond!

Dare to rise up. Mother Earth is crying: "I Can't Breathe!"

Form tree committees. Liberate yourself from your own cell phone. Topple the tower of oppression and live!

Call your town clerk. Nominate yourself and all your friends. Take responsibility. Heal yourself. Join in joyous rebellion. There is no time: the time is Now! Help save our planet today.

David Detmold
Turners Falls



Polar Seltzer and sticky notes keep Montague town clerk Deb Borbeau's office ticking.

Letters to the Editors

What Are We Trying to Achieve?

In a month when we celebrate the contributions of African-Americans to our country, our community has been rightly wrestling with possibly the greatest moral dilemma facing our nation: race. How can we be a great people, leaders of freedom and democracy, when our true history is marred by ethnic genocide and slavery?

After months of deep listening and soul searching, our district's school committee has voted. The Turners Falls High School Indian must change.

The response of community members who oppose this change is to promote a non-binding referendum in this spring's election which would update the Indian with a new nose and new feathers. The response to this proposed non-binding referendum by many community members who support the change of the TF Indian name is to promote a boycott of the "new nose, new feathers" referendum.

Citing experts who have studied other communities which have faced similar *keep-the-name / change-the-name* issues, when put to a popular vote, it is always the name-keepers who win. So the name-changers will refuse to vote on this issue. As a result, name-keepers will presumably win the non-binding referendum, 800-0.

What exactly are we trying to achieve? Will winning this non-binding referendum embolden name-keepers to run for election, change the composition of the school committee, and vote the Indian back in? Boycott the referendum? Sup-

pressing participation in our local election?

After months of dialogue, neither side seems to be demonstrating that they have listened to each other's views.

Last week, I listened to a group of parents, name-changers and name-keepers together, sharing stories of the TFHS student walk-out, praising the students for learning about non-violence, sit-ins, and social media. This is progress – students taking action!

For me, this year's Black History Month has been spent recovering from a hip operation, listening to public commentary about the TF Indian, listening to our new president, listening to Youtube videos of conversations with James Baldwin, and contemplating race in America.

While beginning to learn about some of the men and women who committed their lives to the cause of emancipation, abolition, Black Nationalism, segregation, integration, equal rights, equal education and equal opportunity, an art project began to take shape on our kitchen table in the form of a collage of important figures in African-American history. These people were leaders of religion, business, education, agriculture, science, law, music, literature and art.

And within this African-American experience – this struggle for freedom – was a blueprint for people of every race, color and creed to live in peace and harmony. These leaders understood the importance of organization, communication and unity.

We, the 8,000 people of Mon-

tague, all share the need for warmth, safety, nourishment, achievement and love. The history of Black America can be a lesson for us too. Institutions are difficult to change. But change is often necessary and required. Ask our brown fathers, Jesus of Nazareth, Mahatma Gandhi of India, Martin Luther King, Jr. of Atlanta, GA.

The deeper issue of the Turners Falls High School team name is a question of race in America. To modify the existing TF Indian is not a solution. To ignore the power of this symbol for local residents is not a solution.

Each of us brings a piece of truth to the circle – essential, but only part of the whole. In a time of increasing national division and rancor, it is my hope that our struggle with this *keep-the-name / change-the-name* issue will bring us closer together.

In the coming months, there are many other serious issues facing our town: the relicensing of the power canal on the Connecticut River; the proposed multi-million dollar construction of a new DPW facility; the installation of two large-scale solar projects; economic redevelopment in Millers Falls.

There are many important conversations for us to share. Imagine if we cared as deeply about these issues as we did the name of our high school sports teams.

United we stand; divided we fall.

Richard Widmer
Millers Falls

Published weekly on Thursdays.

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The Great Falls Discovery Center appears to have broken yet another attendance record. Total attendance during school vacation week, from February 18 through the 26th, was 1,227. This number represents walk-ins, "investigation station" interactions, formal programs, and informal program attendees.

Massachusetts DCR provided additional staffing for the week, and members of the Friends of GFDC helped out at the welcome desk and museum store.

Learn about the "The Rise and Fall of Rail Road Salvage" on Saturday, March 4, from 10 to 11 a.m. at Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

Join Turners Falls resident Anne Harding as she presents a history of this landmark downtown building. From its rich industrial beginnings, winding through the years of different owners, other venues, openings and closings, with decay and dreamers in the mix, come and enjoy all the highlights on this travel spanning many decades. Anne will be our armchair tourist guide. Light refreshments provided courtesy of GSB.

At the same time – from 10:30 until noon – members of the Turners Falls Fire Department will be in the bank's parking lot, demon-

strating the proper use and storage of fire extinguishers, and other pertinent topics. Weather permitting, a fire vehicle may be on display.

Bring any questions you might have. TFFD personnel can guide you with the best type of smoke detectors, carbon monoxide tests, grill and fire pit safety. This family event was made possible through the generosity of a community educational grant. Hot chocolate will be available.

Also on Saturday, the Discovery Center hosts "Silent Presence: The French in New England" from 1 to 2 p.m.

Jeanne Douillard, with support from the Montague Cultural Council, presents the story of a people's struggle to reclaim pride, a story of forgiveness and hope; a story that has not been told in just this way. Douillard is an independent scholar specializing in the story of the French in New England. She is one of the major contributors to the book *Building a Better life: The French-Canadians in Western Massachusetts*, published by the Springfield Republican newspaper.

The Quabbin Visitor Center will offer a presentation entitled "Visions from the Past" this Sunday, March 5, at 2 p.m. This free program will be presented by former staff member Dale Monette, who grew up in the Quabbin area and worked at the reservoir for nearly 30 years.

During the construction of the Quabbin Reservoir, photographers were hired by the Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission to document the transition of the Swift River Valley in the late 1920s and '30s from valley towns to reservoir. As the towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich and Prescott were methodically dismantled and removed, their cameras captured historic images of the area. Join in for an exploration of these rarely-seen photographs as you compare the historic images with contemporary views taken from the same spot as the originals over 75 years ago.

The Visitor Center is located at the west end of Winsor Dam in Belchertown. Access to the Center is through the Main (West) Quabbin Park entrance on Route 9, three miles east of the Route 9/Route 202 intersection. The Center has limited seating capacity, so space is available on a first come-first serve basis. For further information, please call (413) 323-7221.

On Friday, March 10 at 7 p.m., "Rise Up and Sing" with Annie Patterson and Peter Blood perform at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls.

Patterson and Blood, co-creators of the popular songbook *Rise Up Singing* and its new sequel, *Rise Again*, have played a central role in the quiet revolution of group singing in North America. They will perform and lead songs from their songbooks, focusing especially on environmental songs – the struggle to reverse climate change and enjoy and restore our precious planet.

Copies of *Rise Again* will be available at the coffeehouse. If you have a copy of *Rise Up Singing*, bring it with you to join along in song.

The Coffeehouse Music Series

takes place in the historic Great Hall of the Discovery Center, at 2 Avenue A in downtown Turners Falls. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Coffee and homemade baked goods are available, and the museum and museum store will be open during intermission. The suggested sliding-scale donation is \$6 to \$12; free for children.

The League of Women Voters of Franklin County is holding a "get involved" workshop at Temple Israel, 27 Pierce Street, in Greenfield on Sunday, March 19, at 1 p.m. With a focus on running for local office, "So You Want to Run for Office... Now What?" draws on the expertise of past and current elected officials to demystify and encourage participation in local government.

Panelists will include former Buckland selectboard member Cheryl Dukes; Joe Judd, Shelburne selectboard chair and town clerk; Rudy Renaud, Greenfield town councilor at large; and Francia Wisniewski, former Greenfield school committee member.

Nomination papers for local town offices, state offices and school committees are available at your town clerk's office. The League of Women Voters of Franklin County can be followed on Facebook.

Thinking about college? Save the date for a MEFA college admissions seminar at Turners Falls High School Library on Wednesday, March 22 at 6 p.m.

The seminar will cover current trends in admissions; campus visits and college fairs; developing your college list; components of the admissions application; and free college planning resources.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

OBITUARY

Kimon "Kim" Gregory, 1924–2017

ERVING – Kimon "Kim" Gregory, one of the last members of the pioneer CBS broadcast news team headed by Edward R. Murrow that made the post-war transition from radio to television, has died at age 93 on February 24, 2017.

Kim acted as both a producer and announcer for CBS' news-related programming during his 40-year career at the network, first in New York City and then in Washington, DC. For many years his voice was familiar to millions of viewers as the introducer of "Face the Nation," CBS' flagship Sunday-morning TV news program, and he was a frequent master of ceremonies, performer and director for professional events involving members of the national media, military, congressional and executive branch officials during his years in Washington.

On a more casual note, as an avid amateur cook with a wry sense of humor, Kim also hosted regular informal Saturday afternoon get-togethers at the National Press Club featuring fresh local produce and specialty items. One of his most unusual offerings was gingerbread men made of steak tartare, which he produced for annual Alferd (sic) Packer Society "feast days" at the Club, commemorating the Colorado frontiersman who was the first American ever to be convicted of cannibalism. The group's tongue-in-cheek motto: "Serving Our Fellow Man."

In 1971 he produced a memorable evening with Louis Armstrong at the National Press Club, one of the last major public performances given by the great jazz trumpet virtuoso. Kim was also instrumental in having the performance recorded and transcribed as a 33 1/3 long-playing disc, then state of the art for recorded music. With his help, the Smithsonian Institution would later re-master the Armstrong recording as part of its historic collection of musical Americana.

A World War II army veteran, Kim was also active in the Military Order of the Carabao,

helping to write, produce and perform in topical satirical musical sketches at the group's annual "Wallows," exclusive Washington dinner gatherings bringing together senior active and retired military brass, high government officials and members of the Washington press corps in a festive "off duty" setting.

Born in Ansonia, Connecticut on February 13, 1924, Kim was educated at Hunter College, the University of Pittsburgh, and New York University. He entered military service on March 16, 1943 and served in the Infantry, Army Air Corps, and Marines in Europe and the Southwest Pacific theater. He concluded his military service with the Armed Forces Radio Service in Radio Tokyo.

Discharged in 1946, he joined Edward R.



Gregory, serving as town crier at Historic Deerfield.

Murrow's team in New York City, where he was responsible for locating and interviewing guests as well as writing news features for the morning news. Later he produced and directed local nationally-broadcast shows including the Arthur Godfrey Show and coverage of national elections, presidential inaugurations and sporting events.

While in New York City he met and married his wife of almost 58 years, the former Carol Pilling.

Kim retired from CBS in 1986 and shortly thereafter moved to Erving, MA. His interest in food and history led him to become a guide at Historic Deerfield, where he was often found interpreting in one of the village's taverns.

He and his wife, Carol, expanded upon this by developing an informative and entertaining program on early taverns and inns where both Gregorys appeared in period costume. For more than a decade they performed this program at libraries, schools, and historical gatherings throughout Massachusetts and other New England states.

Kim was also interested in learning how news was disseminated in the days before broadcasting, and this led him to become a town crier. He was town crier for both Historic Deerfield and the Town of Erving. In 2010 he was invited to compete in the International Town Criers' Competition in England. While he did not win, he greatly enjoyed the experience and getting to meet town criers from many other countries.

Kim was also active with the Marine Corps League and their annual Christmas Toy drive, as well as with the Warm the Children program.

The youngest of five children, Kim outlived all his siblings. While he and his wife had no children of their own, Kim's siblings had many, and he is survived by both his wife and numerous nieces and nephews as well as grand- and great-nieces and nephews.

A celebration of his life is planned for later in the spring. Memorial donations may be made to Historic Deerfield or to the Oakridge Detachment of the Marine Corps League.

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of the Week**
week ending 2/17/2017:

Grade 6
Abigail Holloway

Grade 7
Olivia Delisle

Grade 8
Kolby Watroba
Haleigh Greene

Water Shutoffs

Beginning Monday, March 13 the Turners Falls Water Department will begin shutting off water to properties with water usage bills more than 90 days overdue.

The original semi-annual bills were mailed on November 1, and were due within 30 days. Payments can be made at the Water Department office, 226 Millers Falls Road, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. A drop box is located to the left of the front door for payments after office hours.

Any questions, please call Suzanne at 863-4542.

RIVER from page A1

that it is literally dead, its reserves spent. The Canadian-owned plant must then start consuming juice by reversing its turbines anew, yanking the river backward, sideways, and a mile uphill for hours into its reservoir.

That pumping occurs nightly at rates of up to 15,000 cubic feet per second. Picture 15,000 milk crates filled with a living river – every second, for hours at a time. For more than two-thirds of the year, the Connecticut’s “natural routed flow” – the water moving into and through this reach – is less than 15,000 cfs. Thus, this plant is consuming more water than is entering the river. That’s how to turn an ecosystem on its head.

The result is the evisceration of all manner of aquatic life, juiced twice through those turbines – tens of thousands of resident and migrating fish, millions of developing eggs, and their young. There’s nothing more violent you can do to a river.

Now the Canada Public Pension Investment Fund, latest in the decade’s revolving door of four different venture-capital owners of the FirstLight Power Resources-branded plant, is angling to lock those ecosystem assaults in place for another half century through the FERC’s 5-year hydro relicensing process.

In its planning stages, one model would’ve required Northfield to shut down during fish migration season due to impacts. That didn’t happen. Still, a chance experiment in 2010 gave a belated glimpse of those potential benefits. For half a year, from mid-spring through a hot summer into early November, NMPS sat broken, sanctioned, and off-line. But seven miles downstream the migrating shad normally impacted by its violent suck-and-flush flows made great and unexpected gains in tandem with that spring break.

Having languished for decades, the federal program to move American shad upstream into Vermont and New Hampshire saw a stunning boost at Turners Falls Dam. Shad passage jumped over 700 percent above the previous ten-year average – 16,440 shad swam past the dam in 2010, compared to the 2,260 annually over the previous ten years. Though meager, it was by far the best result since MA energy deregulation came to the NMPS reach of river in 1999.

On May 1, 2010, NMPS had choked on the tons of silt and eroded riverbanks it constantly sucks into its reservoir. In attempting to clear that mucked-in lake a mile of mud-slumped tunnels resulted. Desperate, they began dumping it directly into the Connecticut at a rate equaling 30 to 40 dump truck loads a day. FirstLight’s sludge turned a mile of river brown for weeks. A contractor died when a suction hose broke loose.

Severe thunderstorms on May 27, 2010 resulted in tens of thousands of western New England power outages, many lasting for days. Yet as a back-up energy plant, Northfield’s

sole output that week was more of the 45,000 cubic square yards of muck they’d eventually dump directly into the river. They succeeded for over 90 days, until they got caught. On August 10, 2010, the EPA issued a cease-and-desist order citing FirstLight for “polluting the navigable waters of the United States” under the Clean Water Act.

Throughout NMPS’s half-year off-line, and record-breaking summer heat in the Northeast, the purportedly ever-hungry, ever-fragile grid ISO New England claims makes Northfield’s dense, quick-start functions so indispensable, never faltered or failed – not even when the nearby (now closed) Vermont Yankee nuclear plant went down in June to refuel.

NMPS’s main claim to its indispensability came 14 years ago during the 2003 August Blackout. Its quick start power was employed by ISO New England to smooth out Massachusetts’ reconnection to the New York sector of the Northeast’s mega-grid, which had failed due to a computer glitch in Ohio. That sprawling network would have been reenergized regardless, but Northfield’s dense energy provided a convenient assist and made ISO’s job easier.

But are rare-hour emergencies enough to justify more decades of NMPS’ daily destructive use? In truth – what would amount to virtual energy storage monopoly, need not be locked in, *de facto*, by FERC as this region’s energy future for decades to come. There are other options.

If “spot market” prices aren’t sweet enough, FirstLight can simply let their plant idle, collecting ratepayer cash just for their “capacity” to potentially generate.

“Pumped hydro is the most cost-effective way to store electricity,” that story stated flatly. But in September of 2016, the MA Department of Energy Resources and the MA Clean Energy Center released a study: *Massachusetts Energy Storage Initiative: State of Charge*. It noted the Bay State lags behind in innovation and deployed energy storage, ranking 23rd nationally. However, comparing new storage technologies now available to the costs of pumped storage, it noted three that will all readily out-compete pumped storage costs by 2018: Lithium Ion, Flow Battery, and Compressed Air Storage.

These local/regional storage solutions are already coming into use in New England. They create distributed generation and safer, more reliable micro-grids – less vulnerable to mass outages and mega-grid cyber attack and failure. They also create jobs. Certainly they are more attractive to consumers than sending local solar and wind



Northfield, September 6, 2010: One of thousands of truckloads FirstLight had to dredge back out of the Connecticut River.

across New England to recharge a river-crippling machine – and repurchase that juice later at inflated consumer prices.

That story mentioned Northfield’s 18,000-panel solar array – enough for a few hundred homes. But that tax-deductible FirstLight solar field actually covers the huge scar left over from acres of EPA-mandated settling ponds – sludge pools required in 2010, when they had to dredge their mountain of muck back out of the river.

Also not mentioned were handsome payments NMPS collects when it chooses not to generate any power. They accrue through a FERC mechanism known as “capacity fees.” If “spot market” prices aren’t sweet enough, FirstLight can simply let their plant idle, collecting ratepayer cash just for their “capacity” to potentially generate. With NMPS as its chief hydro asset, former owner GDF-Suez once told investors 40% of its annual profits had been realized through capacity fees.

Gus Bakas, FirstLight’s Massachusetts operations director, stated his goal for the 45-year-old plant is to someday see it running wholly on “green” power – solar and wind relayed to it from legions of regional rooftop panels and turbines. That would align with Massachusetts’ new “Energy Storage Initiative,” a 10-year effort purportedly aimed at saving ratepayers “hundreds of millions of dollars” while making the grid more reliable and reducing greenhouse gases.

But wind runs strongest at night, and is not plentiful in western New England, while all solar is generated by day. With NMPS’s peak-demand profit model based on sucking up bulk power and the river at night, something seems missing from the equation. Unless there are now plans to again run the river backward by

day, when migrating fish are most vulnerable to entrainment.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is charged with supplying reliable electricity at fair costs to the public, while fostering competition and protecting against energy monopolies. All licensing decisions from FERC must also comply with federal law, including conditions set under the National Environmental Policy Act, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Water Act. The operation of NMPS continues to prove a stumbling block to the successful execution of these federal acts and policies.

In the near-term, for rare big-grid emergencies, a summer heat-wave or winter cold snap, NMPS remains a credible back-up tool. But Northfield otherwise continues today as an expensive, profoundly-damaging energy relay device whose net-loss operations chew apart a critical four-state artery daily.

Given its violent year-round ecosystem impacts, its drag on federal trust and endangered species restoration programs – and the market’s current and emerging alternative energy storage solutions – FERC should not sanction NMPS long-term, as its dominant, *de facto*, New England energy storage monopoly.

Writer and journalist Karl Meyer lives in Greenfield. He has been participating as a stakeholder and member of the Fish and Aquatics Study Team in the five-year FERC relicensing process for the Northfield Mountain and Turners Falls projects since 2013. He is a member of the Society of Environmental Journalists. See more of his writing about the Connecticut River at: www.karlmyerwriting.com/blog.

The views expressed in this article are his own.



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TFHS SPORTS from page A1

one of his milestones.

In Monday's game, the Sizer Royal Blue Tigers jumped out to an 11-7 first quarter lead, but like *La La Land*, they just weren't meant to win. Sizer took an early 6-5 lead when an errant buzzer allowed them to score an uncontested basket. After a missed jumper, a steal and a foul, the Royals stretched the margin to 11-5. Powertown then poured on the coal, mounting a 27-3 run.

Turners took the lead in the second quarter after Tyler Lavin took a feed from Tionne Brown, narrowing the deficit to one point, 13-14. Then he scored twice more in succession to put Turners up 17-14. The Royals did score the last two points of the second quarter, and at halftime the score was 32-16.

Turners held the Tigers to only 6 points in the third while scoring 17 themselves, and by the time the fourth quarter arrived, Coach Mullins was liberally substituting from his bench.

Turners' victory was truly a team effort. Because they were cold from outside, only sinking a single 3-pointer in 14 attempts, they won the game with crisp passing and an alert defense.

On defense, Coach Mullins instituted the press-at-will. Turners made 17 steals, blocked two shots, and pulled down 21 defensive rebounds. This led to fast breaks resulting in 20 points from layups.

When they had the ball, the Tribe's passing left Sizer in the dust, frequently darting the potato around without even dribbling. This hurry-up strategy freed up the inside and gave Powertown 40 points from the paint. Turners also excelled at the foul line, hitting 10 of 13 freebees.

Three Powertown players scored in double digits: Kyle Bergmann (14), Lavin (10), and Brown (10). Bergmann also had 6 rebounds. Lavin grabbed 3 rebounds and gave 5 assists, while Brown had 6 assists and 4 rebounds. Anthony Peterson scored 9 points and had 5 rebounds. James Vaughn and Jeremy Wolfram each put up 4 points, and Nick Croteau, Chase Novak, and Kyle Dodge hit 2-pointers. Ricky Craver, Ian Moriarty, Javonni Williams, and Marcus Sanders also saw playing time for the Tribe.

So the Turners Falls Boys' Basketball team advances to the next round of the playoffs after a decisive 22-point victory over a very good team from Fitchburg.

So much for "one and done," as some prognosticators



Stepping out: Turners' Jovani Williams snags a rebound during Monday's tournament win against the Sizer School.

had predicted: it's more like "one and won". In fact, with the ousters of Mahar, Pioneer and Franklin Tech, Turners Falls is the last man standing in the entire county!

On Thursday, March 2 at 7 p m., Turners has a rematch with the Devils of Murdock. Powertown vanquished the Devils on opening day, 77-65.

Also this week:

The Millionaires of Lenox won their first playoff game and will travel to Turners Falls on Friday, March 3 to challenge the Turners Falls Girls Basketball team.

Also Colin Gould of Franklin Tech and Tionne Brown of Turners Falls have been selected to play in the 2017 Western Massachusetts Senior High School All-Star Game held at the Basketball Hall of Fame on Friday, March 24.

Next Week: Devils and Millionaires!



NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

The Comment Section

By JEFF SINGLETON

Monday night's selectboard meeting began with an unusually lengthy "public comment" period.

Ariel Elan complained of the lack of access to town hall through the front door prior to the meeting, which required her to enter the building from the darkened back parking lot. Selectboard executive assistant Wendy Bogusz said that she often locked the front door due to her own safety concerns.

Montague resident Rachel Roy complained about the school committee's recent decision to eliminate the Turners Falls High School Indian mascot, noting that the decision had been made prior to a scheduled student forum on the issue.

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz said he understood Roy's concerns, but that the regional school district was a "separate government agency" over which the selectboard had "no authority."

Kuklewicz noted that district officials would be attending a joint meeting involving the board and finance committee on Wednesday.

Millers Falls resident Jeanne Golrick asked why an appropriation for the Strathmore mill complex was on the upcoming town meeting warrant, since an issue involving a tax taking, she said, had to involve "citizens, residents and inhabitants."

Kuklewicz responded that the warrant article was a response to the findings of the state fire marshal that security at the town-owned mill complex needed a significant upgrade.

In a later "town administrator's report," Steve Ellis noted that a cost for the upgrade, which will be voted on Thursday, had not been settled on, but that it would probably be between \$60,000 and \$85,000.

Bruce Hunter of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Re-development Authority came be-

fore the board with housekeeping requests involving three Community Development Block Grants. All his requests were approved by the board.

Town planner Walter Ramsey then requested that the board approve the town's 2017 application for a state Green Communities grant. The application includes requests to fund work at the Sheffield School building, the Carnegie Library, and the Shea Theater.

A representative of the Newt Guilbault baseball league requested and received a permit for its opening day parade. The parade will take place on April 23 between 11 and 11:45 a.m.

Police chief Charles "Chip" Dodge requested and received the board's approval to place Richard Suchanek on "injured on duty" (MGL 111F) status, effective retroactively to February 4. Dodge declined to elaborate on the nature of Suchanek's injury.

The board appointed town administrator Steve Ellis as town ADA coordinator for the duration of his term.

Ellis announced that the Turners Falls Power Canal would be emptied for inspection from September 18 through September 23.

Under "Topics Not Anticipated," Ellis announced that treasurer/tax collector Eileen Seymour had informed him that the state tax title court had found in favor of the town in a case involving the Montague Energy Corporation.

The finding applies to four parcels of land along the Turners Falls Canal, formerly part of the Indeck power plant property. Ellis stated that the town might not be able to gain full control of the properties for another year.

The board then retired into executive session to discuss collective bargaining strategy with the police officers' union. The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be on Monday, March 6.

ERVING from page A1

the four educational posters created for Riverfront Park to the selectboard. This poster showed local endangered species that fly, such as the bald eagle and a dragonfly. Other posters will show the history of the Usher Mill, information about Native Americans who lived in the area, and endangered land animals.

The re-use committee also presented the plan for the wrap for the water tower at the park, a circle with a design in green and the word Erving in blue. Because a design painted on the water tower is considered a sign, it will need a building permit and zoning board approval, with scheduled public hearings, before it is installed.

The Usher re-use committee has been taking orders for engraved paving bricks as a fundraiser for future improvements at the park. The bricks will be installed in the walkway to the park's Great Lawn. Names, messages or clip art can be engraved on the bricks for a cost of \$35 or \$70, depending on the size of the brick.

Highway superintendent Glenn McCrory said that the pallets of engraved bricks could be delivered to the highway garage, and board members said that Mountain View Landscapes and Lawns, the contractor installing other park features, could install the walkway under a change order in the installation contract.

Re-use committee chair Jeanie Schermesser announced that the committee had received a cultural council grant to pay for a band at the park's opening event, once construction is completed.

Recreation Expenses

Recreation commission clerk Alison Rollins told the board that the commission was requesting \$14,000 for construction of a walking track at Erving Elementary School. This funding will be matched with the \$14,000 available in the commission's revolving fund to pay for building the track.

Rollins said that the commission had decided to fill cracks and repaint the surface at the Veteran's Park tennis courts. She said the commission felt a total upgrade, likely to cost \$70,000, was too expensive. A full upgrade would include removal of the fence and asphalt, repaving, resetting posts, and re-installing the fence.

Finance committee member Daniel Hammock said the current court surface is a safety hazard. Selectboard chair Jacob Smith asked the commission to investigate the costs of resurfacing the courts further.

Cost of Repair

In January, highway foreman Glen McCrory presented a request for \$135,000 to replace a 1997 John

Deere backhoe. The board asked him to look at alternatives, such as repairing the backhoe and purchasing a mini-excavator.

At Monday's meeting, McCrory told the board that the current highway department backhoe "stinks," that exhaust leaks into the cab, and that the backhoe has been "going downhill." He reported finding mini-excavator prices ranging from \$62,900 to \$68,450, with an additional \$6,400 for a trailer. He also found a backhoe estimate of \$104,850.

The board and finance committee asked him to research the costs for fixing all of the problems with the current backhoe.

Morphed PRBB Deflates

At the February 13 meeting, selectboard member Scott Bastarache had said that, over the almost 30 years since it was established, the personnel relations review board (PRRB) had morphed from a board established to hear employee grievances to a policy writing group.

According to Bastarache, the PRRB was working "outside the scope" of the town meeting article that established it, and of state law regarding PRRBs. Bastarache recommended that the town should establish a policy committee, separate from the PRRB, and keep the PRRB as a grievance committee.

PRRB chair Debra Smith said

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GMRSD from page A1

the district's depleted excess and deficiency fund.

"I'd like to put a plug in to put 10 grand back into the budget for the textbooks," said Montague member Christina Postera. "I think it's really important - I think with the new curriculum measures that are happening, I think having the supporting material is important."

Superintendent Michael Sullivan praised Montague's town government for being transparent and forthcoming about the adjustment.

On Wednesday night, district representatives met with finance committee and selectboard members from both towns for a budget hearing, and discussed the implications of the new tax revenue, much of which Montague fin com vice-chair Michael Naughton told the *Reporter* was the result of personal-property assessments in and around Cabot Station, including transformers and new transmission lines.

"This is all fairly solid," Naughton clarified, "but it's not official." He said that the fin com planned to approve a final "affordable" assessment on March 8.

"Whatever happens, this is good news," he said. "This does bump up future tax receipts."

According to Naughton, Montague selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz suggested Wednesday that some of the money could go toward putting a police officer in the schools, an item the district was not currently planning to fund.

"It's just a matter of timing," Tupper Brown, member of the Gill fin com, said after Wednesday night's meeting. "The Gill selectboard probably ought to focus on this increase, and see if they're willing to go along with their corresponding part of it."

Fully matching Montague's anticipated bump would mean an increase to Gill of about 2.6% over last year's assessment. Brown said he expected that board to discuss it at their March 6 meeting. "I thought it would be good for Gill to let the district know if they think they'd have any problem," he said.

The school committee is scheduled to approve a final budget at its next meeting on March 14, though it can adjust it downward between then and the May town meeting.

Accidental Spending

Business director Joanne Blier asked the committee Tuesday for guidance in resolving a "sticky situation." Three \$1,000 Elizabeth Dorrance scholarships were awarded to graduating students last spring, but the district's treasurer was not involved in the process, and so no one noticed that there was only \$478 to

spend in the fund.

"Donation accounts" are kept for the district, high school, and middle school, but committee members objected strongly to tapping into accounts earmarked for the middle and high schools to fix the problem. The "district" donation account only contained \$2,380, leaving \$142 unaccounted for.

The school committee agreed, by a 6-1 vote, to a compromise suggested by Blier, in which about \$92 was pulled from the high school account and the remaining \$50 would be contributed from a \$500 donation Blier herself had received from the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials, intended for scholarships for business students. Valeria "Timmie" Smith of Gill cast the dissenting vote.

The board voted 6-0, with one abstention, for the district to accept a \$4,000 donation from Brian Lamore of Turners Falls, earmarked specifically for the high school's planned "makerspace." Jane Oakes of Gill called the donation "extremely generous," and the committee noted that the existing policy for accepting donations directs the superintendent to thank donors.

A Special Tribute

Joyce Phillips came to present to the committee on the annual Gill-Montague Education Fund (GMEF) gala, to be held April 29 at the high school. The headline entertainment at the gala will be a band that plays surf rock and an Elvis Presley impersonator. Phillips played a video featuring the entertainers.

The GMEF is a nonprofit that raises funds in the local community to supplement the district's budget. Over the course of its existence, it has contributed over \$100,000 in grants, for opportunities ranging from field trips to band and soccer uniforms, computer software, school assemblies, college preparedness and student clubs.

This year, Phillips announced, there would be a special tribute to TFHS assistant principal Earl McGraw, who died in September after a battle with lung cancer, as well as the launch of a major "tier-giving" fundraising program in McGraw's memory. Details of the gala and tier-giving program are available at thegmef.org.

Athletic Controversy

The meeting was the first after the committee's 6-3 vote to discontinue the use of the Indian team name at the Turners Falls High School, and though the committee agreed not to put the issue on the agenda until March 28, the decision was discussed during public comment period, and

COMCAST from page A1

Hart revealed that Comcast had promised to expand its network to 150 homes, leaving only 32 without service. The company was "very accommodating" in its negotiations with the town, said Steinberg. "Actually, they were better than Matrix, in terms of the raw numbers," he told an earlier meeting of the broadband committee.

Matrix Design Group, the company originally chosen by Montague, would have provided fiber-optic cable, as opposed to the more traditional - and slower - copper coaxial cable used by Comcast. But Matrix's business plan was deemed riskier by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), which administers the state fund.

Although they were highly critical of the Comcast technology last spring, Hart and Steinberg seemed more favorable Monday night to the company's planned DOCSIS 3.1 system, which is currently being offered in only a few trial cities.

The reasons for the remarkable Comcast turnaround were not entirely clear. Hart said the committee had met with Comcast on February 7 to go over the company's initial proposal. Comcast's

map did not cover Taylor Heights, the eastern portion of Wendell Road, or a number of houses in the southern part of Chestnut Hill. Yet, all of these were included in the final proposal received before the selectboard meeting.

The current proposal also includes coverage of the paved portion of Dry Hill Road and homes on the southeast part of old Sunderland Road, both issues raised during last spring's controversial process.

Still left out of the Comcast build-out would be seven homes on Mormon Hollow Road, four homes and two commercial premises on West Street, and two residences and two commercial premises on Ripley Road.

Hart stated that the committee would continue to lobby to provide service to these buildings, but would "hold off" until the current project is completed. "People [in unserved areas] need to come to us as a group," he said.

Comcast will connect residences that are 300 feet or less "from the road" at no charge to property owners, according to Steinberg. After that, the company will make an estimate of the additional cost of buildout, and subtract a \$1,400

during the report from student representative Riley Wood.

"How long did it take for you to come up with the budget?" asked Everett Smith of Montague, who said that the committee had approved a budget that contained funds for replacing team uniforms. (Later in the meeting it was clarified that no final budget had been approved.) Marisa Dalmaso-Rode of Erving objected to assertions that the school district had been unable to find local Native American speakers in favor of retaining the team name. She said that in December and January, she had provided to district officials the contact information for three, including two members of the Greater Lowell Indian Cultural Association.

"These are points of contention in the community," she said. "This is what is creating a divisive situation. Lies are being disseminated to the media."

"This town is not just about football," said Alana Martineau of Turners Falls, who pointed out that cheerleaders will need new material, and the marching band will need a new banner. She said she hoped the district would keep track of expenses related to the change, as well as any donations received to defray them.

"Who is keeping track of those donations, and how will those be allocated?" she asked. "I would hope that those wouldn't be just allocated to sports teams and uniforms."

Montague's Tammy Young, a parent of a Great Falls Middle School student, spoke of conditions at that school. "There's teachers with their opinions, and they're pushing them on students," she warned. "They need to leave their opinion at the door."

Jeannette Wicks-Lim of Montague Center presented a letter signed by 35 residents in support of the committee's decision. "We're also aware that this has been a difficult couple weeks," she read. "The path to progress is rarely smooth." Wicks-Lim recommended that the committee prohibit "any and all race-associated lingos, and logos, from our district."

Senior class president Riley Wood, who represents the student body to the school committee, relayed a number of questions from fellow students. He said that a

planned anonymous survey on the issue, administered by the student council, had been rescheduled for Wednesday.

"This is going to cost at least \$7,000," Wood said. "We also have computers and other things to pay for. Really, what people are getting at, is: is it fiscally responsible to put the money into this, instead of educational material?" He described problems with outdated computers, and unavailable system resources.

"People keep bringing up computers," said Sullivan. "We didn't cut student computers from the budget -- I don't know if that's part of what people are thinking.... We are spending \$25,000 next year for student computers."

Christina Postera recommended that Wood, and any interested members of the community, review the January school committee meeting that included a presentation from the IT director Tina Mahaney on the district's long-term plan to replace computers.

Wood also asked the committee why they had voted on the issue even after hearing, at the beginning of the February 14 meeting, that the student council had planned the survey. Committee members answered that, in line with discussion at their previous meeting, many had come prepared for a "next step."

"I didn't know that there was going to be a student survey," said Lesley Cogswell of Montague, who cast one of the three votes against the name change.

"Some students feel that you guys don't really value their opinions much, because of the acceleration of the vote," said Wood.

Sandra Brown of Gill said that between September and February, committee members had attended presentations at the middle and high school, met directly with students at both schools, solicited written questions from students at those meetings, encouraged students to email further input to the committee.

"There were several times when I think all of us did listen to the students," she said. "We also listened to alums, and parents, and Native Americans, and community members."

"I'd be interested in, as we move

subsidy before offering the connection to owners.

In a related development, Hart and Steinberg requested that the selectboard keep the proposal for a Municipal Light Plant "on hold" for the time being. The MLP, which has been approved by Montague town meeting, was needed to implement the committee's original plan for a new fiber-optic system.

This will not be necessary under the Comcast extension, which will be monitored by the existing cable advisory committee, but Hart and Steinberg said they wanted to keep the MLP as an option for the future. Hart said he was not interested in serving on the board of an MLP at this time.

The broadband committee had met for an hour, prior to the selectboard meeting, in the downstairs conference room at town hall. That meeting was packed, mostly with currently unserved residents seeking to determine their fate under Comcast's latest proposal.

At both meetings, broadband committee members were thanked effusively for their efforts over the past several years to expand cable service in town.



forward, what role the students feel that they would like to play, other than giving us the results of the survey, in the whole process of selecting a new mascot," said Valeria "Timmie" Smith of Gill.

Other Business

Wood reported that 28 of the high school's 54 seniors had signed up for a planned senior class trip to Hershey, Pennsylvania.

The Gill-Montague Community School Partnership is the recipient of a \$45,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts aimed at "creating trauma-sensitive schools" by training staff with behavioral health specialists. The program will be administered by Clinical Support Options.

Mitchell Chester, commissioner of the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, has sent all school districts a letter reminding them that "Massachusetts remains dedicated to protecting the rights of transgender students even in light of recent federal actions," and that the state's protections of students on the basis of gender identity predate and exceed those of the federal government.

By a 5-1 vote, the school committee approved the contract with Unit A, teachers, as bargained with the Gill-Montague Education Association.

Postera was assigned to the Unit C bargaining committee.

By a 5-2 vote, the committee approved an official calendar for the 2017-18 school year, which includes 12 half days.

As there have been six snow days, the current school year will now extend to June 22. Cogswell said that when she attended the high school, the first five snow days were built into the regular calendar, so that it was 185 days long rather than the required 180.

"That would have an impact on your budget, come the end of the year, if you have a hot winter," mused committee chair Michael Langknecht of Montague.

April Reipold and Marjorie Levenson were absent.

The committee's next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 14 at the high school.



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PAPER from page A1

building secured and cleaned up – following a formal complaint by the state fire marshal – and to be the one who had to clean it up.

Pigeons fly around us and roost above us. Smashed windows, empty beer cans and graffiti attest to recent entry by persons unknown. “Smells like teenagers,” Jensen notes. In the catacomb-like lower levels, a burst sprinkler pipe recently dumped out a million or more gallons of municipal water. Miraculously, it drained right through a floor grate and on into the Connecticut River.

But we’re really here today to see the paper.

The paper in question wasn’t manufactured on site. After International Paper Company closed down its operations in the mid-1990s, the complex saw some tentative adaptive reuse. But the fishing-rod manufacturers, rock bands, museum exhibit sculptors and basket-makers were pushed out, and the buildings ended up in the hands

of entrepreneur Jerry Jones.

Jones’ company, Western Recycling Inc., bought up rolls of unwanted paper from other mills in the region, warehoused them, compressed them into bales, and shipped them to places like Pakistan. “He said it was to make covers for the Koran,” remembers Jensen. “I’m... sure they used it for other stuff.”

Western Recycling’s turn at the wheel ended badly. In May 2007, an aggrieved employee of Jones, who claimed he was injured on the job while stripping copper from the walls, allegedly set a fire that ended up burning a section of the historic mill, known as Building 10, to the ground.

John Anctil, a film lighting professional, worked with the Strathmore for a few years, hoping to turn it into a technical school for the film industry, but the town of Montague took it in February 2010 for unpaid back taxes.

“Anctil emptied a lot of paper out of here, the town emptied a

lot of paper out of here, and this is what’s left,” says Jensen. “It’s staggering how much it costs to throw shit away.”

As of last week, Jensen estimated it could cost Montague \$20,000 just to remove the remaining paper. The giant complex has two working loading docks. There are thousands of rolls of paper of all different colors, textures, and conditions. A typical roll weighs a few hundred pounds, though two colossal cylinders wedged between pillars are the size of full-grown moose.

The county’s waste management district can accept some of the paper, but it must be split open with chainsaws and shipped flat. Somewhere between 40 and 60 pallets are loaded with either baled, compressed paper or bundles of standing rolls; half of these are already staged near a loading dock. From there, it gets less orderly.

There is unwanted paper in Buildings 1, 2, and 7. Hundreds of the skinniest rolls have been helpfully thrown into one enormous mound. Some rolls have gotten wet on the ends; most are intact, but covered in a film of dust. And someone, probably someone affiliated with the beer, has taken great pleasure in unrolling many of the rolls by pushing them around through the hallways.

“The fire department wants all combustibles out of here,” Jensen says. The public is invited to help.

As of press time, it is unknown how much money will be appropriated at the March 2 special town meeting to secure the building – including putting plywood over hundreds of windows – patch up some roof leaks, and clear out all the paper, wood and other material.

“Initially [the town] would only

give them away to a nonprofit,” Jensen continues, “so it wasn’t like somebody could come in here and stock up and sell them. I’m trying to convince them to give it away to anybody. I think that will happen, but I have to get the formal OK to do it.”

Jensen says that if a company wanted to take a substantial amount of the paper, he would help make it happen, in the name of “cost avoidance.” “Mainly it’s how much do you want, and when can you get it, and how much help do you have to move it,” he says, adding that anyone hoping to help with the work should be prepared to show proof of their own insurance, or sign a waiver of liability.

On a smaller scale, he says, “people can come up and grab enough of

those to pack up a pickup truck, or two or three, or a van.” The pallets, he says, weigh 1,200 pounds, and will have to be removed by forklift.

There may be creative uses for the material. One farmer spent time picking through the rolls in order to find undyed paper, which he uses as sheet mulch for his fields.

Ironically, the rolls probably aren’t useful fuel for stoves, in case anybody gets that idea. “They’re compressed, and the ash from them smothers the fire – I’ve tried it,” Jensen admits. “When Building 10 burned, the debris pile was mostly bales that never burned. The building burned out from under it.”

Any interested parties should contact the Montague building department.



JACKSON PHOTO

It has been over 22 years since the mill was used to make paper, and now nearly a decade since it was actively used to warehouse paper for recycling.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Progress in IT; Keller on the Mend

By JOHANNA BARTLETT

Dan Keller demonstrated his progress in recovering from a broken hip by arriving at the Wendell selectboard’s February 22 meeting with the help of only one crutch. Everyone was delighted to see him on the mend.

The selectboard met with IT specialist Peter Golrick to give an update on the progress of IT improvements. He talked about concerns about town emails being compromised and explained that a remedy should not involve a filter on the town server, but rather that a different email client should be used by those with town email accounts. He is recommending Thunderbird, which gathers all the client’s email and uses the necessary filter to screen the emails.

Golrick reported that he had met with most of the town departments to assist them with changes in the system. He anticipates the need for more training rather than increased spending on hardware. He is hoping to introduce Libre Office to all departments as a uniform free word program.

He is also seeking alternative uses for old equipment that would extend its use, such as donating it to agencies that might use it as a teaching tool, in such exercises as dismantling computers to study their construction. Keller commented that this was a good way to keep equipment out of the landfills for as long as possible.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich commended Golrick for his familiarity with the names of department members, and selectboard chair Christine Heard commented on the good job he has been doing in improving the efficiency of IT in the town departments.

Follow Ups

At the beginning of the meeting, Harry Williston presented a letter to the board, in which he expressed his dissatisfaction with the decision denying his request for solar-powered lights on the Veterans’ flagpole. His letter asks them to reconsider their decision in light of additional information he has provided. The selectboard will invite him to their next meeting to discuss the issue.

In a followup on a discussion about creating an RFP to remove the shed behind the Meetinghouse, Keller has learned that although the shed is made of chestnut planks, they are not deemed to be worth much, and may not in themselves fully compensate a contractor, so that some money would have to be paid as well.

Keller has also been consulting with Jim Slavos on the RFP for a crawlspace under the town hall. Dan will work up the RFP, breaking it down into segments. Jim thought the floor should be insulated from underneath, and Dan suggested that this part of the work might be eligible for Green Energy money.

In an update on repairs needed

to the Community Kitchen, Aldrich said that Whittier Plumbing had repaired the dishwasher and the hole through which the gas line comes in.

Heard reported that she had attended a meeting of the broadband committees which included the town’s liaison with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute and a representative from the Governor’s office. Since there was not a quorum, no votes were taken.

Other Business

Aldrich reported that the Massachusetts Audubon Society will once again offer a campership for one Wendell child to attend summer camp. Interested children must submit an essay as part of their application. Entries will be judged by members of the selectboard and conservation committee. Details will be available soon at the library, on the town website, and in the town newsletter and listserv.

Aldrich has been contacted by Senator Stan Rosenberg’s office about the need to file legislation to extend the retirement age of town employees. Although there is no immediate need, the board has decided to look into getting the process started early, so that it will be in place should it become necessary.

Aldrich also reported that the shared clerk of the energy committee, Wanita Sears, has sent a letter of intent to withdraw from the position for the present, because she is an abutter to the Arsenault property seeking permits for a solar array.

Wendell Democrats to Elect Delegates to State Convention

Registered Democrats in Wendell will be holding a caucus at the Wendell Town Office Building Meeting Room on March 25, 2017 at 10 a.m. to elect two delegates and one alternate to the 2017 Massachusetts Democratic Convention, where Democrats from across Massachusetts will gather to adopt a new Party Platform.

The Convention will be held on Saturday, June 3 at the Tsongas Arena in Lowell.

The caucus is open to all registered and pre-registered Democrats in Wendell, and the Democratic Committee welcomes participants. Pre-registered Democrats who will

be age 18 by Sept 11, 2018, the anticipated date of the primary, will be able to participate in caucuses and run for delegate.

Delegates will be divided equally between men and women, and all ballots will be written and secret. In the spirit of inclusion, youth, minorities, and people with disabilities who are not elected as delegates or alternates may apply to be add-on delegates, either at their caucus or online at www.massdems.org.

For more information on the caucus or the committee please contact committee chairperson Dan Keller at dkeller@gmpfilms.com or (978) 544-2857.

The board discussed the possibility of another bulky waste day at the WRATS, which last year cost the town \$1,300. They will consult with the fin com.

Aldrich was contacted by Bob Curley about proposed ways for the town to use \$132,000 worth of energy credits amassed from the sell-off of a solar farm. The board decided to consult the town lawyer on next steps.

The town has received a check from the Friends of the Wendell Free Library in the amount of \$5,000 to support programs and operating expenses at the library. A thank-you

note will be sent to them.

Aldrich reported that at the end of the day on Friday, she had heard a noise in the bathroom and when she looked under one of the ceiling tiles, she found water pouring out of the on-demand water heater. A repair was made.

Heard told the board there was a need to advertise for someone to shovel snow from the steps and ramp of the town hall in the case of possible future snowstorms, until repairs were made to the town’s snow blower.

The tentative date for the annual town meeting is Saturday, June 10.

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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Leverett Still Won't Sign High School District Agreement

By JEFF SINGLETON

Forget the Turners Falls Indian mascot, big box stores in Greenfield, or the \$300,000 golden parachute handed to former Amherst school district superintendent Maria Geryk last August by the regional school committee. The conflict between Leverett and Shutesbury over the method for assessing members of the high school district – which also includes Amherst and Pelham – is emerging as the biggest small-town political battle in the region.

On Tuesday night, at Leverett's selectboard meeting, Amherst-Pelham (ALPS) business manager Sean Mangano tried once again to sell the town's leadership on a joint statement about the upcoming budget process. The statement would continue the current year's policy of basing 10% of town assessments according to ability to pay, as measured by property values and income. Mangano also asked that the board support a scope of work he had produced for an outside consultant to study the issue.

This was apparently the second week in a row that these ideas had been floated by Mangano, and the response was nearly as explosive as the week before.

"Shutesbury is dysfunctional," said selectboard chair Peter d'Errico. "They don't have a library, don't have solar, and they have under-

mined the regional agreement."

According to board member Julie Shively, "Most people in Shutesbury are clueless about this. Leverett residents are more educated [about the regional assessment issues]."

Even those willing to sign the one-year assessment agreement had little positive to say about Shutesbury. "I am not willing to be the new Shutesbury by gumming this up," said finance committee member Ann Delano, in justifying her support for Mangano's statement.

"We can not like Shutesbury, but it's out of our control," said Leverett school committee member Audra Goscenski, the town's representative to the ALPS school committee.

Leverett officials have been miffed by Shutesbury's perennial threat to veto the regional school budget unless the assessments are changed to reflect wealth in the form of property and income. Under the methodology in place since the 1950s, assessments only reflect enrollment. A shift to the wealth-based assessment, such as the state's "statutory method," could significantly increase Leverett's assessment and lead to major cuts in the regional budget. This past year, Leverett reluctantly agreed to a compromise that would use wealth to calculate a small portion of the assessment.

Leverett officials have also complained that Shutesbury undermined recent efforts to consoli-

date elementary schools into the regional middle school/high school district. "This is not people bearing grudges," said d'Errico. "When you invest in an effort and then don't follow through, you either have a town that's a partner, or you don't. It's not just a personality conflict. I don't want to hear it."

"We need to sign this. But it gets me mad that if we don't, Shutesbury will not play ball," said Shively.

Mangano was asked to go back to the drawing board to edit both the joint statement and the consultant services document. The board wants the consultant to create "data sets" that show not only the fiscal condition of residents, but the fiscal realities of town government.

Leverett claims that its wealth estimates are skewed by a few wealthy residents, and that its budget for local services is higher than Shutesbury's.

Budget Hearings

The meeting began with a presentation of the Leverett Elementary School budget by Stephen Cass, the interim director of finance and operations of the Union 28 school district. Leverett is a member of Union 28, which also includes Erving, Shutesbury, and the Swift River School in New Salem, at the elementary level.

While LES spending actually declined by 0.4%, the overall budget the town will be required to finance increased by nearly \$41,000, or

2.5%. This is due to a \$20,000 reduction in grants and a \$27,219 cut in the use of school choice funds.

The 2.5% increase led to some criticism from selectboard and finance committee members. Fincom chair Tom Powers questioned collective bargaining agreements that do not consider local affordability. School principal Margot Lacey noted the larger increases in salaries at the high school and middle school levels.

"When you are out of here, the fire department, highway department, and police department will come in, said d'Errico. "The library is under threat of decertification," he said, due to funding issues.

The board then discussed the need to hire a well-qualified janitor, and the problems of the current sprinkler system at the school.

After the school budget discussion, fire chief John Ingram presented a document containing an extensive inventory of "apparatus and equipment," as well as his department's budget for the upcoming year. This budget increased by over \$19,000, well over \$20,000 or over 20%. The main culprit accounting for the rather formidable increase was an estimated \$16,000 increase in training costs.

Ingram explained that the line item had been significantly underfunded in the past, allowing for the training of only eight firefighters.

The new estimate was based on training a cohort of 15.

Several times, Ingram mentioned the recent tornado in Conway as a justification for the need for more training.

There was little criticism of the fire department's budget increase. Delano said she realized "we need a correction this year," but that "we're going to be grumpy if you come in with 20% each year."

Other Business

At the beginning of the meeting, selectboard chair d'Errico passed out a statement on "law enforcement policy," which was directed at the national immigration issue raised by the Trump administration. The statement said that "Leverett police personnel shall not honor or enforce any detainer request from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that is non-criminal and not subject to a judicially issued warrant." It also provided that the town would allow arrested individuals "access to police services in their native language if available."

D'Errico noted that the statement did not contain the word "sanctuary." "We're not doing this to wave flags, or get in the paper," he stated.

The next selectboard meeting will take place on March 7 when the board will meet with the finance committee, capital planning committee, and department heads.

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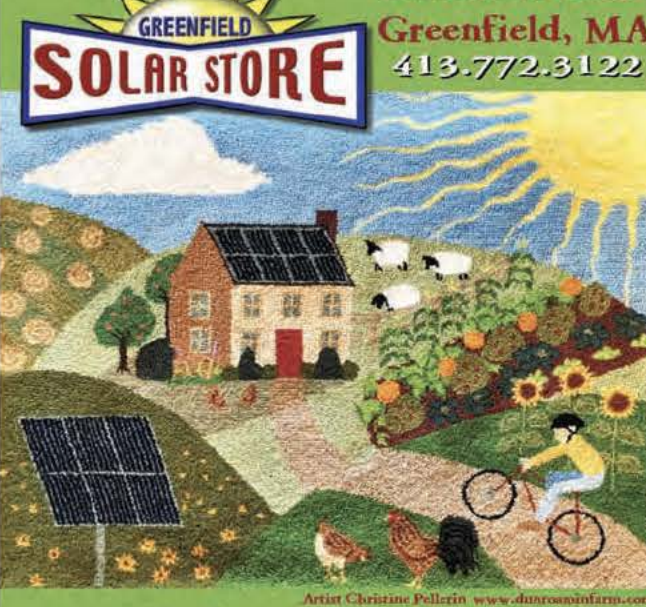
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New Medical Horizons: It's Only a Phage...

By EMILY MONOSSON

While we have been slow to recognize the benefits of bacteria, we are even farther behind when it comes to viruses: tiny bits of genetic material wrapped in protein. Particles so minuscule that even as medical scientists began to identify one pathogenic bacterium after another in the late 1800s, viruses remained undiscovered, indistinguishable from any of the common molecules or particles in lab solutions.

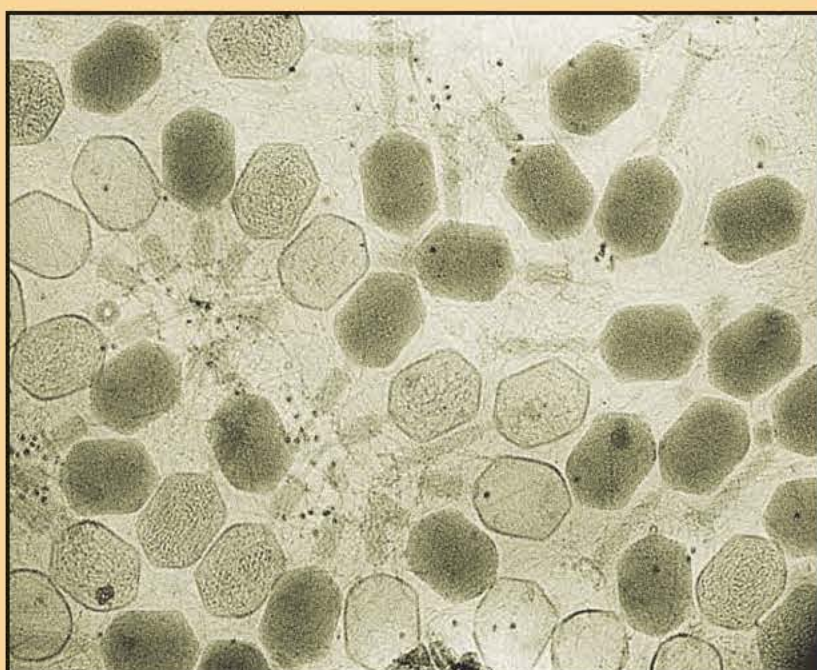
Except that these “particles” could replicate, and seemingly thrived on living tissues. Like spirits, they were invisible, enigmatic, and potentially deadly.

Despite the medical and technological advances that were made throughout the golden age of microbiology, viruses caused havoc. One of the most notorious was the great influenza pandemic of 1918, which killed tens, possibly hundreds, of millions of men, women and children.

One hundred years later, we know that Earth is teeming with viruses, some causing us to sniffle and sneeze, others killing within hours. We know that they are parasites: they not only invade a cell but use the cell’s machinery to essentially clone themselves, sometimes leaving the infected cell in tatters as hundreds of new viruses emerge, sometimes leaving bits of their own genetic material behind, embedded within the host’s own genome. Most of these bits are harmless, some are helpful, and a relative few are harmful.

We know there are a billion viruses in a teaspoon of ocean water and trillions living within us. And we now know that, throughout our existence, viruses have woven in and out of life, leaving their stamp on most, if not all, living things.

Yet, for all the fear and harm we associate with viruses, many (if not



Phage was also once known as “Stalin’s cure,” which according to lore, is another reason Western medicine turned away from it. This photograph of bacteriophages was made available by Zeiss Microscopy under a Creative Commons license on Flickr.

most) are bacteriophages (or phages), infecting bacteria, like those in our micro-biome or, those that cause disease.

Genomics (the study of whole genomes) is just beginning to reveal the diversity and representations of these entities in nature and within our bodies.

But the role that phages can serve as potent antimicrobials is no mystery. As infectious agents of bacteria, they are a normal and pervasive component of Earth’s flora.

When directed toward human pathogens, phages can save lives. One day they just might save us or our loved ones, as they did decades ago, when phage treatment saved Stanford professor of medicine (emeritus) Gary Schoolnik’s mother.

As Schoolnik tells the story, it was 1948, and his mother was dying from typhoid fever. Effective antibiotics were unavailable. His father, a surgeon, had read about some doctors using bacteriophage

to cure the disease.

Desperate for a cure, Schoolnik’s father contacted the group, acquired the phage, and injected his wife. Within two days, her fever disappeared.

But this was a time when antibiotics were fast becoming the symbol of modern medical success. Although typhoid was one of the last holdouts for these powerful cures, when an effective antibiotic active against the bacterium was finally discovered, any enthusiasm for phage therapy quickly waned.

Plus, phage therapy suffered from conflicting reports about efficacy, poorly controlled clinical studies, and a lack of quality control by companies producing phage. As a result, writes Anna Kuchment, in her aptly titled book *The Forgotten Cure*, the practice of healing with viruses was essentially forgotten here in the Western part of the globe.

Now, though, scientists and physicians are trying to bring the

see PHAGES page B4



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

THE GARDENER’S COMPANION

More Signs of Spring!

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – February 2: Groundhog Day. The frowsy marmot is dragged out of the warm burrow and held aloft to predict another six weeks of winter. Poor Punxsutawney Phil! Who wouldn’t be grumpy and want nothing more than another hefty nap? Then it would be worthwhile to climb out for all of the tender green shoots which by then will be set out for his culinary pleasure.

February 9: More winter, from a storm which drops nine inches, and is followed by a windy day which starts out at 8 degrees.

February 12: More winter, in the form of an actual honest-to-goodness blizzard, with masses of snow and wind. We are tickled by the weatherman’s announcement of a bombogenesis or polar vortex, in effect a giant snow bomb. The Inuit have a vast lexicon of winter terms, as well

they might. *Lapinti* for snow that falls quickly, *rotlana* for snow that accumulates quickly and the delightful *kroila* for snow that blinds you.

February 19: The beginning of warm school vacation weather which runs in the fifties and sixties every day. Grateful mothers send their offspring outside to play. Spring bulbs push up through the snow and sap buckets dot the trees. If you listen closely you can hear the sweet sap as it plinks against the metal.

February 25: We eke out one more partly sunny, almost sixty degree day for my elder niece’s wedding. I am thrilled for her and her girlfriend, and personally grateful as my family lives in what they refer to as “too far North,” and it is indeed about a hundred and twenty-five miles to little-known Thetford Center, Vermont.

But it is a wonderful celebration and an easy, if lengthy, drive. That night the rain pours down briefly and is followed by brisk, and in some places damaging, winds which drop the temperatures back into a more see GARDENER’S page B4

Chasing our Tales

By LYN CLARK

There isn’t a person among our readers without a story to tell, handed down over the years, of an ancestor who made his or her family sit up and take notice, who succeeded or failed, lived or died by the sword, who left a legacy of weird or wonderful deeds to be related by the fire to awestruck descendants. No, you say, my ancestors were just ordinary people. Sometimes seemingly ordinary people are the most interesting, and the courage they display in just keeping a family in food when disaster strikes can be the best story of all. Please think about those you have to thank for your very existence, and let us know about them.

In our column this month, Anne Harding of Turners Falls, an occasional contributor to this paper, tells of a trip up into her attic and the peripatetic treasure that she finally examined...

Family Treasures, Part I

By ANNE HARDING

TURNERS FALLS – Lyn Clark first asked me to contribute to her genealogy column a few months ago. I couldn’t imagine I had anything worth submitting, until I remembered a package from my Aunt Betty that held my great-grandmother’s wedding dress, a pair of gloves and a letter. This was back in 2004 during my hectic move to Turners Falls and the box got placed inside an old suitcase and stuck up in the attic, where it has languished for the past twelve years.

Fearful it might be full of mice, moths or mildew, I clambered up the stairs and gratefully found the suitcase and its contents exactly as I remembered.

Well, almost exactly; as it turns out, the dress did not belong to my great-grandmother; rather, it was the wedding dress of Jessie Moore of Oshkosh, Wisconsin who was born May 25, 1870. She married Lewis Korn of Dixon, Illinois who was born November 7, 1856. I don’t know the story of how they ended up in Minneapolis or how they met but they were married in Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 20, 1896.

Their daughter, Bernice Korn, was born in St. Paul on April 25, 1897 and died on June 29, 1918 – barely 21 years old. I’m not sure how she died and seeking the answer to this question sent me down the rabbit hole of genealogical and other online research. I requested a



Jessie Moore’s 1896 wedding dress.

photo of her gravestone from *findagrave.com* in hopes of discerning her cause of death as well as a death certificate for more details. These things take time and I haven’t yet succumbed to the sites with monthly membership fees, so instantaneous information is limited.

I’m merely speculating that Bernice died of the 1918 “Spanish Flu” which was an unusually deadly pandemic affecting 500 million people see ANCESTORS page B8

The “Domestic Darling” Celebrates New Location



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Lea Banks of *The Domestic Darling* in Turners Falls is having a Grand Opening celebration this Saturday, and an artist’s reception for Irish Crafo’s “Rumpled Beds” exhibit on Sunday.

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – Shoppers on the hunt for unique, funky, and eclectic curiosities have a fun new option right in Turners Falls: The Domestic Darling

at 69 Second Street (the former location of 2nd Street Bakery) is stocked with a wide range of vintage fashions, jewelry, home décor, re-purposed treasures and contemporary creations made by local artists.

Proprietor Lea Banks, a local writer and artist from Gill, says, “I’ve always had an eye for the unusual – jazzy objects that are fashionable (or should be), distinct flotsam and jetsam, hilarious greeting cards. But then again, the memorable, more common things that make up a comfortable household or cozy bedroom, a colorful kitchen, a vintage dress for just that special occasion are key, also. Our shop’s mantra is ‘pursue the extraordinary,’ and I think we have a great start.”

Banks has been collecting vintage items since the 1990s, and has been selling as Domestic Darling on Etsy since 2012. But the D.D. (as she affectionately calls it) is “thrilled” to be located in downtown Turners Falls as well as online. Banks says she is “elated by the development and growth of this wonderfully gritty, graceful town; it’s been a pleasure watching it evolve, becoming more and more a destination for shopping, dining, recreation and live performances.”

One area in which the D.D. hopes to expand is a wider stock of both men’s and women’s vintage apparel in larger sizes. “We’re now in the habit of keeping our eyes open for ‘real’ women’s vintage,” Banks says. “Many times, all people think of when they see the word ‘vintage’ is women with tiny waists and wee shoes. One half of my family were real size – I had two great aunts who were over 6 foot tall, and they had farming bodies that fit with that height. So, the clothes ARE out there.”

“Also,” she adds, “we have many other vintage see DARLING page B6

Pet of the Week

Hareus Rucker was found as a stray by another rescue organization and is now here ready to hop into your heart.

Hareus is extremely sweet, gentle and is entertaining to watch, as he flings his toys about. He's very social but also enjoys just chilling out.

Hareus would make a great pet for someone who is adopting their first hopper. Because he was a stray, we

don't know what kind of a family he lived with and whether he lived with other rabbits or other pets.

You have to meet this rabbit to really appreciate his wonderful demeanor, so hop on down and pay Hareus a visit!

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



CHRISTOPHER CARMODY COLLAGE

"HAREUS RUCKER"

Senior Center Activities MARCH 6 TO 10

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-Thurs Noon Lunch

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

Monday 3/6

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 3/7

12:45 p.m. COA Meeting

Wednesday 3/8

9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach
11:30 a.m. Friends' Meeting

12:30 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 3/9

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. Mindful Motion

1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 3/10

AARP Tax Prep Appts. only

LEVERETT

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

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

Senior Lunch - Fridays at noon.

Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for activities and congregating 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 Better, 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 3/6

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

12:15 TV Family Feud

Tuesday 3/7

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

12:30 p.m. Coloring; Knitting

Wednesday 3/8

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs

Thursday 3/9

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors

Friday 3/10

9 a.m. Quilting Workshop

9:30 a.m. Bowling

11:30 a.m. Pizza & Dessert

12:30 p.m. Downton Abbey

WENDELL

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

MARCH LIBRARY LISTINGS

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

Montague Public Libraries

Turners Falls: Carnegie (413) 863-3214
Montague Center (413) 367-2852
Millers Falls (413) 659-3801

Erving Public Library (413) 423-3348

Gill: Slate Library (413) 863-2591

Leverett Public Library (413) 548-9220

Wendell Free Library (978) 544-3559

ONGOING EVENTS

Every Tuesday

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Craft Time w/Angela*. Children, all ages. 3:30 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Qigong*. 5:15 to 6:15.

Every Wednesday

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time w/Karen*. Story, project, snacks. Young children w/ caregivers. 10:15 a.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Sylvia's Awesome Play Group*. A sand table and lots of activities for newborn to 5 years old and their guardians. 10 to 11:30 a.m. (Does not meet during school vacations or snow days.)

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *STEM Homeschool Science*. Hands-on Science for any age homeschooler. 1 p.m. Through March 29.

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

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

Dickinson Library, Northfield: Starting March 8 for the next 4 weeks, *Readers as Artists*. 11- to 14-year-olds each create a 12"-14" model of a character in a favorite book. All supplies (wire/plaster/modeling clay, etc.) will be provided. Limited to 10 students so pre-register. Cynthia Fulton of Meadowedge Art will lead this workshop. 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Every Thursday

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

First Thursday Each Month

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

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

Last Thursday Each Month

Leverett Library: *Lego Club*. New building challenge each week, and snack. 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.

First Saturday Each Month

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

Last Saturday Each Month

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

Every Friday

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

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Story Hour*. Stories, crafts, music and movement with Dana Lee. Pre-schoolers and their

caregivers. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Every Saturday

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

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

Every Sunday

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

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

EXHIBITS

Several of local libraries have monthly or bimonthly art shows. In order to apply for a show at these venues, find application forms on library websites.

Wendell Free Library invites you to create an original postcard-size art work for their mail-art exhibit, *Green Seen*. All techniques and media welcome. Art will be displayed at the library until March 21, when the exhibit will travel to Baystate Franklin Medical Center to be on display until May 21. Deadline for submissions is March 21.

Leverett Library: *Paintings by Nancy Emond*. Through March.

EVENTS

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Adult Coloring*. 10 to 11 a.m.

Leverett Library: *Learn Zentangle w/ Leslie Fiset*. 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Carnegie Library: *Genealogy Gathering*. 6 to 7:45 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

Erving Library: *Maggie's Craft Day*. Turn a doily into a bowl-shaped planter or bowl decoration. 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Makerspace*. 3-D printing and robotics workshop. For school-age children. Space limited; please pre-register. 2 to 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Library Legislative Day. Friends of the libraries will be traveling to the Massachusetts State House in Boston.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

Erving Library: Informational meeting for the proposed new library for Erving. 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

Erving Library: *Friends Meeting*. 4 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Ukulele Play-along with Julie*. Bring your own or borrow one here. 7 to 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

Leverett Library: Laszlo Tikos discusses his new book, *Gogol's Art: A Search for Identity*. Discussion will include issue of Ukrainian national identity. 3 p.m.

Erving Library: *Neurofitness for the Maturing Brain*. Efficient ways to keep your brain healthy and generate new networks. See library's Facebook page for details. 2 to 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Pi(e) Day*. Celebrate mathematical pi (3.14) and delicious pie. We ask patrons to bring the pies and everyone is invited to have pie and coffee starting at 2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *After-School LEGO WeDo 2.0 Robotics*. Build a robot using LEGO WeDo kits. Please pre-register. 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

Leverett Library: Book Discussion of *Light Years* by James Salter. 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Trivia Night*. Held at Cameron's Winery. 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Life-size Candyland*. BIG game and treats. For children of all ages and their caregivers. 10:30 to noon.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Bigfoot*. "Family friendly presentation about the search for Bigfoot by Desiree Smelcer from S. Hadley." 1 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

Leverett Library: Book discussion for the community read: *Falling in Love* by Donna Leon, led by Arlyn Diamond. Also a screening of an interview with Donna Leon. 3 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *No-Till Gardening with Sharon Gensler*. Learn no-till growing techniques to grow a few easily managed cover crops. 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Erving Library: Informational meeting for new proposed library. Erving Town Hall. 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

Leverett Library: *Italian Carnevale Mask Making*. Supplies provided; please pre-register. 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Tropical Island Party*. Family-friendly "bring on the warmth! With simulated surfing, hula dancing, make-a-lei and make-a-grass-skirt, limbo, erupting volcanoes, ukuleles, bowling with coconuts..." 6:30 to 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Preston Heller's The Mentalist*. Family-friendly, recommended for age 12+. "Amazing skills of telepathy, clairvoyance, predictions." 6:30 to 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *After-School MaKey MaKey Part I*. Program a simple circuit using MaKeyMaKey kits and household items. Please pre-register. 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY MARCH 30

Leverett Library: *Ukulele Play-along with Julie*. Bring your own or borrow one here. 7 to 8 p.m.

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MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Sending out a reminder to catch the following local meetings airing live in the TV schedule on a regular basis:

- Montague selectboard meetings, Mondays at 7 p.m.
 - Biweekly meetings of the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee, Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. (next meeting date: March 14)
 - Montague finance committee meetings, Wednesdays at 6 p.m.
- You can also watch these meetings, as well as Gill selectboard

meetings, online at montaguetv.org, or watch for them to air at other times by checking our TV schedule at montaguetv.org/p/55/TV-Schedule.

A special town meeting will air live on Thursday, March 2 at 7 p.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, infomontaguetv@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!

Workshop on Local Medicinal Herbs

GREENFIELD – On Saturday, March 4, Emma Donnelly, Director of the Blue Dragon Apothecary in Greenfield, will offer a workshop entitled, *The Backyard Herbalist: Harvesting in Your Own Backyard and Tincture Making*.

The workshop will take place in the upstairs meeting room of the Franklin Community Coop ("Green Fields Market") at 144 Main Street, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Emma Donnelly is an apothecarian specializing in herbal medicine preparations, as well as a gardener and an avid cultivator of medicinal plants. She has been studying traditional holistic medicine since early 2000. In recent years she has also become interested in growing

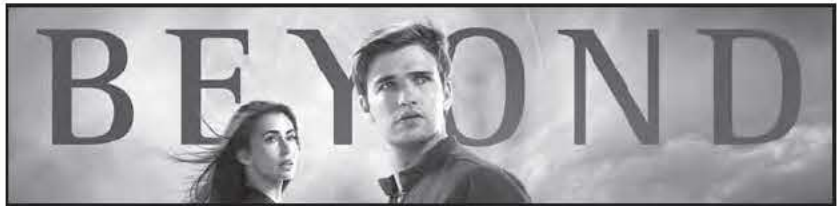
and "wildcrafting" herbal medicine in New England.

Emma's workshop will cover preparations and dosage of five native medicinal plants found in everyday New England backyards. It will also include how to cultivate, harvest, prepare, and cook with medicinal wild foods. And she will discuss how various extraction methods can be done in the home for your kitchen medicine cabinet.

The workshop is being sponsored by the Valley Community Land Trust together with the Franklin Community Coop. There is a requested donation of \$10 per participant, but no one will be turned away. For further information, please call Nikki at (413) 522-0186.

TV REVIEW

"Beyond" (Freeform)



By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

On January 2, Freeform (formerly ABC Family) premiered a new TV series called *Beyond*.

From the previews I had seen of the show, it looked to be a very cool supernatural/sci-fi TV show. Apparently, people agree with that thought, because it was renewed for a second season after its first three episodes aired on TV.

A young boy named Holden has an accident and ends up in a coma for 12 years. When he wakes up, he only remembers being a kid when he is now a full grown adult who's fit and perfectly healthy. He also has weird memory flashes to deal with, people who have a weird interest in him because of the coma –and new supernatural powers.

One of the people with an interest in him is a girl named Willa, who saves him from the other people with an interest when those individuals go after him. Willa also claims they know each other from the time he was in a coma.

At the end of the first episode, Willa visits with an old man in a coma, and communicates with him through texts on her phone. Their conversation indicates he knows Holden too.

This isn't the typical "wake up from a coma" plot, where someone who's been in one has to adjust to a new world when they come to.

What is it going to be like for the rest of the season? Is it going to be like the X-Files?

No one will know for sure unless they see the remaining episodes of *Beyond* for this season. But the three episodes that have already aired have given a glimpse of where exactly Holden was for the 12 years: a place he is told is called the Realm.

The images the show's producers use in making up the appearance of this place on the TV screen for us to see are very cool, and quite diverse. One image is of a futuristic city. Another is of an ancient-looking castle. The Realm is just shown to be a surreal place.

Holden was on the run while in the Realm. A flock of birds is shown going after him there. It mentioned that his mind traveled there during the coma. Now he's back and dealing with the memory of things that occurred over there, and a world that has changed from the one he knew as a kid.

One of his weird memory flashes is of the old man who communicated with Willa at the end of the first episode. What is the connection between these two individuals, besides Willa? And why do all these other people have this sudden interest in Holden?

Finding out the whole mystery is one reason to keep tuned in to the show. Lastly, you should watch, because it just seems to be a show that is out of this world.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Road Rage; Wrong Vacuum; Loose Sheep; Dispute at the Skate Park; Rumble in the Patch

Sunday, 2/19

12:13 a.m. Officer conducting motor vehicle stop at Fourth and L streets. All parties detained. Requesting female for a search. Both male parties free to go at this time. Summons issued to one party for possession of a Class A drug.

5:26 a.m. Caller from Keith Apartments reporting that someone moved furniture that was against the building and put it on the sidewalk. Nothing appears to be missing. Caller spoke with maintenance and advises it must have been more than one person. Caller would like to meet with an officer. Officer advises no vandalism; items that needed to be disposed of were moved closer to the dumpster.

Monday, 2/20

8:38 a.m. Caller from Grout Circle reports that she was just in a minor accident; no injuries, but other driver is very confrontational. Officer spoke to one driver, very minor damage, started as a road rage type incident. No further investigation needed.

1:24 p.m. Caller from Sherman Drive following up about a jeep from Enterprise Rent-a-Car left in her front yard. Dispatch contacted Enterprise in Greenfield, who will be providing a tow. Enterprise later reported that plates on Jeep belong on a Caravan and must be stolen; they will not tow; plates canceled. Jeep VIN traced to specific vehicle and owner; however, homeowner states that vehicle belongs to another male. Plates removed by officer. Homeowner advised of options.

3:22 p.m. Caller states that her aunt passed away and they are cleaning out her house. The female employee of the cleaning service that they hired became verbally belligerent when they purchased a shop vac rather than a regular vacuum for her to clean with. Female has since left premises. No physical altercation; caller just wants incident on record.

4:13 p.m. Back to back 911 calls reporting a vehicle operating erratically on Swamp Road; almost ran a vehicle off the road and nearly hit a pedestrian on the sidewalk. Officers off with vehicle on Hatchery Road. Operator has a learner's permit and was attempting to get used to the controls on the steering wheel.

Tuesday, 2/21

4:24 p.m. Officer at Cumby's, where one of their ovens is smoking. FD not needed; officer just advising in case any

calls or alarms come in. FD advised; all set.

4:27 p.m. Cumby's clerk advised officer of female party who is frequently in the store using the bathroom for extended periods of time. Officer spoke to female, who did not appear to be on anything, and advised her of the complaint.

Wednesday, 2/22

11:17 a.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

2:38 p.m. Officer in Third Street parking lot assisting Franklin County Sheriff's Department, who will be taking a male party into custody momentarily. Services rendered.

3:39 p.m. Report of three skateboarders going into the road near Our Lady of Peace. Officer advised of complaint.

Thursday, 2/23

5:22 p.m. Caller from Second Street states that kids have a skateboarding ramp on the sidewalk in front of his home and he would like them moved along. Officer drove through area; nothing showing.

6:06 p.m. Caller states that as he was in his apartment, an unknown subject was yelling and attempting to gain entry. Second 911 call received from another tenant in same location stating that a known female is entering multiple people's apartments. [redacted]

Friday, 2/24

12:02 a.m. Officers out on Third Street; party came to door but refused officers entry. Forcible entry made.

[redacted] was arrested on a probation warrant.

1:31 a.m. Officer checking on a vehicle in Unity Park. Vehicle unsecured; no one around; rear passenger window broken and covered from inside with a towel.

5:12 a.m. Officer checking on a male party he observed climbing over guardrail at L and Montague streets. Party transported.

6:49 a.m. Complaint that arms at train crossing were down for several minutes with no train coming through. Originally reported to be in Millers Falls, but actually in Erving. Call placed to Pan Am; they advised this is NE Central Railroad. Call placed to them. Shelburne Control notified; they will also be contacting RR.

9:56 a.m. Stationary tractor trailer unit at Montague City and Greenfield roads, possibly disabled, creating a traffic backup. Officer assisted operator getting turned around. Unit not broken down.

12:10 p.m. Report of a suspicious item on the bike path near the Eleventh Street bridge, described as a black hard case with a padlock. Caller advises item looks out of place there. Officer checked on case; advised you could see inside and it was empty. Case retrieved.

12:48 p.m. Report of illegal dumping on Fourth Street; couch and chair left on sidewalk. Caller did not see who left items on sidewalk but advises that items were on the lawn of a different Fourth Street address a few days ago. Officer advised.

2:20 p.m. Caller requesting extra patrols at the skate park; advising that a group of girls there are using foul language and harassing other people in the park. Two additional calls received; one reporting that some kids were threatening to throw another kid's scooter into the water. Original caller reporting that situation is escalating and some of the kids are arguing now. Responding officers advise verbal dispute between adults and juveniles. Involved parties spoken with; peace restored.

3:32 p.m. Caller reports that vehicle in front of her

on Montague City Road struck a deer. No damage to vehicle, but deer deceased. Arrangements made to remove deer.

5:56 p.m. Caller reports a water-filled pothole in front of a given address. She hit it and got a flat tire; requests that DPW be notified.

8:10 p.m. Caller reports that a white male with a red jacket and black pants is drinking alcohol in front of Scotty's Convenience Store.

8:15 p.m. Officer reports that train crossing bars in Lake Pleasant are down and are not going back up. Pan Am contacted; they will send someone over.

9:34 p.m. Accident with injuries on Turners Falls Road. Under investigation/referred to district attorney's office.

Saturday, 2/25

12:47 a.m. Caller states that she was walking her dog in area of Eleventh and G streets when a group of 8-9 people started yelling and physically fighting each other in the street. A group of 3-4 people ran toward Avenue A; two females now standing on corner in this location. Witnesses in area stated that it was two groups of kids who left in two separate vehicles and are no longer in area.

10:05 a.m. Report of loose sheep on private property next to a fence abutting Route 63. Caller concerned that sheep would end up in road. Referred to an officer.

4:15 p.m. Caller from Popular Street reports that a loose brindle colored pit bull just came at him aggressively in his yard. Caller believes that this dog has been known to be aggressive in the past. Dog is no longer in caller's yard; whereabouts unknown at this time. Unable to locate.

7:44 p.m. First of multiple calls reporting downed trees and wires.

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PHAGES from page B1

therapy back to the American pharmacopeia. But doing so means navigating what has – for good reason – become a rigorous and expensive drug approval process under the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Currently the process is rigid enough so that even if phages were to pass efficacy and safety trials with flying colors, roadblocks to approval would remain.

The drug-testing gauntlet set up by our FDA was designed to test chemicals, with dosages based on chemical concentrations, taking into consideration absorption, distribution, excretion, and the safety of specific molecular structures. FDA approval is thus also based on well-defined dosages and known chemical makeup.

But phages don't work that way. They may be administered in huge numbers and in combination cocktails, depending on the infection – and, they may replicate within their host. This explains, in part, why phages are not an option for treatment of human disease here in the United States.

And why, rather than more stories like Mrs. Schoolnik's, instead we have recent tales of desperate patients like Laura Roberts, a Texas mother suffering from a chronic and nearly lethal infection, eventually diagnosed as MRSA – methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*.

In 2006 Roberts, who has shared her story in books, magazines, and on CNN, was told it was time to think about getting her affairs in order. Desperate, she traveled to the world-renowned Phage Therapy Center in Tbilisi, Georgia where scientists and physicians have been refining the therapy over the past century.

As she tells it, she made the trip using a walker and with her brother for support, her body frail and under attack. After three weeks of treat-

ment, including phages specific for her MRSA strains, Roberts left for home – sans walker. While the combination of treatments Roberts received makes it difficult to give the phage mixture all the credit, it likely played a significant part in curing her.

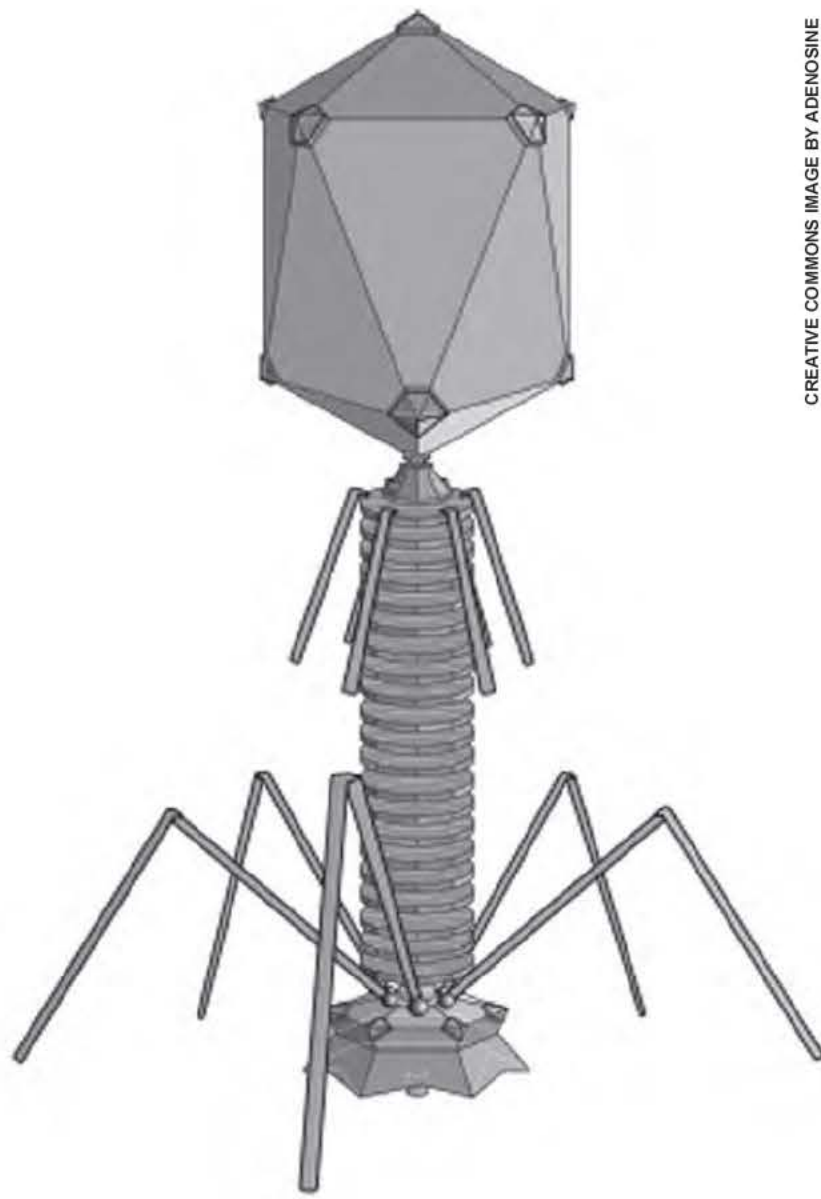
Shigellosis – a severe form of bacterial dysentery – was the first human disease targeted with phage therapy. Working around the turn of the twentieth century, microbiologists Félix d'Herelle, a French Canadian, and Frederick Twort, an Englishman, discovered (independently of one another) an invisible agent that made bacteria magically disappear.

D'Herelle continued to study the oddity, eventually pitting the mysterious cure against dysentery. After ensuring that the therapy was safe by ingesting phage (he did so along with other willing participants), d'Herelle cured his first young patient, a twelve-year-old suffering from severe dysentery, with phage collected from the feces of infected soldiers.

The results were miraculous. The fever and characteristic bloody stools subsided within twenty-four hours. He repeated the treatment on three other desperate young patients, with similar success.

Within a decade, phage therapies, packaged into oral, injectable, and topical medications, were treating infections due to *Staphylococcus*, *Streptococcus*, and cholera bacteria, with varying degrees of success. Phage cocktails, or mixtures, ensured that despite (or, in some cases because of) the phage's specificity and the lack of rapid accurate diagnosis, treatments would be effective.

Pharmaceutical companies on both sides of the Atlantic – including Abbott Labs, Squibb, and Eli Lilly here in the United States – joined in, developing various phage therapies of their own.



Bacteriophages are weird enough, looking like lunar landing modules.

D'Herelle's work was recognized with multiple nominations for the Nobel Prize in Medicine.

But then came antibiotics. And the Cold War. And, it should be noted, poor practices by some pharmaceutical companies prior to meaningful regulations: commercial products in the United States were often found to be lacking in potency.

Finally, a couple of damning reviews in the esteemed *Journal of the American Medical Association* helped to close the door on phage therapy in Western medicine.

Meanwhile, Eastern European countries continued to refine the therapy. Researchers understood that bacteria evolve resistance under pressure from killer viruses, but viruses evolve even faster. Phage cocktails could be updated as newly resistant

bacterial strains emerged. Today, in at least some parts of the world, such treatments continue to heal.

Elizabeth Kutter, a professor at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, has devoted her career to the study of bacteriophage. Speaking about phage therapy at the International Conference on Biotherapy in 2010, Kutter assured the audience that "it's a real thing." The therapy, says Kutter, is targeted, self-replicating, can penetrate more deeply into infections than antibiotics, can evolve, and can even behave as an "infectious cure," spreading from one infected animal to another.

After working on basic bacteriophage research throughout the seventies and eighties, Kutter was first introduced to phage treatment in

CREATIVE COMMONS IMAGE BY ADENOSINE

what was still, in 1990, the Soviet Union. "I was ... suspicious when I first heard about it. I thought, you know, if nobody is using it anywhere and if I've never heard of it, how could it be true?"

Kutter has since become a proponent, devoting her laboratory to phage therapy research, hosting conferences on the topic, and collaborating with research organizations.

Today, more-powerful and less-expensive DNA sequencing means that infections can be more accurately diagnosed, and their associated phages more readily identified. Phage "banks" provide an opportunity for responding to infections with individualized cocktails, the ultimate in personalized medicine.

While phage therapies don't easily fit into FDA's regulatory framework, they wouldn't be the first odd duck that the FDA must regulate. Because influenza viruses are notorious for evolving, each year we are offered a new flu vaccine. The active ingredients are viruses (either inactivated, live, or fragmented). New combinations are prepared, depending on the prevailing and predicted flu strains.

For decades, the FDA has worked with vaccine producers to ensure safe, effective vaccines. How this model might apply to a product like phage is anyone's guess. But like flu vaccines, phage therapy may require some modification of the cocktail over time in order to "adapt" to bacterial resistance.

Phage-therapy products are now making their way through the testing and clinical trial phase here in the United States. Should they manage to make it through the FDA's approval process, when faced with an intractable infection, rather than popping antibiotics pills we may one day be treated to bits of DNA wrapped in protein.

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

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

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

Bad Smell Traced to Australis Sewer

There's something fishy in the neighborhood of Norman Circle, and it smells like rotten eggs.

A pervasive smell of raw sewage has bothered residents of that street since last summer, according to Barry Kostanski, who lives at 27 Norman Circle. Kostanski has taken the trouble to survey his neighbors about the problem, and to talk to local businesses to see whether they have been bothered by the odor too.

He found both residents and business people fuming over the smell, which has led Hallmark labs to call the Turners Falls fire department on one occasion, and the Turners Falls High School to open all first floor windows to air out classrooms in January.

Now, tests conducted on behalf of the Turners Falls Water Pollution Control Facility have pinpointed the source of the persistent noxious order. The smell is coming from a three-gallon-a-minute flow in a sewer line carrying effluent

from the 200,000-gallon manure storage tank at the Australis fish farm on Industrial Boulevard.

Industrial pre-treatment at Australis should be able to manage the problem, now that it has been clearly identified.

Airport Brouhaha at Selectboard Hearing

Airport commissioners strongly defended the performance of embattled Turners Falls Airport manager Michael Sweeney at a packed hearing before the Montague selectboard on Monday night, while members of a group of pilots and other users of the airport seeking Sweeney's ouster claimed he was turning the airport into an "economic dead zone" with hostile policy enforcement and anti-business rent hikes.

By the end of the two-hour hearing, both sides seemed far apart; jeers and angry outbursts punctuated the dialogue, and a number of audience members stalked out of the room expostulating in frustration.

The selectboard called on both sides to reconcile their differences and work toward a common goal of an improved municipal airport.

GARDENERS from page B1

normal temperature of the thirties. February 26: The day dawns briskly, with huge fair weather clouds and strong sun in between. The sunroom is warm and welcoming. The titmouse and Carolina wren call loudly.

I plan to start my tomato and pepper seeds. The river boils by, carrying small floes of ice.

Starting the Seeds

Even the names of these tomatoes to be are delicious: Brandywine, Sungold and Big Rainbow; also Nepal, Celebrity and Church, an heirloom from the Church family in Hot Springs, Virginia. Big Rainbow is also an heirloom passed on by members of the Seed Savers Exchange. All of these seeds will produce plants which are indeterminate, meaning they will continue to produce until they are killed by frost or disease.

We have a couple of pieces of seed-starting equipment which are very useful, but not mandatory. The mini greenhouses create an environment of controlled moisture, and the heating mat which keeps the soil at a

steady bottom temperature. Both of these environments can be simulated by covering any soil container with a plastic lid or wrap and then placing them on top of the refrigerator (not freezer) or on a sunny window shelf.

We recommend a sterile, very light seed starting mixture which contains no added fertilizer. Seeds, like bulbs, come with their own food source; you don't want to overfeed and develop leggy growth; you want hearty, sturdy plants.

A plastic cover will keep them moist but not overwatered. Seedlings want loose, light soil in which to spread their tender roots; they want moisture but not wetness, which will encourage damping off.

Moisten your planting medium initially, and set the seed in no more than ¼ inch deep. Tomato seeds will emerge in 7-10 days. Once the true leaves appear, you can feed them with a watered-down dose of seaweed fertilizer. At nighttime, keep the seed beds covered but lift the cover on sunny days and definitely once the plants reach this covering.

A late February to early March seed starting date will produce plants 6-8 weeks before the last frost

of the season, and thus in time to set out in the garden. The sweet pepper seed should probably be held off for an additional two weeks, as these plants are even more vulnerable to cold temperatures.

Have fun with experimenting and don't stress. While this method, if successful, allows you to choose from many varieties, if it proves disappointing, there will be plenty of locally produced plants to buy and set out later.

More dates to remember for sure signs of spring:

March 4-19: The splendors of the Spring Bulb Show at the Lyman Greenhouse at Smith College.

March 12: Daylight Savings Time resumes.

Poor Punxsutawney Phil notwithstanding, according to the Old Farmer's Almanac, the balance of winter should be on the mild side, and any snow will be wet and followed by rain. And remember, any snow that does fall will be "Poor Man's Fertilizer" and a grand start to the upcoming garden season.

Good health, strong sun and happy gardening to all!

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Lisa McLoughlin, editor

The Vernal Equinox Approaches

By JENNIFER BENNETT and LISA MCLOUGHLIN

Vernal Equinox in the Northern hemisphere – that's us, above the equator – falls on Monday, March 20 this year. It is one of two times in the year when the number of hours of daylight and of darkness are equal, because the sun crosses directly over the equator.

Relative to us, the sun doesn't actually move, we do, but because Earth is on a tilt, our orientation to the sun changes as we orbit during the year. In our winter here in the northern hemisphere, the southern hemisphere is the one oriented toward the sun and getting more light. At equinox, our equator is oriented

directly to the sun so sunlight falls equally on both hemispheres. Thereafter, we in the northern hemisphere get more sun, and our days become longer and warmer.

Thus, vernal equinox signals the beginning of our spring, when our hemisphere turns toward the sun and we receive more and more sunlight each day. The opposite is happening in the southern hemisphere as they enter winter, turning away from the sun and receiving less sunlight.

On spring equinox and autumnal equinox, the sun will rise due East and set due West. These are the only days it does this, because it's right over the equator. The sun will appear to rise farther North every

day until Summer Solstice (sun-stand-still) and then start journeying back south, cross the equator again on Autumnal Equinox (rising east-west), keep heading south until Winter solstice (sun-stand-still), then start heading North again.

Many earth-based spiritual traditions have stone structures that mark the equinox and religious holidays that correspond with it. A look at some of the modern-day celebrations coming out of the indigenous traditions of Old Europe show that the Spring Equinox is a time to celebrate Ostara (or Eostre).

What better time of year to have a celebration about the returning of the light and heat and warmth of the sun? A time to celebrate the fertility of the Earth, now beginning to get ready to "birth" the seeds that will be sown into it in the warmer months to come.

Bunnies, chicks, eggs...all fertility symbols of the rich growth the Earth is capable of when it warms up (after its winter time of fallowness to rest and rejuvenate). The colors of yellow (the returning sun) and pinks and purples (spring

flowers) and greens (grass and buds) are all used symbolically by many religious traditions this time of year.

Many traditions use this time to get back outside and renew their connections to the Earth. Some, literally, "tap" (touch) the trees to "wake them up." Personally, it can be a time to weigh what is important to you for

the coming growth season.

What will you give weight to when the balance shifts from the fallow dark time – when you've been resting and rejuvenating – to the time of more light and growth? What do you no longer need and what do you need to work towards? Ostara is a time of hope and new beginnings.



UMass Sunbeet at the vernal equinox, March 20, 2007.

JUDITH YOUNG PHOTO

Interest in "Green" Burial Grows...

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

FRANKLIN COUNTY – The aim of green burial is to make the decomposition of human remains more earth-friendly. This return to more traditional burial practices eliminates vaults, steel or hardwood coffins, and embalming, all of which keep the body from decomposing. Instead, bodies are wrapped in shrouds or placed in wood, reed, or cardboard coffins that decompose naturally.

Green burial has the potential additional benefit of returning more control over the burial process to families. While the number of traditional funeral homes that know about and are willing to assist with green burial is growing, it is still usually the deceased's family and friends who orchestrate the burial.

Help is available from Green Burial Massachusetts, and from a growing number of home funeral guides who will shepherd the family through the process. "We're happy to help in any way we can," says Carol Coan of Green Burial Massachusetts (GBM). "As well, there are a number of home funeral guides in this area, most of whom can also provide guidance with green burial."

Adds Judith Lorei, also of GBM, "We encourage people who are interested in a green burial to do their research ahead of time. Over the last 10 years, we have helped many people by answering their questions and providing them with resources and information about their options."

A list of Massachusetts cemeteries that currently allow green burial and other resources for creating a green burial are available at greenburialma.org.

In our area, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust is partnering with Green Burial Massachusetts to purchase or have donated a piece of land

suitable for a green burial cemetery. Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust and the nonprofit GBM held a green burial informational session in January in Greenfield. "We see Green Burial as a way to combine land conservation with the community's expressed desire for more natural burials," says Jay Rasku, community conservation director at Mount Grace. "With this project, we can provide those who choose natural burials the opportunity to use their final act to protect the natural world and inspire future generations to make respectful use of it."

Criteria for a green cemetery are flexible, but Mount Grace's preferred site would be a minimum of 10 acres with flat areas suitable for burial, i.e. not too rocky, not too wet, with less than a 15% grade, and easy access to a road. If you have such a piece of land available please contact Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust: mountgrace.org.

Disclosure: The author serves on the board of the Mount Grace Land Trust.

The Science of Green Burial

The Green Burial Council has prepared a comprehensive document to explain what happens during decomposition, and why green burial is more ecologically sound. This section largely contains material excerpted from it. Read the 12 page document in full at greenburialcouncil.org.

Death and Decomposition

Decomposition begins just after death. Brain activity stops and body temperature drops about 1.6 degrees Fahrenheit per hour until reaching ambient temperature. Cells begin to die due to lack of oxygen, and micro-organisms (bacteria, viruses, fungi) start the putrefaction (decay, rotting) process after about 3 days, as proteins turn into gasses and acids, and carbohydrates into sugars.

Other physical changes that naturally occur after death include:

Rigor mortis, the build up of calcium in the muscles which lasts about 1.5 days and then releases, causing the body to relax and expel any waste it was holding in.

Skin shrinkage, which makes it look like hair and nails keep growing.

Skin discolorations, which occur for 3 reasons: gravity pulling the blood down, enzymes in organs digesting themselves, and bacteria digesting the body.

The amount of time it takes for a body to decompose pre-burial depends on the temperature that surrounds it, the cause of death, size of the body and its general condition, and the presence of predators or not. Keeping the body cool – at 65 degrees Fahrenheit or less – and clean can preserve it for up to eight days, delaying the putrefaction process.

After interment (burial), decomposition time depends on water, soil, and if any embalment (preserving) measures were taken. In general, if a body is left at 50 degrees Fahrenheit, it will take about four months for all the soft tissue to decompose, leaving just a skeleton.

Do Bodies Pose a Health Risk?

Basically, no, unless they were infected with some potent disease – the plague, for example, or Creutzfeldt-Jakob, or Ebola – or are buried in a way that pollutes sources of drinking water with fecal mater.

Embalming doesn't help in the case of disease; embalming is a cosmetic procedure, not one that protects public health. There is no requirement for embalming in Massachusetts, and the embalming process introduces 4.3 million gallons of toxic chemicals into the earth-water system per year in the US. For the ecologically-minded, this is not a legacy to participate in. The lack of embalming is a key reason that green burial is better for the earth.

What Makes a Burial Green?

In a green cemetery, the body is not embalmed, and not enclosed in a vault or casket that isolates it from the environment. The body and its enclosure (a shroud, basket, cardboard or wooden box) are biodegradable. The organisms in the soil act along with other natural forces of water and insects to decompose the body and whatever it is wrapped in.

Green burials are shallower – closer to the active zone in the soil, and more susceptible to plant roots and temperature changes. Choosing a green burial site involves looking at the soil profiles and choosing places where there would be good decomposition and no water contamination.

Besides the lack of embalming fluid, other ways that green burials are better for the environment include maintenance of the cemetery without herbicides or pesticides; and zero use of concrete, steel, and other products that are energy-intensive to manufacture.

Moon Calendar for March 2017:

<p>Sunday, March 5: First Quarter</p>	<p>Monday, March 20: Last Quarter</p>
<p>Sunday, March 12: Full Moon</p>	<p>Monday, March 27: New Moon</p>

Sky Events Calendar by Fred Espenak and Sumit Dutta (NASA's GSFC).
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MISS STEMPLE RECALLS THE PAST

Part V (June 4, 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.

To work in the Reporter offices was always the ambition of certain types of Turners Falls boys.

There were those who saw no future in the mills or factories, or thought such work too monotonous or confining, or who wanted to learn a trade. Consequently there was usually no dearth of candidates for apprentices at our office while I was there.

Sometimes the boys were brought in by militant or far-sighted fathers or mothers who wanted the genius they felt residing in their offspring to be developed or who felt they were just the timber for editors and newspaper men.

The inducements offered such prospective aspirants or "devils" as they were called, were not particularly rosy: plenty of hard, sometimes dirty work, long hours, and wages of three dollars a week for the first year with a dollar weekly raise the next year.

I recall a long line of devils who passed through the Reporter proving ground. At that time it offered a better preparation for life, was the means of getting a more practical education and was the road to a better future and greater earning power than most local jobs. But not every boy would stand up under its restrictions and requirements.

Those who made good usually turned out top-notchers. The others drifted into other jobs. Each of the devils I knew is indelibly impressed on my memory and each of the 150 or more contributed his bit to the joy or the exasperation of life.

There was Paul, for instance. A little shrimp of a boy with a sharp, wizened face and not too much ca-

capacity for a formal education. He had an insatiable desire to learn everything but he loved to "boss" others and he was always getting into trouble.

How many times he got his fingers nipped in the press because of his habit of staring about instead of keeping his eyes on his work, but always returned after one of the enforced vacations caused by his mashed digits, smiling and without resentment, ready to continue.

His crowning achievement occurred when he was dispatched to deliver a large order of printed matter. It was too far for him to bicycle so "The Boss," in an unguarded moment, allowed him to take his horse and carriage. Paul was sinfully proud of this unusual privilege. He delivered the work all right but afterwards thought he might as well have a little extra stolen pleasure. So he drove along the canal, hailing everyone he passed and "showing off."

Unhappily while Paul's mind was in Seventh Heaven a freight train whistled and snorted by, frightening the horse. Paul lost control and in its fright the horse leaped into the canal, taking the carriage and the boy with it.

Fortunately the steed and its petrified driver were fished unharmed from the water by mill workers. Paul made a highly colored and not wholly truthful report of his adventure to the office but never again did he have the opportunity to drive that horse.

One of the most promising and amusing devils we had was so full of high animal spirits that he could not long be kept down to the prosaic work in hand. Tom was as ef-

fervescent as soda pop and was always playing tricks or getting into mischief.

He was made for action and lacking other diversion during working hours he took a wicked delight, when he thought himself unwatched, in throwing quads out of a side window and trying his marksmanship on the occupants of a poultry yard belonging to a restaurateur directly across the way.

He developed uncommon accuracy in hitting his targets and every so often loud squawks would arise from the poultry yard whenever some unfortunate fowl was hit. How that boy would chuckle at the feathered victim's distress and protests!

Unfortunately Tom got reckless and one day shied out a piece of metal furniture at the most lordly and vociferous rooster in the yard. The bird was felled by the missile but nobody but the perpetrator was aware of what had happened until a while thereafter the restaurateur came dashing up the office stairs with blood in his eye, crying for vengeance and demanding compensation for the defunct rooster he carried as evidence.

Tom admitted his guilt but his delight in putting the bird on the retired list was so evident despite the apology he was compelled to make, that the restaurateur was narrowly restrained from cuffing his ears. Tom promised not to repeat the offense and made monetary restitution.

Some years later he joined the marines and did some shooting in South America. Presumably his skill at target practice while at the Reporter office stood him in good stead then.

DARLING from page B1

items that aren't just clothes here." She hopes folks will visit both her online store and her brick and mortar store, because each has its own inventory of jazz-y items.

But the best part of coming to the shop on Second Street would be chatting with jazz-y Lea Banks about art and fashion and writing while you browse her collection.

There are plans to curate an artist's show every month, as well as holding special readings, workshops, and hosting acoustic music on occasion. Soon, the Domestic Darling will announce a "Spring Fever Card Making Workshop."

The shop will have a Grand Opening event this Saturday, March 4, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. with live music, grand sales, and cupcakes and lemonade.

On Sunday, March 5, the D.D. will launch the first of many art shows. The featured artist is local luminary Trish Crapo, and the reception is from 4 to 6 p.m.

Says Crapo of her "Rumpled Beds" series featured in the show: "I just happen to love the landscape of a bed, especially one made with white sheets, as hotel beds often are, and I have come to use white sheets at home as well. There's often something beautiful about the unintentional compositions that happen when the sheets are tossed aside as you get up."

The landscape of the bed is intimate and sensual, even as most of the beds Crapo photographed happened

to be ones that she slept in alone.

"But," she mused, "isn't sleep itself one of the most sensual of activities? As someone who often struggles to get a good night's sleep, I can say that waking well rested in a clean, white bed is one of the most luxurious experiences there is."

Crapo covers the art scene for the Recorder, and is excited to be the subject of an opening party herself on Sunday. Perhaps she will wear vintage pajamas?

Something fun and surprising will probably pop up at the D.D. on this big weekend of events. If you wear bed clothes – a robe, pajamas, night shirt, or peignoir set – to the "Rumpled Beds" art opening, you will be entered in a surprise drawing, but you will have to come to Second Street and see for yourself what that might be.

Plus, receive 12% off some of D.D.'s selection of lacy pillow cases, "certain" books, etc.

Why 12%? Banks replies, "Why, isn't 12:00 midnight the bewitching hour? And, a contest and a goofy sale might make getting dressed up worthwhile for some people. And, there will be wonderful music on both days."

The Domestic Darling store hours are Sundays from 12 to 5 p.m., Wednesdays from 12 to 6 p.m., and Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and by appointment. Contact advantage3@gmail.com or (413) 325-1987 for more information.



March 3 in Leverett: "Doctrine of Discovery"

The Mt. Toby Peace & Social Concerns Committee presents the documentary film *Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking the Domination Code* this Friday, March 3 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Mt. Toby Meetinghouse, 194 Long Plain Road.

This well-researched film weaves oral and written history and traditional Dakota beliefs together to tell the Dakota story left out of textbooks and now brought into the light by filmmaker Sheldon Wolfchild.

The film examines the US Supreme Court's basis for legal domin-

ion over non-Christian people and points out that the language/code of domination, metaphorically modeled after the Old Testament, is found in fifteenth century Vatican documents. It is this dominating language code which serves as the basis of the religious racism of U.S. federal Indian law and policy to this day.

Peter d'Errico, a long-time attorney and scholar for Indigenous Peoples' legal issues, will introduce the film. Maliseet and Mi'kmaq Grandmother Strong Oak Lefebvre will lead a Talking Circle after the film.

2017 Montague Cultural Council Grant Awards:

MONTAGUE – Montague's Local Cultural Council announces the awarding of 23 grants totaling \$5,310 from funds allocated by the Massachusetts Cultural Council's LCC program. The diversity of requests for funding this year was terrific! There were 36 applications this year and requests totaled almost \$15,000, so we had to make some difficult decisions and could only partially fund some requests. Grants were awarded to:

Musica Franklin, to help fund transportation for an after school musical education program for low-income children in Franklin County.

Laura Rodley, for a writing program for local elders that will culminate with the publication of *As You Write It, Volume VI*.

Racial Justice Rising, in support of their monthly program series, which takes place the first Saturday morning of each month at the First Congregational Church in Greenfield.

Beverly Phelps, to be used for documentation of Montague's public art for the New England Museum of Public Art, a project of the

Deerfield Valley Art Association.

Suzanne LoManto, to support Turners Falls RiverCulture's "Music & Diversity III" (dates and locations to be determined).

Meadowedge Art, for "Readers as Artists," in which readers aged 11 to 14 create sculptures of characters from their favorite books. October 2016 through June 2017 in various locations including the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls.

Hilltown Families, to support their online community-based education network and their weekly compilation of suggested learning and cultural events in the region.

Makerspace Workshops, for a 3D Design and Printing program held during February school vacation week, on Friday, February 24 at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls.

Jeanne Douillard, who will present "Silent Presence: The French in New England" at the Great Falls Discovery Center on March 4, 2017.

The Franklin County Technical School Drama Club, for their spring production, which will be staged March 10 and 11, 2017 at

the Shea Theater.

Janet Diani, for a 12-week workshop running from March through May 2017. "Getting in touch with your Inner Creativity" will be held at the Montague Catholic Social Ministries Women's Center.

The Mary Lyon Foundation, in support of April 11 and 12 public talks by Luis Alberto Urrea who is a featured author of the NEA Big Read grant for his novel "Into the Beautiful North".

Deer Paths Nature School, to support an imaginative musical celebrating the Connecticut River that will be performed at The Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls (date to be determined).

Piti Theatre Company, for their May 2017 production of "Just This," a solo physical comedy performance at the Shea Theater and a post-show workshop on non-verbal communication and creative problem-solving.

Matthew Duncan, to support "Good Music Makes Good Neighbors," a day of musical performances at homes in Montague Center, May 20.

Amy Eichorn, in support of

Sheffield Elementary School fourth grade class field trip to the Boston Science Museum in June.

Montague Public Libraries, to bring Angela Roell of Yard Birds Farm for a two-part program on honeybees and their importance to our food system. (Dates to be determined.)

Co-op Concerts, in support of Thursday evening concerts throughout the summer at the Greenfield Energy Park.

Silverthorne Theater Company, for their June 22 through August 5 summer season featuring three productions at the Arts Block in Greenfield.

Roger Tincknell, for an interactive community concert at the Gill-Montague Senior Center. (Summer date to be determined.)

Nolumbeka Project to support the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival to be held August 5 at Unity Park in Turners Falls.

Linda McNerney, for the "New Vaudeville Holiday Spectacular" that took place at the Shea Theater December 16 through 18, 2016.

DeCamera Singers, who per-

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Peter Blood and Annie Patterson of Rise Up Singing will perform at the Great Falls Coffeehouse on Friday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m.

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.

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAY

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

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

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

FIRST THURSDAYS

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

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

2nd AND 4TH THURSDAY

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

EVERY FRIDAY

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

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.

FIRST SATURDAY MONTHLY

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

Montague Common Hall: Mon-

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

EXHIBITS:

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

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.

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. Reception, Saturday, March 11, 4 to 6 p.m. Music: Blue Moon Trio. Through April. Also, Lower Gallery: *Mohawk Trail Middle & High School Visual Arts Showcase*. Through April.

Sawmill River Arts Gallery: *Guest Exhibit by Lana Fiala*, featuring recent paintings focusing on children. Reception Saturday, March 12. Through April 2.

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

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

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

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

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

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *It's Kiddleidoscope!* This week it's squirrels. See Friday, On-Going Events for details. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

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

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

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Babe*. 1995; best Australian pig movie ever! Family film. Oscar

winning special effects. Movie at 7:30. Music by *Whistlestop* at 7 p.m. \$

Great Falls Coffeehouse, Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Rise Up and Sing*. Peter Blood and Annie Patterson perform and lead songs from their new songbook, *Rise Again*. Donations support Discovery Center's children's nature activities. 7:30 p.m. \$

Underdog Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *The Butterfly Effect with Pan Morigan and John Caban*. "Bent blues, green jazz, and other Americanismos." 7:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

GCC Dining Commons, Greenfield: *Artspace's 30th Annual Pottery Seconds and More* 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Silent Presence - The French in New England*, presented by Jeanne Douillard, one of the contributors to *Building a Better Life: The French-Canadians in Western Massachusetts*. 1 to 2 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Babe*. 1995; best Australian pig movie ever! Family film. Oscar winning special effects. Movie at 7:30. Music by *The Old Swanabees* at 7 p.m. \$

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Dale Reynolds*. "From folky/rocked/alt/country land." 8 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 6

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quiz Night*. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

Full Circle School, Bernardston: *Full Circle School History Fair!* Students portray scientists and inventors. 5:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Doug Plavin All Stars* with special guest *Richard Chase*. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

It's Kiddleidoscope! This week it's coyotes. See Friday, On-Going Events for details. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Sloan Theater, GCC, Greenfield: *Morning and Evening*, GCC Cho-

rus spring semester concert series preview. 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Afro-Reggae All Stars*. 9 p.m.

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ANCESTORS from page B1
 across the world, and resulting in the death of three to five percent of the world's population (50-100 million people). According to Wikipedia, "Most influenza outbreaks disproportionately kill juvenile, elderly, or already weakened patients; in contrast, the 1918 pandemic predominantly killed previously healthy young adults.... Another oddity was that the outbreak was widespread in the summer and autumn (in the Northern Hemisphere); when influenza is usually worse in winter."

Jessie was widowed in 1939 and died in 1959 with no surviving children or grandchildren. The long and short of it, is Jessie (Moore) Korn was my great-great-aunt. She and my great-grandfather James Debro Martin were cousins. According to a very sketchy family tree, Jessie's mother Martha Jane Moore was one of six children of a Quaker named John Moore (possibly married to a woman whose last name was Frey).

Another daughter, Lucinda Moore, married Andrew J. Martin and their son was James Debro Martin (no idea whether he had any siblings). James Martin married Matilda Didrikson whose parents were Norwegian immigrants. They had two daughters - Grace and Hazel (Hazel was my grandmother).

Apparently, some of the family members stayed in touch over the years because the wedding dress found its way to my dad's younger sister Nancy. The 1959 letter is addressed to my Aunt Jane and references the "box" she sent to Nancy

in Rochester (NY).

Ida details the births, deaths, and marriage of Jessie and Lewis as well as their daughter Bernice. When Nancy died of intestinal cancer in 1966 apparently the "box" made its way to Jane. After Jane passed, it went to Betty who eventually sent it to me more than 40 years later.

There was a brief mention of spoons and dishes as if Jane had been searching for some family heirlooms, and a reference to Mrs. Raymond Smith who may or may not know something about said dishes.

Fortunately, I kept the package from my Aunt Betty intact and with Lyn's prompting finally took a close look at its contents. The letter that accompanied the wedding dress was dated June 10, 1959 and came from Ida Thomas of Minneapolis - I have no idea who she might be (possibly a neighbor or cousin), but she was 77 years old at the time she wrote it.

Given the beautiful workmanship of the garments and my passion for fiber arts, I'm surprised I didn't take a closer look when they first arrived! The incredibly delicate, child-size hand crocheted white gloves are in excellent shape, with the exception of some yellowing of the elastic crocheted into the inner wrist to enhance their fit.

The wedding dress is a remarkable example of stitchery, and was undoubtedly quite fashionable in its day; it consists of a finely woven wool jacket and skirt. A myriad of tiny hooks fasten the jacket up the front but rather than the "eyes" we're used to seeing in this day and

age, the hooks are tiny hand stitched loops. This front closure is covered with an exquisitely detailed silk and lace 'collar' that extends from the neck to the waist.

Typical of the 1890s, the skirt is a gored A-line, fitting very trimly in the front. There is a fair amount of gathering in the back, but by that time women were happy to lose the bustle I'm sure. The jacket is well fitted with strips of boning, and it was likely worn with a corset to keep the waist tiny.

Apparently, with an eye to enhancing the desired hourglass shape, sleeves began to grow as the bustle diminished. The jacket sleeves were typical of the leg o'mutton style with a large pleated upper arm and tightly fitted lower arm.

Sometimes the past lies dormant for decades, even centuries, only to poke us when we least expect it, and remind us that something precious rests in our attic, waiting to tell us a story once we have dusted it off. Jessie Moore could never have imagined that her wedding dress would end up in a small New England town in her great grand niece's attic, now admired by many. "So tiny," we exclaim of the waist, the gloves. "Look at the workmanship!" we cry. "It must not go back into the attic," we warn. "It needs to be preserved and protected for future generations." And we wonder, what other treasures will be brought out into the light from Anne's attic? Perhaps they will appear in Family Treasures, Part II. Stay tuned!

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