



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

YEAR 15 – NO. 29

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 4, 2017

A Message of Unity



MIKE JACKSON PHOTOS

Around 125 marchers took to Avenue A Monday morning in a show of support for Turners Falls' small immigrant community.

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – It was a mild, overcast Monday morning, but something new was happening downtown. Children who might otherwise have been at school, and adults who might otherwise have been at work, began to gather at ten o'clock at Peskeomskut Park, all on a rumor that they had heard just the previous night or that morning: people had decided to march right here in town for the strike, *la huelga*, the Day Without Immigrants.

As the small knot of people on the sidewalk doubled, and then doubled again, excitement grew. There were signs: handmade ones bearing slogans like "Unidad," "Stop the Deportations – Keep Families Together," and "No Wall, No ICE." There was a giant, painted banner calling for "Freedom of Movement for All." And there were drums.

Pretty soon, 130 people were marching together on the sidewalk, headed up Avenue A toward the Discovery Center, and the drums and cowbells were echoing off the brick buildings, luring curious onlookers.

"I thought it was going to be a few people," says Neida Berdugo of Avenue A. "I wasn't expecting to see all of this. It feels really nice to see that we're not alone."

Neida, who was young when she came to the United States from Mexico, grew up in town, moved to Georgia, and then returned three years ago to raise her children in community with her extended family.

"My legal situation right now is good," Neida says, "but it's not the same for the rest of my family... They've been feeling scared. They can't have their normal life like they

used to, before."

Transportation, she explains, is a major problem: "All of them need to drive to work, and they feel that it's not safe to do it anymore," she says, because many are unable to get drivers' licenses. "But eventually they're going to end up driving, because you can't have someone drive you back and forth to work every day."



Bearing a message, while riding in style.

Overnight Notice

Like many others, Latinos in Turners Falls were caught by surprise last November by the election of a president who had campaigned on promises to hire thousands of new immigration enforcement officers, reverse federal programs such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, detain and deport millions of residents, build an enormous wall along the

see MESSAGE page A5

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

AG Ends Drug Box Investigation, With "Maddeningly Terse" Statement

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Massachusetts Attorney General's office investigation into the Montague Police Department's management of a drop box for used prescription drugs has been officially closed. According to a press release issued by the Montague Selectboard at its May 1 meeting: "No charges or complaints have been issued that would indicate any wrongdoing on the part of the Town of Montague, its Police Department, or its personnel."

The state's investigation into the drug drop box, located at the public safety complex on Turnpike Road, was initiated last June. On advice of town counsel, the town briefly suspended police chief Chip Dodge pending a posted meeting of the Montague Selectboard

to discuss the state investigation.

Dodge was immediately reinstated after the selectboard met with him in executive session. But the drop box program was suspended by the Northwest District Attorney's Office due to the investigation – as was Montague's participation in a regional anti-crime task force.

In a telephone interview, town administrator Steve Ellis said he felt the one-sentence statement by the Attorney General was "maddeningly terse." It gave no indication of the concerns that prompted the initial investigation, the source of the initial complaints about the management of the drop box, or the evidence that was gathered by state investigators.

However, according to Monday's selectboard statement, last August, two months

see MONTAGUE page A7

Wendell Re-Elects Keller

By REPORTER STAFF

Dan Keller, a five-term incumbent member of the Wendell selectboard, faced down a challenge Monday from Ray DiDonato, 183 votes to 132.

Town clerk Gretchen Smith told the Reporter that the turnout of 319 votes, representing 44% of the town's registered voters, was "nearly twice the usual figure," and that election workers were "busy all day." "There was no way we could guess at the outcome until the tally was complete," she reported.

Write-in candidates Judith Bailey and Anna Rebecca Wetherby won three-year seats on the board of health and school committees, respectively. All other positions were uncontested, and as of Tuesday, Smith was still checking in with the write-in victors for

tree warden and two-year planning committee seats to see if they'd be interested.

The contest for selectboard was the tightest in recent memory, galvanized by debate over the effort to build a townwide broadband internet system.



A custom lawn sign built by the Keller campaign.

Layoffs Planned After G-M Budget Takes Unexpected Hit

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – The Gill-Montague school committee met with superintendent Michael Sullivan on Tuesday to review a bracing set of proposed cuts, following two pieces of recent news that have upended the district's budget.

The final FY'18 budget was approved March 15, and the amount the district is requesting from Montague town meeting this Saturday (and Gill's in early June) will not change. But the committee listened grimly as Sullivan outlined an emergency plan: to freeze spending for the rest of the current year; to reinstitute cuts to paraprofessional staffing they thought they had dodged in March; to scale back physical education at Turners Falls High School; and to combine

the 5th and 6th grade classrooms at Gill Elementary School next year.

Sullivan said those directly affected by the potential layoffs had already been informed of the situation.

The bad news had two points of origin, both related to special education. The district has learned it will need to cover out-of-district placements for three additional students next year, bringing the total to 12; this will mean an additional \$160,000 or so in costs.

And a state audit of the district's Medicaid reimbursements ruled that a range of services provided by paraprofessionals to students covered by MassHealth are not truly "medical" in nature, and therefore ineligible for coverage.

This loss of insurance money translates to \$130,544 in reduced revenue in the current

see GMRSD page A7

Leverett Votes to Purchase Vehicles, Impeach President

By MIKE JACKSON

At last Saturday's annual town meeting, the people of Leverett came together to discuss and pass the town's budget, approve spending on capital items, tinker with the bylaws, and recommend that the nation's Congress try to impeach the president.

First, they affirmed their own elected officials. Leverett is unique locally in that all candidates for office are nominated and voted on from the open town meeting floor. On Saturday, the process was quick and painless. "This is the first year I can remember where we didn't have a single contested election," moderator Larry Farber observed.

Big Ticket Items

Townpeople heard that a long-running fiscal unknown had been resolved, as a state appeals board had finally ruled on a major tax abatement request made by the Kittredge property.

"It's an amazing, long, convoluted, mysterious process," explained selectboard chair Peter d'Errico. "It could have been worse than it is." The settlement, which valued the estate closer to the town's assessment than not, will increase everyone else's property tax by 29 cents per \$1,000.

Voters endorsed a deal within the Amherst-Pelham school district to dilute the strictly

see LEVERETT page A4



Attorney John Bonifaz argued that Donald Trump is violating the emoluments clauses of the Constitution.

The Montague Reporter

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A Wake Up Call

If it wasn't the mascot, it would have been something else.

That's all we can figure at this point in the game. The town is dissolving into hostile social fragments for all the same reasons for all the same reasons the rest of the country is: everyone has less money than they used to, and less security and less hope for the future, and they don't know why, but they can recognize the corrupting influence of the enemy in their closest neighbors.

The town has been totally taken over by newcomers, first of all – even though its population has only grown about 4 percent over the last 80 years. The lack of social integration is the fault of the newcomers.

The issue of the Turners Falls Indians perfectly illuminated, and then enhanced, an existing social rift. At first glance, this rift was along regular American 1990s-style culture-war lines: liberal versus conservative, irritating versus intimidating, and so on.

But the actual values held at the outset of the controversy by many people who have ended up in opposing camps weren't necessarily that far apart. The vast majority in the "keep" camp are personally opposed to racist discrimination and hatred; they just don't see cultural appropriation or well-meaning stereotypes as being on a continuum with hate speech and genocide.

And they were also around thirty years ago – or twenty years ago, or ten – when many of the "allies" now speaking so sanctimoniously on the issue were a walking, talking earth-tone wave of dreamcatchers, talking sticks, New Age flute music cassettes, backyard teepees and ambiguously tribal sweatshirts.

What the rift has really highlighted is that some people in town are way more tuned in than others to conversations happening mostly elsewhere.

Over the course of the last generation, network television's role in providing a pretty universal shared culture among Americans – or at least a set of reference points most of us could fall back on – has weakened remarkably, first splintering into cable feeds and then giving way to the essentially individual experience of going online.

So it's not immediately obvious when cultural norms shift. In fact, it can be unclear what cultural norms even *are*. But the ways people discuss race and identity still do change over time, just like anything else that evolves through

conversation and experience.

The debate over the Turners Falls Indians didn't come out of nowhere overnight, either. Over decades, many had a growing sense that it was becoming old-fashioned and impolite. The actual mascots (dress-up and goof-off and dance-around mascots) disappeared a long time ago, and step by step, the images and even the name itself quietly disappeared from uniforms and paraphernalia.

And a lot of folks recognized back in 2009 that the ban on the Tomahawk Chop was a dress rehearsal for finally having the real conversation – that's why there was pushback, and that's why the alumni and boosters' deliberate use of the old logo started to gain the resonance of rebellion.

The polarization in town since September has been fierce, and if we can be honest, terrible. Some in the "anti-mascot" camp seem to think their opponents are all Donald Trump supporters, but they should remember that this town cast nearly three times as many votes for Clinton as Trump in the general election – and over six times as many for Bernie Sanders in the primary.

No, at this point in the process they have been out-organized in the court of popular opinion by an angrier, better-networked base.

There are much bigger problems in the town, and much bigger ones in the school district. The fact that developments outside of the control or purview of the administration (*see page A1*) can knock the budget into layoff territory virtually overnight is proof of this.

Continued poking at the mascot rift, announcing it can and should be healed through dialogue, agonizing over whether it is more moral to participate in or boycott a non-binding referendum – none of this will do anything to fix the problem here, which is the real and valid anger people feel over having become dependent on a culturally alien administrative class.

If it continues, they will cannibalize the district and town alike, rallying behind those that promise revenge while entirely missing the bigger picture: that schools in rural, working-class towns – just like those in poor urban neighborhoods – will never be handed the resources to give kids the educations they deserve.

Montague should be taking that fight to the state. Can you imagine if both camps threw their weight into the Rural School Coalition?



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Tammy Ketcham and Brian Diemand take a break from their duties at the Diemand Farm Store to pose for the Montague Reporter.

Letters to the Editors

Re-Elect Brown

After watching the recent GMRSD School Committee Candidates' Forum (available at vimeo.com/214180761), I am writing to endorse Sandy Brown for re-election to the Gill seat.

Ms. Brown's experience and dedication to the district set her clearly apart from the challenger, who seemed well-meaning and helpful but didn't seem to know much about the district beyond its sports programs. I was struck by the fact that he hasn't previously volunteered for the district, and therefore would be going in cold and learning on the job. There are times and places for fresh faces and new blood, but I don't think this election is one of them.

GMRSD has come out of some very difficult times and is still facing serious challenges, but it also has recently stabilized its administrative team and has made real progress in building the foundation for a sustainable future. Sandy Brown has been a positive force during all of this, and I think she will be a key player in keeping the progress on track.

In this election, I believe knowledge and experience matter. I urge voters in Gill and Montague to join me in voting to re-elect Sandy Brown on May 15.

Sincerely,

Mike Naughton
Millers Falls

Yes on Article 45

Montague Town Meeting members will have the opportunity on May 6 to vote on Warrant Article 45.

Why vote yes?

Why not! This is a non-partisan resolution that provides our state and federal legislators with a mandate from the citizens of Montague that we want legislative reform to end the influence of big money in our political system.

By voting yes, Montague will join other communities across the state (at least 30 towns are also considering this resolution in their Town Meetings) and across the country to demand legislation that makes it illegal for politicians to take campaign donations from lobbyists, that requires disclosure of campaign contributions so that donors can't hide behind Super PACs that pay to influence elections, and that puts an end to gerrymandering.

We urge our Town Meeting Members to vote "yes" to Warrant Article 45, because legislative reforms that address the negative impact of big money in politics can ensure the future of our democracy.

Leigh Rae,
John Lentz,
Jackie Lucchesi
Montague

Scammers Are Afoot

This letter is intended for anyone receiving a check from Publishers Clearing House with a letter that asks you to call a number. If the person answering the phone tells you to take the check to the bank and deposit it but do *not* show the letter to the bank, then you know this is a scam.

While I was positive it was, I chose to take it to the bank and had them check it out. The bank the check was from was real but the numbers on the check were not. If I had deposited it, they would have had access to what little money I had.

A week later, the bank told me they

had another customer come in with a check just like mine. They checked it out and it was also a scam.

That same week on Facebook, a mother told everyone that her daughter had received a check like it, and she listened to the letter and took the check and deposited it into her account. All the money from her account, and her son's account, was taken. Her son's was taken because her name was on it. She will eventually get her money back, but things will not be easy until then.

So, as much as you would like to win big bucks, be very careful.

He even told me I had won the \$600,000, and asked if I wanted it in one lump sum or in monthly payments. Did I want people coming to my house, or have it in the paper that I had won the money?

Anyone else out there who received one of these checks? It happened to me, and the others, in February.

Be aware and be smart. If it sounds too good to be true, more than likely it is.

Darlene B. Clark
Greenfield

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

The **Turners Falls Fish Ladder** opens for the season on Wednesday, May 10, and continues through Sunday, June 18. Public viewing hours are Wednesdays through Sundays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The facility is closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

All are welcome to celebrate Cinco de Mayo this Friday at the Greenfield Savings Bank branch in Turners Falls, from 1 p.m. until the food runs out. There will be different “heat” monitors involving salsa and of course, nachos. Stop by for a sample in the Bank’s lobby while conducting your financial transactions.

And the next morning – Saturday, May 6 – return to the bank to **fly the friendly skies of Franklin County**, with Ed Gregory in the cockpit. Come along for a flight down memory lane without even leaving your seat, as Ed takes you on an interactive video presentation.

Your plane will take off at the “airport” in South Deerfield, and cruise over numerous aerial views of Turners Falls back in 1954! Only Gregory can enter a time warp allowing you,

his passengers, to view local locations which no longer exist. Just be ready for loops and barrel rolls. Held at the bank’s Turners Falls branch, 282 Avenue A, with light refreshments courtesy of the bank. Take-off is promptly at 10 a.m.

The Franklin County Solid Waste District is holding its **Spring “Clean Sweep” Bulky Waste Recycling Day** this Saturday, May 6, from 9 a.m. to noon. The three drop-off sites are: the Buckland Recreation Facility, at 66 Ashfield Road; the Northfield Highway Garage, at 49 Caldwell Road; and the Whately Transfer Station, at 73 Christian Lane.

Residents from any District town may bring bulky items such as tires, appliances, scrap metal, furniture, mattresses, carpeting, construction debris, computers, televisions, propane gas tanks, and other large items.

There are charges for most items. Disposal fees, cash only, will be collected during check-in at each site. A complete list of prices for the most common items is online at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org. For more information contact the Dis-

trict office at info@franklincountywastedistrict.org or (413) 772-2438.

Love to be outside? Love to paint or draw? Join other *plein-air* enthusiasts and instructor Tom Kellner for this free workshop along the Millers River, behind the Athol Public Library, from 10 to noon on Saturday, May 6.

Sponsored by the Millers River Watershed Council and the Athol Public Library. For more information, email tomkellner12@gmail.com. You are also invited to enter the Plein-Air Contest (and Show) coming in early June. See details on the MRWC website www.millerswatershed.org.

Ready for a search through the **Barton Cove woods**, as they come alive with spring? On Saturday, May 6 from 1 to 4 p.m., families and adults will hand-carve stamps and use them to leave their mark at a **quest box, letterbox, and geocache**.

There are thousands of boxes hidden in sweet spots around the world, and the basics of how to get started hunting each type will be shared. This might be the start of a new way to find some of the most beautiful places you have ever discovered, and keep your family motivated to explore even more!

Walking over a mile on rocky, uneven terrain is part of the fun. Long pants and sleeves and closed toed shoes will keep participants free from bugs and branches. Bring water and snacks to fuel the fun.

This free public program is appropriate for ages 8 and older. Please call to pre-register at 1(800) 859-2960.

Franklin Tech Athletics is hosting a trivia competition at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 12 at St. Kaz, Avenue A, Turners Falls. Grab a crew of up to eight, and enjoy a night of multiple rounds of wits and will.

Winners take home cash. You can bring your own food, and drinks will be available. There’s a \$10 per person entry fee – just show up, and be ready to throw down.

On Saturday, May 13 the letter carriers will conduct their annual **non-perishable food drive**. Locally collected food will benefit the Survival Center and the Center for Self-Reliance Food Pantry. Donations should be placed in paper or plastic bags and left near your mailbox. No glass of any sort, and no frozen or perishable foods, please.

Enjoy “Spring Celebration,” a party at Sawmill River Arts Gallery, on Saturday, May 13, from noon to 6 p.m. Live music by local musicians, artist demonstrations, refreshments, raffle basket, refreshments. Indoors and outdoors under tents. Held at The Montague Mill, the “Book Mill,” at 440 Greenfield Road.

For more information, see www.sawmillriverarts.com or call (413) 367-2885.

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Another Letter to the Editors

Yes on Article 47

It is imperative that Montague join hands with other Massachusetts communities, and take a step back from a federal program that requires local police agencies expel resources to detain undocumented individuals living in town before turning them over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers.

Article 47 – a town version of the proposed statewide Trust Act – will not only help protect immigrants, but all Montague citizens. By breaking down barriers to cooperation and allowing police to allocate their limited resources more productively, the town will be able to enhance the efficacy of our local law enforcement, and maintain the fabric of our community.

Ponzi schemes directed at immigrant communities, women who have been sexually assaulted, men and women harmed – and many of these people haven’t been able to pick up a telephone to call the police? This is not a secure community.

The data available on the ICE detainer program confirms that the majority of those detained and deported under the program have no criminal convictions. This destroys the important relationship residents should have with the police.

The Trust Act will uphold the rights of immigrants and maintain public safety, family unity, and due process in our state. With Article 47, the local Trust Act, we send a clear message to our immigrant community that they have friends and neighbors in Montague.

Charles Kelley
Montague

GUEST EDITORIAL

By JOHN HANOLD

With Montague’s municipal election a couple weeks away, I thought I’d share a Q & A piece from an article I read recently:

Question: *How does a leader balance being “responsive” with being “responsible”?*

Answer: *You might think that being responsive means to make a decision based on your own best judgment, and that you can do that without being responsive to those you lead. But it’s actually very important that before the decision is made, a leader hears those voices that might be calling out for a kind of outcome he or she hadn’t thought of.*

On the other hand, you can be so responsive that you don’t make the best decision, because of a concern about trying to satisfy incompatible constituent groups.

This raises the familiar dilemma “on the one hand” vs. “on the other hand,” which voters cannot avoid: put simply, we elect members to our Selectboard, School Committee and Town Meeting in the hope that they will be *responsive* to us (within reason) and *responsible* (without abandoning their role).

A government, whether municipal, state, national or international, cannot be effective if it acts only in response to polling results. When we elect our officials we place reliance on their good judgment, because we cannot anticipate every decision they will face and do not wish to live under a government by a succession of referenda.

Governance in Montague

On the other hand (there it is!), we do not want our opinions to be forgotten or ignored, since we are the ones ultimately affected by their decisions.

So, we want the opportunity to express ourselves, even when we expect the officials to finally take action themselves.

An obvious channel for “responsiveness” is contested elections – they give voters a chance to weigh alternative approaches and consider how each contestant may include voter opinions. But just as important is the chance to probe the “good judgment” of candidates, to consider if they will act “responsibly” in situations where a straw vote is impractical.

A three-year term deserves broad, even-handed intelligence, and a sense that public service should advance the welfare of the entire public.

As I approach this election I will certainly look at what specific skills a position requires, and where a candidate stands on known issues.

But even more important to me is a candidate’s judgment and commitment to perform the full scope of the job. Will she attend to more than a single issue that motivated her to run? Will he act responsibly to serve the town’s best interests, even when it’s difficult to weigh what they are?

I probably don’t agree 100% with anyone I’ve voted for, but the ones I respect and support the most are the ones who bring *all* of their heart and mind to *all* of the demands of the job.

John Hanold is a Precinct 5 town meeting member, and serves on the Montague finance committee.

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Funding for this program provided by a USDOL-
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LEVERETT from page A1

enrollment-based formula by which member towns are assessed their shares with a 10% use of the state’s “statutory” formula, which takes income into account, an idea Shutesbury has been pushing for.

“This is a pretty decent compromise,” said Tom Powers of the fin com. “It gives Shutesbury a little bit of what they’re arguing for.”

Amherst-Pelham superintendent Mike Norris spoke on behalf of the article. “I think it’s fair and gets us through another year,” he said, adding that a committee was working on a long-term solution to the dispute.

Leverett’s FY’18 town budget, which includes a 1.1% cost of living increase for all non-school employees, and an average 2% hike in department budgets, is 1.7% higher than this year’s. The entire town budget took 20 minutes to review and pass.

Hoses and Pipes

It took 19 minutes, though, to accede to the police department’s request for a new cruiser.

“Is there any other comparative town, this size, that has three police cruisers?” asked Tom Wolf. Police chief Scott Minckler replied that Gill and Buckland both kept three.

The vehicle the department hoped to retire only has about 120,000 miles on it, Minckler said, but police cars must be left idling for their radios and lights to work, putting a load on the motor equivalent to 33 miles per hour and effectively doubling wear and tear.

Don Robinson asked Minckler if he would look into hybrid vehicles, and Minckler said he wasn’t opposed to the idea outright, as sturdier ones from trusted makers may be coming onto the market in coming years.

Wesley Goscenski of the capital planning committee explained that the cruiser, along with a new one-ton highway truck and a new fire rescue vehicle, were all part of a carefully vetted capital plan. All three were approved.

The matching grant for a fire tanker truck approved the previous year did not come through, and so the money set aside for it was spent Saturday on a brush truck, gas meters, fire hose, and helmets.

In other fire suppression news, poor design of the elementary school’s sprinkler system causes moisture to pool in the sprinkler heads, which could rust them out and trigger the entire reservoir to unload – a catastrophe that happened three

years earlier at significant cost to the town’s insurer, who might not pay out in the case of a repeat occurrence as, according to Principal Margot Lacey, the building is no longer in compliance with code.

As the meeting was being held in the school auditorium, voters looked nervously over their heads at the suspect pipework and agreed to spend \$27,950 from free cash on a new dry sprinkler system.

Affordable Housing

Seven articles were related to the town’s Community Preservation Act Fund. Community Preservation commissioner Laurie Brown said that about \$800,000 had accumulated in the Fund, and there were proposals on the warrant to spend out about a third of that sum.

Selectboard chair Peter d’Errico, criticizing the commission’s rejection of an application to rehabilitate the Field Memorial Library, said his board had “questions about that process, and the amount of money that’s just being held as if it belongs to the committee, rather than the town.”

Brown replied that her commission was unanimous in its decision that the proposal in question was “not quite yet ready” to approve, but suggested it could be by next year.

Voters approved awarding \$10,000 of the money to the Leverett Trails Committee, which gave a well-received presentation on their volunteer work putting bridges, signs and benches out there in the woods. They plan to spend it on supplies over the next five years.

Another \$2,542 went to putting up eleven signs warning visitors of entry to North Leverett, Moore’s Corner, and East Leverett, the town’s registered but unmarked historic districts.

But the lion’s share was approved for two programs that seek to cut the high cost of living in Leverett for moderate-income families: the Homeownership Assistance Program (\$150,000) and Down-Payment Assistance Program (\$100,000). Clocking in at 34 minutes, these items together drew the most conversation, query and debate of any topic Saturday.

Ken Kahn and Barbara Carulli of the Affordable Housing Trust, which administers the two programs, explained them and fielded questions. The Down-Payment Assistance Program is a first-come, first-served zero-interest loan to help qualifying applicants buy homes valued at under \$280,000, the median price.

The Homeownership program is conducted by lottery, and lends up to \$50,000 or 20% of a house’s cost.

Andrew Young delivered a testimony intended to “make this real” for voters: as a business owner, employer, and long-term renter in town, his family was seeking to buy a home in order to be able to stay; they had just put in a pending application for a down payment. “I support the program, even if I can’t make it work for myself,” he said.

Both articles passed.

Non-Binding Articles

The town zoning bylaws were amended to shift the responsibility over granting special permits, previously held by the planning board, to the zoning board of appeals, and to make it easier to build small ground-mounted solar arrays, up to 9 feet in height, and accessory apartments, up to 1,200 square feet.

After lunch, a lunchtime climate vigil, and some assorted “house-keeping” articles, the warrant came to its climax: three non-binding resolutions endorsing the impeachment of Donald Trump by the Congress, the use of 100% renewable energy by the town, and the implementation of single-payer health insurance throughout the state of Massachusetts.

Amherst-based attorney John Bonifaz was recognized by the moderator, at the request of petitioner Katie Costa. He presented a brief case for calling on Congress to investigate an impeachment case against Trump, “in light of the direct and ongoing violations of the two anti-corruption provisions in the Constitution: the foreign emoluments clause and domestic emoluments clause.”

Bonifaz said that Trump had “defied the Constitution and rule of law from the moment he took the oath of office,” as he continued to receive financial benefit from state and foreign governments through his business empire. “New York State alone, since 1980, has provided over \$885 million in tax breaks to the Trump organization,” Bonifaz reported as an example of “regulatory actions that benefit his company.”

Leverett would follow Richmond, Berkeley and Alameda, California, as well as Charlotte, Vermont and Cambridge, Massachusetts in calling for an impeachment investigation, he said.

Steve Nagy asked if “this” would prevent any president from owning shares in any company that does business anywhere in the world,

and after Bonifaz explained how the current administration has broken from recent practice in firewalling presidents from financial interests via blind trusts, Nagy electrified the room using parliamentary procedure: he called for a count of quorum.

Leverett needs 75 registered voters to constitute a town meeting, and when a head count came up with only 74 – a count that erroneously included one quietly worried out-of-town reporter – gasps filled the auditorium. But another six voters were rounded up, caught either cleaning up from lunch in the cafeteria or attempting a getaway in the parking lot, and the show was back on.

The impeachment article passed by a boisterous voice vote, followed by a round of applause, and all 79 town voters dutifully stayed put for the final two articles on the warrant: that the town should “avoid taking actions that could increase the use of fossil fuels or delay the transition to 100 percent renewable energy,” and “request that Governor Baker approve Single Payer Healthcare (Improved Medicare for All).”

“Leverett is an amazing town,” said Portia Weiskel of the energy committee, speaking in favor of renewable energy. “I’ve been working on these issues for a long time.... I don’t want to lose our maple trees or maple syrup. The other reason is, people I don’t know, who live all around the world in low-lying areas, are going to suffer immensely,” when the planet’s oceans rise, she said.

The town endorsed the statewide single-payer effort under House Bill 2987 and Senate Bill 619. “Everybody knows that whatever’s going on in Washington is nuts,” said Judy Raphael, who spoke in favor of the article.

“I would truly hope that we all would consider this as an improvement for everybody,” she said. “To have Medicare, that we who are 65 and older are able to enjoy, to have that for everybody who is working – instead of paying this insurance company and that insurance company, and the insurance companies keep raising the rates, and are paying their CEOs these tremendous salaries, and then they get to say ‘no, you can’t have that operation,’ even though it may be life-saving... That won’t happen, as I understand it, with this.”

Both of these notions carried, unanimously, and the 79 holdouts were set free to enjoy one of the most beautiful days of spring.



NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Deeded Easement Impeded As Fence Feud Deepens

By ROB SKELTON

Fire chief John Ingram informed the selectboard of a new repair required for Engine 2, estimated to cost about \$10,000, at its May 2 meeting. Ingram, who says he has a mechanic in mind, is figuring on eight hours each to dismantle and re-assemble, and 16 hours on the fix.

The selectboard looked crestfallen, figuring fire expenses had been dealt with at last Saturday’s annual town meeting.

Board chair Peter d’Errico asked if there was any insurance money available. Board member Julie Shively asked, “Do we have to fix it?”

“Yeah,” said Ingram. The board elected to wait for more details from the chief. Meanwhile, Chief

Tibbetts of local mutual aid partner Shutesbury has been notified.

D’Errico wondered aloud whether Community Preservation Act monies could be applied to “restore a historic fire engine”; everyone laughed.

Town administrator Margie McGinnis took the reins and told the chief she was “not sure how to fund it,” since spending had to be town meeting-approved. She noted that if the repair invoice was dated July 1, the funds could come from the fire department’s budget, which could be replenished at a fall town meeting.

Greg Woodard of Montague Road (also on the fin com), who owns the post office lot next to town hall, is unhappy with the town’s plowing, which has dam-

aged his fence. Two weeks ago he urged the selectboard to fire the highway department employee responsible, without naming names. Now he has blocked access to the town hall rear parking lot, ostensibly to “regrade,” but actually “send a message” to the town, which owns a deeded easement.

D’Errico said he “didn’t want to go to war” over the issue, and urged that Woodard meet with the current and two previous road bosses to resolve it. Current road boss David Finn already met with, and apologized to Woodard, prompting selectman Tom Hankinson to mutter that “David.....took one for the team.”

The annual landfill inspection was conducted by Larry Hanson of the state DEP, accompanied by Han-

kinson and McGinnis. Trees growing in the former dump’s drainage catch basin are to be removed, roots remaining, directive relayed to highway department.

Resident Pat Duffy requested water testing, as she is under the impression the water table has risen at her home due southwest of the former landfill, whose “plume” of underground poisons are under scrutiny by the DEP.

The “Safe Communities Act,” a proposed state law which Pelham has resolved to support, protects the civil rights of immigrants in the wake of Trumpism. Leverett, whose town meeting passed a Trump impeachment citizen petition, seems ready to sign on, supporting tolerance statewide as it has townwide

(by previously directing its police to focus on local, rather than immigration issues).

At Saturday’s town meeting, Hankinson was re-elected to a three-year term on the selectboard.

Longtime assessor Steve Schmidt, at the helm as Leverett overtaxed Yankee Candle titan Mike Kitredge’s “Neverland” estate, only to be slapped down in state tax court, is retiring. Schmidt, a Shutesbury resident, recommends the town outsource assessing by hiring a consultant, as Ashfield has done.

Residents interested in joining the assessors or preventing the outsourcing of local valuations to strangers with statistical analysis programs can contact the selectboard with their opinions on the matter.

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MESSAGE from page A1

border with Mexico, and “make” someone else pay for it.

At a children’s birthday party Sunday night, a number of local families had discussed their plans for May Day – chosen as a nationwide day of action by Movimiento Cosecha, a network that formed after the election with the goal of winning protections for undocumented immigrants.

Marches were planned in Springfield and Northampton, but they decided instead that it would be important to make a statement in their own home. And so the call went out, overnight, that would bring immigrants of varied legal status – citizens, green card holders, those with pending applications for refugee status and those living without papers – together with native-born friends, neighbors and children.

“Each person said, ‘if everyone else goes, I want to go,’” says Sister Rosa, who does missionary work among local Spanish speakers with the Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. “It seems that all the other people who came here today were ready... It was a surprise, but I’ve also been invited to meetings that are trying to work on organizing support for the families, and I have seen that there’s a lot of unity.”

The march was nearly as large as a November 15 rally in support of the Standing Rock Sioux, and it took the same route: up Avenue A to rally in the Discovery Center driveway, across to the town hall, and back down the Avenue to the park. Unlike that day, marchers stuck to the sidewalks, and the supportive honks from passing motorists were fewer and further between.

Back at Peske Park, kids climbed around in the empty water fountain, kicked soccer balls back and forth, and visited the play equipment. The mood was friendly and cautiously optimistic. By noon, everyone had dispersed.

Bad Opinions Of Us

“We’ve never really done this before here in Turners Falls,” says a woman named Consuelo, speaking through an interpreter. “The immigrants here in town often feel alone. But being here today, we don’t feel as alone, because we see all the support that there is.”

Born in Guatemala, Consuelo moved to Turners Falls twenty years ago; her daughters are 19 and 4 years old. At the farm in Whately



Marchers stopped in the driveway of the Great Falls Discovery Center to listen to speakers.

where she works, she and other immigrants from Turners Falls and Springfield are busy planting flowers and herbs in the greenhouses. “In June we’ll go into the fields,” she says. “We’ll be harvesting kale. There’ll be more immigrants then.”

Consuelo describes life without papers in western Massachusetts. “I don’t have anything to hide,” she says. “I’m just a woman with children. It makes me feel bad I don’t have documentation, but I’m not a bad person.”

Asked whether the situation here has improved in the past twenty years, Consuelo demurs. “I haven’t seen a lot of good attitude changes,” she replies, “but bad ones I have seen. Now that we have President Trump, it seems that all the people who have bad opinions of us are coming out of the shadows, and are taking advantage.

“Sometimes when I go to Family Dollar or Food City – I walk in, or my daughter wants a juice or something – I see that the women behind the counter will look at me as though I’m a thief, or a delinquent.”

At the farm, according to Consuelo, her fellow workers “work there with a bit of fear, because they’re worried Immigration will show up. And we always have on our minds that our children are in school.”

“I hope one day the president finds it in his heart,” Consuelo adds, “because I know that he also has children. How would he feel if one day somebody came and took one of his kids, or separated him from his children? I think he should have more feeling for us.”

She describes her daughters, aged 19 and 4, as “roots” tying her to the town. “It doesn’t seem very easy for me to go back to my country,” she explains.

This Is Different

“If we keep this movement growing – making this just the beginning – it’s going to end up well,” says Erick, who has been living part-time in Greenfield for the last four years, working as a carpenter. “But, if it doesn’t have the following, it can end up bad.”

Erick, who identifies as indige-

nous (“pure Mixteco”), was born in Mexico City, but moved to his parents’ home state of Oaxaca. He describes a rural economy held back by foreign companies and corrupt politicians.

“If you don’t have land and you don’t have water, the option is... America. It’s a better opportunity for you.... Down in Mexico, you go to the US or you go to the army – that’s the two big options. Everything comes to the US, and nothing goes to Mexico... I didn’t have the chance to build something in Mexico.”

Erick says he originally just planned to work in the US for “a couple years, save some money and go back.” But once in the country, he said, “I started meeting people that had a lot of stories in their lives that were like mine: we were just like, okay, we are *all* fucked, in all countries in Latin America. It’s the same shit from here to Argentina.”

Part of the problem, Erick says, comes from “all these companies that are based here, and mining there, and bringing all the resources here.”

In 2006, he was living in

Connecticut when he became involved in that year’s massive immigration reform protests. “We were really close to getting papers for a lot of people that deserved better treatment, and stopping the theft of wages,” he remembers. “The government brought this strategy of bringing the panic of the immigration agents everywhere.”

Erick says he was targeted as an organizer: followed, arrested, and turned over to immigration enforcement. “The cop asked me right away for my papers,” he says. “He also said, ‘You cannot be fucking around in this country – you are illegal!’ They put me in jail, and said I needed to pay 25 thousand dollars bail.”

Erick agreed to immediately, voluntarily deport to Mexico, so that he would be eligible to return. Back in Oaxaca he participated in the mass protests that same year against governor Ulises Ruiz Ortiz, joining with the APPO, a movement that occupied the state’s capital and held popular assemblies.

He watches his son climb on the playground. He has never seen a protest in this area, he says, though he hears that people do protest against pipelines. He also says he is surprised so many people came.

“The scenario of this year brings back great memories of back in those days, but this is different,” Erick explains. “The immigrant movement in those days was more built up – it was work, year by year, growing and growing.

“But this year is different. Because of Trump, everybody’s panicked. A lot of people that didn’t know anything about the immigrant movement in the last couple years are just now here, watching and supporting, and teaching how to protect immigrants.

“And I see this is not, like, a big immigrant community – but there are still a lot of families that need support and protection, and a lot of people that are willing to do it. And that’s good!

“I hope that we can say something about this day, that it’s going to make a difference.”



From left to right: Luis Felipe Gonzalez, owner of Mariachi Shoe Repair on Avenue A; Sister Catarina and Mary; and Oscar, with the signs they carried.

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Free Lecture: Roots of the Community Land Trust

GREENFIELD — A presentation entitled “The Roots of the Community Land Trust” will take place in the upstairs meeting room of Green Fields Market, at 144 Main Street in Greenfield, on Wednesday evening, May 10, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The speaker will be John Davis, of Burlington, Vermont, a nationally-respected expert on the origins and functioning of “Community Land Trusts” (CLTs), with 30 years experience providing technical assistance to CLTs and other non-profit community development organizations.

As part of his presentation, Davis will show a remarkable 22-minute documentary film, Arc of Justice, about an early CLT called “New Communities, Inc.,” founded in 1969 in southwest Georgia by leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, including veteran civil

rights activists Charles and Shirley Sherrod and Congressman John Lewis. It’s a moving story of racial justice, community organizing, and perseverance in the face of enormous obstacles.

A unique model of land tenure, more than 200 community land trusts currently exist throughout the US, including New England. The Valley Community Land Trust is based in Franklin County and includes trust land leased long-term to families and individuals in Colrain, Ashfield, Greenfield, and Wendell.

This event, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by the Valley Community Land Trust together with the Franklin Community Coop. Contributions to help defray costs will be gratefully accepted. For further information, please call Randy Kehler at (413) 624-8858 or Nikki Lively (413) 522-0186.

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Board Hands Fred Keys

By KENT ALEXANDER

Prior to Gill’s Town Meeting on Monday night, the selectboard sailed quickly through their agenda. After administrative assistant Ray Purington noted that there were no project updates, he reminded the board members that the next “sanctuary community” discussion will be held during the May 16 meeting.

The board unanimously agreed to take the next step in regards to the town’s problematic 2009 Sterling truck, and authorized Fred Chase, who possesses a commercial driver’s license, to act as the designated person to handle getting the truck to and from Patriot Freight Lines, the company recommended for taking

on the work not available through the primary repair company, Porter.

Hydro Talks

After a brief conversation about the pending FirstLight Settlement Negotiations Ground Rules Agreement, chair John Ward stated, “I do not wish to sign a non-disclosure agreement until I know more about the details of how we, and other selectboards, will navigate this.”

Greg Snedeker remarked that, while he agreed in principle, he didn’t wish for Gill to be left out of the agreement. He went on to ponder, “How it is that FirstLight gets to be the one who decides how selectboards share what we need to share?”

By MIKE JACKSON

On Monday night, 36 Gill voters, representing 2.4% of the town’s total population, voluntarily convened at the town hall to constitute the town’s highest sovereign body and start into the business of its annual town meeting.

They passed over the first article on the warrant, to hear and act upon the annual report, because the annual report wasn’t ready to be heard or acted upon. Town staff and volunteers are slowly working through a backlog of several years of unready annual reports, and a brief update was given as to the endeavor’s progress.

The meeting did elect Ed Golembeski and Cliff Hatch as the town’s field drivers, and elected Randy Crochier, John Ward and Greg Snedeker, collectively, to serve as its fence viewers, measurers of wood, bark and surveyors of lumber.

“This really is quaint,” observed town moderator John Zywna, who added that he had heard that in many other towns they don’t elect the fence viewers, measurers of wood, bark and surveyors of lumber any more. “But this is a nice carryover for the town of Gill, and just something that we do here, I guess.”

The meeting authorized the town to accept money from the state, Chapter 90 funds, for road work, and to spend it on road work.

“What constitutes Chapter 90 funds?” Zywna asked. “Where do they come from?” He asked whether they came from taxes on cigarettes.

Ray Purington said that it might be from taxes on gasoline, and Zywna said that if it was from taxes on cigarettes he might start smoking those again.

The meeting agreed that the town may as well let the three outbuildings belonging to Bob Gallery of

Ward surmised that Gill, by waiting, might get more out of future negotiations between the various towns and FirstLight.

Snedeker asked if FirstLight had ever responded to Ward’s query about how the board might discuss matters amongst themselves, since the non-disclosure agreement seems to forbid a participant discussing with non-participants what transpires in a meeting.

Ward replied that town counsel has said that there should be a way to have pertinent discussions without the information going out into the “public eye.” The possibility of using an executive session for such discussion was recommended, but Ward explained that not one of the 10 legal reasons for going into executive session applied to the situation.

In the end, the board decided to wait for further clarification before acting on the matter.

Gill Annual Town Meeting Begins, But Does Not End

Oak Street, which had turned out to be partially located in the Oak Street easement, continue to be partially located in the Oak Street easement.

The selectboard and town staff had been working for months on the conundrum, circling frequently around concerns over the sort of precedent it might be argued such a decision would set concerning the sustained partial location of outbuildings in easements more generally.

Before Quintus Allen died, he asked that part of his fortune be held in a special trust, and that the interest it bore each year be divided into four parts and granted to four north Franklin County towns and spent on education-related expenses.

The meeting authorized the town to accept money from the trust once again this year, and authorize the selectboard to spend it in accordance with Allen’s wishes.

Right now the town has \$11,466 of money Allen’s money earned. In 2016, the 132nd year after Allen died, \$1,329.21 of it was spent on a climbing wall and climbing gear.

The meeting authorized, as each year it must, revolving funds to be

used by the fire department, animal control officer, zoning board of appeals, board of health, and cemetery, conservation, agricultural and energy commissions.

Zywna asked whether there was any money in the accounts, and Purington said there probably was, in some of them.

The largest of these, a fund of up to \$10,000 the conservation commission may keep, attracted comment from a citizen who did not identify himself out loud by name. “Can you tell us what the typical expenses are?” he asked. “What’s the typical cost of a project review, and what kind of outflow goes toward these projects?”

Purington said he would hazard a guess that, for more complicated projects such as riverbank restoration, \$10,000 was not unheard of for project reviews.

At this point the meeting had moved through six of the 22 items on the warrant, and nearly 21 minutes had elapsed. Zywna moved to continue the rest of the meeting until June 5. This motion was seconded, and approved by a voice vote.



Part of the population of the town of Gill formed the meeting.

Unclear Process

The board expressed surprise concerning the request to appoint Scott Nicholas and Shane Wells as oil inspectors through June 30.

After board member Randy Crochier specified that he, first and foremost, needed “to know more about the background of the two young men,” Snedeker added he had not previously been party to any appointment of oil inspectors.

Crochier inquired if such appointments were in keeping with Gill’s bylaws or state law. He added that the process before them didn’t “seem to be straight ahead,” and that he’d like to hear directly from Joel Tognarelli, who is currently doing the job, that he no longer wishes to continue on the job.

Other Business

The board voted unanimously to approve the use of the town hall by

Amy Gordon and the ACT Program from May 4 through May 27. They also voted to award the town lawn-mowing bid to Artscape Landscape and Design, the lower of the two submitted bids. Following this, the board voted to approve board chair Ward to sign the MassDOT 10-year contract for Chapter 90 funds.

Purington asked which board member might be available to speak on Memorial Day at the veterans’ monuments. Snedeker volunteered to represent the board and make the opening statement at the May 28 event.

The board agreed that the start time for both the May 16 and May 30 selectboard meetings would be 6:15 p.m.

Gill’s town election will be on Monday, May 15. The polls, located at the fire station, will be open from noon until 8p.m.

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FRTA Seeks Montague Land for Bus Barn

By MIKE JACKSON

Monday night’s Montague selectboard meeting also featured a discussion with representatives of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority, which is hoping to use \$825,000 of state money to purchase a parcel for a new facility off Sandy Lane.

Obstacles abound. Sandy Lane would have to be made a public way, the land subdivided, and FRTA granted a special permit for construction – and, as FRTA counsel Donna MacNicol summed it up, each party would prefer the other supervise the road work.

FRTA would like to sign a purchase and sale agreement by June 30; whether details can be ironed out in time is unknown. If successful, the town would make out well, as the state-funded road improvements would assist its solar, highway garage, and industrial park projects along Sandy Lane.

MONTAGUE from page A1

after the investigation was announced, the town developed “more robust management protocols... to ensure appropriate safeguards would be in place at such time as the ‘drop box’ program might be reinstated.”

The statement said that the board “look[ed] forward to following up with the District Attorney’s Office to discuss the status of the Town’s Prescription Drop Box and participation in the Anti-Crime Task Force.” The board indicated that chair Rich Kuklewicz and town administrator Steve Ellis would be contacting the District Attorney.

Solar Developments

In other news, town planner Walter Ramsey presented to the board with an update on the solar array being planned for the former landfill on Sandy Lane. The array, which would be constructed and operated by Kearsarge Energy of Watertown, would generate approximately 6 MW of electricity. Ramsey said a special permit and site plan have been approved by the town planning board. Construction is slated to begin in July and be completed by December.

The upcoming May 5 annual town

meeting will be asked to give the selectboard the authority to enter into a 25-year lease agreement with Kearsarge. Ramsey estimated the lease would generate \$15,200 in revenue for the town in its first year, with a 1.5% annual escalator.

Another town meeting motion would give the selectboard authority to enter into a tax agreement with Kearsarge, which Ramsey estimated would generate \$35,000 to \$40,000 annually.

The town also plans to enter into a power purchase agreement with Kearsarge that will reduce the cost of its electricity.

According to Ramsey, the agreement will give the town the right to purchase the array after 25 years, although “we don’t know what the technology will look like then.”

The planned project involves upgrades to the power lines on Sandy Lane, paid for by Kearsarge, which will benefit tenants of a future industrial park on part of the former landfill.

Other Business

Police chief Dodge requested that the board approve a conditional offer of employment to Cody Wells for the

position of Reserve Police Officer.

The board approved the dates of its summer meeting schedule. Generally, meetings will take place every two weeks, beginning on May 22. However, Steve Ellis stated that board members should “clear their calendars” on the last Monday in June to deal with potential solar array and regional transit facility agreements.

Selectboard member Chris Boutwell updated the board on a recent meeting of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments Board meeting. He said the focus was on developing a regional communications capacity with all public safety radio systems on the same frequency. Dodge said it was “not going to be cheap for a lot of communities,” so the goal is to “get the state to pay for it” and “take it over.”

Steve Ellis announced a summer internship program being organized by the regional employment board. He said the program focused on “work-based learning” for “disadvantaged youth.”

Ellis also announced that parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz has called for a “No” vote on town meeting Article 28. The article would

appropriate \$3,500 for the construction of a chainlink fence at Highland Park in Millers Falls. Dobosz said the project needs more input from abutters.

The board announced a \$120,000 settlement with the Penta Corporation, in the town’s favor, involving electrical work at the Water Pollution Control Facility. Rich Kuklewicz said the settlement, which has been discussed at a number of executive sessions over the past few months, had nothing to do with the large system overflow into the Connecticut River in January of 2016. The problem involved the “settling” of electrical work on the combined sewer overflow system, which handles stormwater runoff.

Ellis announced that the Pan Am and New England Central railroads would commence spraying with herbicides beginning in May through the end of July.

The selectboard went into executive session to discuss the “purchase, sale or lease of property, specifically the JaDuke Center for the Performing Arts Economic Incentive Program.” The board’s next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on May 8.

GMRSD from page A1

fiscal year, which Sullivan said he felt could be absorbed by a spending freeze, and an estimated \$160,000 loss for FY’18.

One-to-One Services

For years, the district has received reimbursement from Medicaid for direct services provided to students with individual education plans who are enrolled in MassHealth. The district’s claims have been processed since 2009 by a South Easton, MA-based company called New England Medical Billing (NEMB), in exchange for a 5.5% processing fee.

According to NEMB’s website, the company “validates students’... eligibility to receive Medicaid,” and “reviews all school staff therapists’ service documentation to confirm all required and relevant service data components are present.”

For FY’17, the current school year, the district had balanced its budget on the expectation of \$500,000 in reimbursement from the program. It actually would have received more than that if reimbursements had followed the pattern of previous years, but a recent audit by the state had determined that the vast majority of one-to-one services provided to students by 35 paraprofessionals were ineligible.

“It has to be more personal care,” said Sullivan.

Pupil services director Nancy Parlakulas said that the stricter interpretation limited reimbursable services to activities like “mobility, or toileting, feeding – providing physical, personal care to a child.”

The difference in the current school year’s reimbursement, for work already performed, is significant, and in terms of the budget produces a \$130,544 hit.

“We have over \$300,000 in unencumbered funds in our line items for FY’17,” said Sullivan, “and I’m pretty confident that we can find things to not spend between now and the end of June to make up that difference.”

As for NEMB, Sullivan said Dupere Law Offices, the district’s counsel, recommends it retain a law firm specializing in healthcare law to determine “what steps we ought to take, going forward.”

“Does it seem, from what you

can tell so far, that the standards have changed?” asked Gill member Jane Oakes. “Or that something else is at work?”

Sullivan said it was unclear. “We’ve heard – not in writing – different answers to that,” he told her.

Out of District Placement

For FY’18, the district had planned to receive \$530,000 in Medicaid reimbursement, and its revised estimate is in line with this year’s reimbursement – meaning about a \$160,000 reduction in anticipated revenue.

That much again is expected to be spent on the new out-of-district special ed placements, amounting to a total loss of about \$320,000 in revenue for the coming year, a 1.6% dent in the budget.

Parlakulas reviewed the out-of-district programs the district contracts with to cover its obligations for special education beyond the schools’ capacities. These range from collaborative day programs, to private day programs, to Hillcrest Educational Center, a residential program.

According to Sullivan, the increase of three placements stemmed from “additional student moves into the district and the changing needs of students.” Parlakulas was similarly vague in discussing specifics, citing the necessity to protect student privacy.

The anticipated FY’18 cost of these 12 placements is \$711,239, or \$59,270 per pupil, meaning that the three new placements are not, on average, costlier than the nine already planned for.

(According to state figures, the FY’15 per-pupil expenditure at Gill-Montague averaged \$15,659; Sullivan pointed out that members could “divide a \$20 million budget by one thousand students” to arrive at such an estimate.)

“Extraneous costs to take care of these children is highly important, regardless of the crunch of the budget,” said Montague member Christina Postera. “I’m very grateful that they’re getting their needs met.”

Parlakulas added that the schools’ own therapeutic programs were “thriving, in a way that wasn’t true in the past,” and helping to “retain kids in district.”

The Chopping Block

Sullivan presented a program to cut over \$320,000 of spending from next year’s district budget.

“Frankly, I haven’t been a superintendent long enough to know if it’s within my rights to just say, ‘these are the reductions we’re making at this point’,” Sullivan told the committee. “Clearly, I want your support for this. But I don’t know that it requires a vote.”

The planned cuts include nine layoffs: six paraprofessionals, for \$108,000; a high school health and physical education teacher, for \$50,000; the Sheffield/Hillcrest literacy coach, for \$50,000; and a teacher at Gill Elementary, where grades 5 and 6 would be combined, for \$50,000.

The rest of the savings result from not hiring a second therapeutic teacher at Sheffield Elementary, reducing the director of teaching and learning from 5 days to 4, and paring down professional development and textbook line items.

Laying off the PE teacher, Sullivan said, would be made possible by having the athletic director teach two more PE classes, dropping middle school health to half a year and having the middle school health teacher cover high school health, and possibly eliminating the PE requirement for next year’s seniors.

The current head count for next year’s 6th grade class at Gill Elementary is only 8, and there are only 16 projected fifth-graders. No new students would be permitted to choice into the combined classroom.

“There’s no grand design about this – it’s also not a long-term plan,” said Sullivan.

The mood at the end of the hour-long session was as somber as it had been at the beginning.

“It’s hard, coming to this after we just had that boost in the news,” Postera said, alluding to a mid-budget season increase in \$174,370 in the towns’ affordable assessments brought on by an increase in Montague’s tax base.

“It’s been a roller coaster,” agreed Sullivan.

“Thank God we had the boost, though,” said Timmie Smith of Gill.

LOOKING BACK

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was May 3, 2007: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Film and TV School Proposed for Strathmore

A film and television production company called the Swift River Group has signed a purchase and sale agreement for an undisclosed amount of money to buy the 244,482-square-foot, 136-year-old Strathmore Mill on the power canal in Turners Falls. A partner in the development company, John Anctil, of Burlington, MA said Swift River plans to close on the deal on Friday of this week, but rumors of closing dates have come and gone over the past few weeks, as a purchase price and other details have been hammered out with the mill’s present owner, Western Properties, LLC.

Western Properties is managed by Jerry Jones, who offered to sell the plant to the town of Montague in 2004 for \$300,000, but town meeting turned down that proposal after a feasibility study determined that \$14 million would be required to rehabilitate the aging structure to bring it up to code.

This week, Anctil said he believes a combination of federal and state historic tax credits, state Public Works Economic Development program funds, and incentives contained in the Massachusetts Film Tax Credit, passed last year, can combine to make the overall cost of the project feasible.

Anctil has big plans for the Strathmore. In addition to producing “four feature films with positive social impact” a year there, his company intends to start a film school, called the Swift River Institute.

Troubles Down the Road

Residents and business owners along the stretch of Main Road in Gill that has been most inconvenienced by lengthy and confusing detours from the ongoing three mile, \$3.7 million reconstruction of Gill’s “Main Street” brought their complaints – once again – to the selectboard on Monday.

Board chair Ann Banash told the group of nearly a dozen residents, “Since we met the last time, we requested the MassHighway to meet with people on the road. They refused.” MassHighway is in charge of the road reconstruction project, from Wood Avenue to the Northfield town line, which finally got underway last year after a lengthy delay caused by culvert design to accommodate passage for wood turtles.

FirstLight Prohibits Camping at Riverside

FirstLight Power Resources Inc., which owns and operates Northfield Mountain and its recreational facilities, is reminding residents that camping is prohibited on their land near the Connecticut River.

This announcement comes after FirstLight staff discovered several unoccupied campsites during two separate visits over the last several months. The ban is in place because the debris and human waste that results from camping in close proximity to the Connecticut River creates serious water quality concerns.

In the autumn of 2006, FirstLight staff went scouting for trash on this property during their annual Source to Sea Cleanup event and discovered an unoccupied multi-tent city with a dining fly, large gas grill, and a permanently posted wooden sign proclaiming the site “Sunset Beach.” When staff returned in early spring, even more sites were discovered, including one with a rudimentary latrine – a five-gallon bucket three-quarters full – less than 50 feet from the water’s edge.

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Community Members for Civil Rights held a press conference Wednesday to explain their call to boycott the May 15 non-binding referendum on the Indian mascot (see page A2). They offered an open microphone...

I'm Alana Martineau. I'm a Turners Falls resident. I want you all to know that I come here in peace and respect.

I believe that, David [Detmold], you had brought this originally to the town to put it to a vote to begin with, and then things went a different direction, and it ended up going to the school committee.

The school committee had a process in place for this to happen. When we decided to get the referendum and have it put on the ballot, the school committee then ripped up that vote, and decided to speed up the vote and let that happen.

At this point, the "Indians" mascot, logo, has been retired. Although the referendum at this point is non-binding, there are a great number of residents who feel that their voice wasn't heard, that the process was not completed as it was originally designed.

There were – no disrespect



MIKE JACKSON PHOTOS

– there were Native Americans that came in that were paid to speak to the school, and money was taken out of the school budget to pay for that, and then the other side, to keep the logo, was not paid.

If the referendum is non-binding, I am not sure why you're boycotting the "not" vote, if you want your voices heard as well. You may find

that you have more support in this community than you think.

I believe in democracy. I am also on the ballot for a town meeting member in Precinct 3, and I'm getting involved. So I am here in peace, and I would like to see the referendum continue, and for everybody to vote their conscience.

My name is J. I'm a Turners Falls High School alum, Class of 2010. And I am anti-mascot because I remember in the 9th grade I was part of the discussion around the "tomahawk chop" that we used to do at football games. There was a meeting at the school, after school hours, and some Native Americans came to talk....

One thing I felt was unity when I did that motion, to be

a part of something with my classmates. But in that meeting, I remember a Native woman spoke about her son, and how he was gay, and he would experience at school people calling him a "fag." And when he would tell them that it was offensive they would blow it off and say "oh, we don't mean it like that."

And he couldn't understand why it wasn't enough for him to just say, "This is offensive,

it hurts me. People like me kill themselves over this. Please stop." And in that moment, when I heard that story, I was like *Wow. I'm gay...*

It changed my whole perspective, as ninth grader, to hear that the kind of struggle that I was having, that's relatable to me, was also happening to people with different experiences. So I went into that meeting pro-Chop, and I left it anti-Chop.

And I'm disappointed that a lot of my former classmates are advocating so much to keep this mascot, simply because I think – there's that sign somewhere that said "actual respect is more important than high school sports," and I completely agree.

I think that if you're really fighting for the unity with one another, you can find that with any mascot, really. So if people are screaming and shouting and saying "hey, this is hurting us," I think that we have an obligation to listen.



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MAY 4, 2017

B1

Voices From the Past Turners in the '70s: "Cool as Hell"

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

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

Wickline was 31 when this interview took place, and currently lives in Northfield.



The Fireside Lounge, long gone now, where at least one paperboy saw a full moon rising in the 1970s.

By EVERETT WICKLINE

TURNERS FALLS – I've been a resident for 31 years: good, bad, and in between. I lived on Fifth Street, 77 Fifth Street. We started off on Central Street when I was real small.

I went to the Central Street school – that was the coolest. It was excellent. There was only four grades and one single class, and all the kids were from downtown. It was all the kids I grew up with.

Some of the big kids used to take the windows out with the balls sometimes. At that time, the principal would fix the windows after recess; he'd have windows lined up to go in – it only took him ten minutes to replace them!

It was a cultural experience to grow up on Fifth Street. In the beginning, everyone knew all the families. Sometimes two or three generations lived in the same house. There was little Italian section off of Fourth Street – you'd go into the Carne house, and it was like you would expect: the Grandma would have a big pot of stuff cooking, and she'd be all happy and stuff, having a blast.

There was sections of Fifth Street

where everyone's yard was beautiful. Whatever they had, they would make do out of everything, even if it was only a little segment: vegetables in the center, flowers on the edges... You'd walk up and down the neighborhood and everybody would give you tomatoes and cucumbers. It was a very, very neat place to grow up.

What I mean by cultural experience, is the [Renaissance] Commune moving to downtown... They owned most of Third Street. That whole Cutlery Block was a lot of rentals by the commune, with a pizza place, and across the street there was a nightclub, done up like a cave inside.

The store they had would give you plastic coupons instead of giving you change back, and the coupons would be good at any of the commune-run businesses, so they had you hooked. It was earthy crunchy natural food... A lot of people weren't expecting something like that...

It was outrageous. It was the Seventies. It was a change. It was serious.

I mean, you're talking downtown Turners here – we had more bars than anything, before they came. You had the Turners Falls

Inn, the TF Athletic Club, you had St. Stanislaus, all in one block. The commune didn't bring anything bad in. All these bars... The Inn was a real dive way before the commune was in town.

I delivered papers to all these places. The Fireside was right across from the AV House [ed. note: now the Gun Rack] in a little building. It had flames painted on it; it was a strip joint. I saw my first naked butt there when I delivered the paper.

The Turners Falls Inn was a very low-budget place. It was a little dark, dingy place, everybody smoking their cigarettes and drinking their drafts in the bar on the Fifth Street side. All the apartments up above were as run-down as the rest of the building.

That was all rehabbed. It was bad news then, though. Walking there with my papers as a little kid, all these old men would be trying to give me pickled eggs and sausage and stuff – it was wild, to say the least.

Cultural Differences

When the commune came in... the older people say it was the downfall of the whole town, but that isn't true. Everything they tried to do, it was great, I thought. They took over most of the Cutlery Block, and refurbished that whole building with their murals and stuff.

It was beautiful. If you drove across the bridge coming in from Gill and looked on the top of that building, there were huge murals they painted, and it was cool as hell. Behind the bus stop there was a big eagle in a circle.

They scared some people. They were hippies with long hair and leather pants, but they were stereotyped as well. People weren't expecting these hippies to come in, but they came in with their concerts down at

see WICKLINE page B4

Long Nights, Long Days, Swim Often: Work by Hannah Hurricane Sanchez



Hannah Sanchez

By REPORTER STAFF

EASTHAMPTON – Turners Falls resident Hannah Hurricane Sanchez has an exhibit of prints,

drawings, and paintings opening at the Easthampton City Arts on Friday, May 13. The work in the show, *Long Nights, Long Days, Swim Often*, explores the idea of female nurturers, directly inspired by her own transition into motherhood and the changing mental and physical spaces that new caregivers experience.

A cast of characters floats in and out of the delicate details of her imagery: angels, stay-at-home-moms, career women, super-heroines, and others are set in surreal landscapes that combine mundane symbols of domesticity with references to religious themes such as snakes and last suppers.

In one piece, angels are in a holding pattern over a chair and a pair of shoes and an electrical outlet, their bodies horizontal to the floor of the otherwise bare room. In another, an angel is uncovered in the geologic layers of a hillside.

Women feed chickens, wear the head of a lioness, rock cradles, float sublimely through picture space; snakes and dogs convene over a high heeled shoe, unconcerned by distant tornadoes, and there is a man who looks like Leonard Cohen – though this was not her intention – appearing to sit in the landscape of one of his own songs.

see SANCHEZ page B4



"The Last Armwrestle," watercolor and ink on paper.

This Shady Deal Is a Great Idea

By JOE KWIECINSKI

TURNERS FALLS – Thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, an innovative collaboration has received an \$18,000 five-year appropriation to support a tree nursery run by students at Franklin County Technical School that will provide trees at a reduced price for planting in Montague, Greenfield, and other towns in the county.

Kurt Richardson, an instructor in the tech school's landscaping and horticulture department, in cooperation with David Detmold, chair of the Montague Tree Advisory Committee, and Nancy Hazard of the Greenfield Tree Committee, joined forces to apply for the \$3,600-per-year grant.

"I'm really excited and delighted about our creative partnership," said Hazard. "This is an idea Kurt and I talked about for two years."

Enter Detmold six months ago, and the three leaders decided they could unite to approach the foundation on behalf of their respective organizations.

"Students at the technical school," added Nancy, "will learn a lot from this process including how to plant, grow, and maintain trees in the nursery. We want knowledgeable young people who are not only learning from books, but also focusing on practical experience, such as setting up irrigation systems."

"There are many steps in proper tree maintenance," she said. "How to prune small trees, and how to choose the right tree for the right environmental location in Montague, are also very important."

Richardson is proud that the tech school can give back to the public. "Projects like these," he said, "really fulfill our mission to see TREES page B4



Last Friday, the Montague tree committee marked Arbor Day by planting this sycamore (actually a London plane tree) on Franklin Street in Millers Falls. Direct purchases of trees like this cost the town hundreds of dollars each.

The Week in TFHS Sports



Powertown's powerful pitcher Peyton Emery strikes out 11, walks 0, but the Green Wave prevails with a 2-1 win at Veterans Memorial Field.

By MATT ROBINSON

After the recent shower-related postponements, the Turners Falls sports machine was forced to jam in 23 varsity, JV and middle school games, matches and meets this week while suffering only five postponements, and I had the privilege of attending most of them.

This week, the Blue Ladies squeezed in three tennis matches. The softball team mercied Hopkins and then dropped late-inning losses to cross-state and cross-river rivals. Powertown's baseball team, with half their games still to play, matched their win total from last season and qualified for the playoffs.

The boys' tennis team demon-

strated gentlemanly good sportsmanship on and off the court, and the girls' track team hosted a bevy of multicolored opponents in a four-way super-meet.

Girls Track and Field

On Tuesday, Turners hosted a four-school girls' track and field super-meet. It reminded me of Wall Street, with a hint of the Olympics thrown in. Hundreds of girls – 44 from Mohawk alone – competed, and with compilations needing to be done for every heat of each event and scores needing to be tabulated for each school, the scorer's table was almost as active as the track and field was.

One girl may have finished 4th see TFHS SPORTS page B5

Pet of the Week

Hello, my name is Jezebel. I have a lot of energy and personality. I am friendly and loving and will give kisses and sleep with you at night. I like to play rough, using my claws and my teeth. I also like to bite human noses because they stick out funny. Unfortunately you will not see any of this here at Dakin. I'm not myself in this situation, but in time, I will show you my fantastic traits, so stop in and meet me!

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



“JEZEBEL”

Senior Center Activities MAY 8 TO 12

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, F 10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Monday 5/8
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday 5/9
9:30 a.m. Tech Tutor
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Wednesday 5/10
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach
11:30 a.m. Friends’ Meeting
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 5/11
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. Mindful Movement
1 p.m. Cards & Games
Friday 5/12
1 p.m. Writing Group

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

ERVING
Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for activities and congregate meals.
Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 2 days in advance. Call (413)-423-3649 for meal information and reservations.
For information, call Paula 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 5/8
9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi
Annual Town Elections
Tuesday 5/9
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
9:30 a.m. COA Meeting
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
12:30 p.m. Dusti & Lunch
Wednesday 5/10
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
12:15 p.m. Bingo, Snacks, Laughs
Thursday 5/11
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors
Friday 5/12
7 a.m. Walking
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop
9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling
11:30 a.m. Pizza & Dessert
12:30 p.m. Painting Workshop

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.

MAY 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
Northfield: Dickinson Library (413) 498-2455

ONGOING EVENTS

Every Tuesday
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Craft Time w/Angela*. Children, all ages. 3:30 p.m.
Leverett Library: *Qigong with Dvora Eisenstein*. 5:15 p.m.
Third Tuesday Each Month
Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Genealogy Group*. 6:30 p.m.
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.)
Leverett Public Library: *Story Time w/Heleen Cardinaux*. Developed for newborn through preschool ages, but all families welcome. 10:30 to noon.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Hands-On STEM* (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) activities for homeschoolers of all ages and their caregivers. Registration required. 1 to 2:30 p.m.

First Wednesday Each Month
Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Reader’s Choice*. Book discussion. 10 a.m.

Every Thursday
Montague Branch Library, Montague: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson* for children. 10 a.m.
Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Knit With Us*. All skill levels welcome; facilitated by Kathy O’Shea, graduate of WEBS expert knitting program. 6 to 8 p.m.
First Thursday Each Month
Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Environment Awareness Group*. Read the book or watch the movie and then join the group to discuss the monthly environmental topic; facilitated by Emily Koester. 6:30 p.m.
Second Thursday Each Month
Leverett Library, Leverett: *Needlecraft*. Bring your own work or try out the monthly project, some supplies provided. 6:30 p.m.
Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Reading in Fiction, Poetry, and Non-Fiction*. 7 p.m.

Last Thursday Each Month
Leverett Library: *Lego Club*. New building challenge each week, and snack. 3:15 to 4:15 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.
Wendell Free Library: *Explore*

Yoga with Shay Cooper. Mixed levels. 10 a.m. \$ or barter.
Every Saturday
Leverett Library: *Tai Chi*. Beginners at 10 a.m.
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Tech Help*. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Wendell Free Library: *AA Open Meeting*. 6 to 7 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.
Second and Fourth Saturday
Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Food Pantry*. 11:30 to 2:30 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 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 local libraries have monthly or bimonthly art shows. In order to apply for a show at these venues, find application forms on library websites.
Leverett Library: *Paintings by Louise Minks and her students*. Through June.

EVENTS

(THROUGH MAY 11)
Erving Library: *Friends Book Sale, Plant Sale, Raffle*. During library hours.
THURSDAY, MAY 4
Leverett Library: *May the 4th Be With You*. Star Wars Day! Movie screenings at 3:30 and 6 p.m.
Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Environmental Awareness Group*. This month: Wangari Maathai, Kenyan environmental political activist, writes about how Africans can improve their quality of life, in *The Challenge for Africa*.
FRIDAY, MAY 5
Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Kids’ Friday movie: “Sing”* (PG) Who will win the fabulous singing competition: a mouse, a timid elephant, a pig, a gorilla, or a punk-rock porcupine? 2 to 3:30 p.m.
SATURDAY, MAY 6
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Spring Card-Making*. Children of all ages and their caregivers are

invited to come make a colorful card... for Mom... or for anyone! Snacks will be served. 10:30 a.m. to noon.
SUNDAY, MAY 7
Leverett Library, Leverett: *Ukulele Play-Along*. Bring your own or borrow a uke. 3 to 4 p.m.
THURSDAY, MAY 11
Leverett Library, Leverett: Writer Bruce Watson will discuss his new project *The Attic – An American Sampler*, which is an online magazine; he will also discuss fake news. 7 p.m.
Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Reading in Fiction, Poetry, and Non-Fiction*. This month it’s *Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 12
Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Kids’ Friday Legos*. 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Leverett Library, Leverett: Movie Night presents *Loving*, the story of Richard and Mildred Loving. 7:30 p.m.
THURSDAY, MAY 18
Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Rep. Paul Mark: District Office Hours*. 1 to 4 p.m.
Leverett Library, Leverett: *Take-Apart Thursday – Technology Dissection!* Take apart household electronics to see what’s inside and learn how things work. Bethany and Seth Seeger will be on hand with cd players, printers, monitors and more. Open to everyone. 3:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 19
Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Kids’ Friday movie: Paddington* (PG). 2 to 3:30 p.m.
SATURDAY, MAY 20
Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Movie Night: Mission to Mars* with Gary Sinise and Tim Robbins, part of the 2017 Science Fiction/Horror Movie Series. 7:30 p.m.
THURSDAY, MAY 25
Leverett Library, Leverett: *World Tarot Day with Susie Chang*. It’s in the cards! What does it all mean, and volunteer readings. 7 p.m.
Dickinson Library, Northfield: *I’d Rather Be Reading Group*. This month’s selection: *Eligible*, by Curtis Sittenfeld. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 26
Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Kids’ Friday Legos*. 2 to 3:30 p.m.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS


This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Happy May! This week, check out the talented children of the Center School performing their Variety Show 2017. Watch it at MontagueTV.org or check out viewing times in the TV schedule at montaguetelevision.org/p/55/TV-Schedule.

Something going on you think others would like to see? Get in touch to learn how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment. Contact (413) 863-9200, infomontaguetelevision@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!

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By LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – The pile of snow across the street in the Food City parking lot disappeared on April 16.

The Carnegie Library has an annual tradition of a free raffle

celebrating its departure date. Julian Kaiser and Janelle Rivers guessed the exact day. They both won \$15 Second Street Baking Co. gift certificates donated by the bakery.

Thanks to the Second Street Baking Co for the prizes!

Food and Habitat for Pollinators Through the Season



Will be held at the Carnegie Library on Thursday, May 11, at 6:30 p.m.

What are the best plants for attracting pollinators to your garden? Learn how to choose pollinator plants and shrubs that will thrive in your yard's conditions. In this information-packed presentation,

Ashley Schenk of Montague Center will share tried-and-true plants and shrubs for the home garden, planting techniques, and tips for creating wildflower meadows.

Ashley Schenk has been practicing and teaching permaculture-based landscape design since 2011, when he co-founded **Broadfork Permaculture**, a worker-owned cooperative dedicated to building edible and ecological gardens in the Pioneer Valley (www.broadforkpermaculture.com).

For more information, contact the Carnegie Library, 201 Avenue A, Turners Falls, at (413)863-3214.

Wolfgard Northeast

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

Wolfgard Northeast is a non-profit organization in Southern Vermont with the mission to “explore the wild through wolves” – teaching how wolves are critically important both to Northeastern ecosystems and to human culture,” according to its official website.

Adam Katrick, the founder of the organization, said he started it “because not a lot of people have access to education about them, and predators. We want to give people the opportunity to learn about them.”

Adam has been educating people about wolves and the environment for over a decade. For example, he was at a place called Mission: Wolf during the summer of 2006. He stated in connection with founding Wolfgard Northeast that he wanted to fill a gap that other organizations didn't cover. (See www.wolfgardne.org.) According to him, the gap is, “There aren't enough people teaching about wolves and other predators in New England.”

The group aims to create a wolf center in Southern Vermont. I learned they have five different programs to educate people about wolves, including presentations, and other outdoor experiences where you apparently “walk like a wolf,” and storytelling. They are each “customized for different venues.”

Adam thinks the best of these is storytelling, which he adds “gets people involved with stories passed down from our culture. We tell a lot of stories from different cultures. We have a lot of them mainly from Europe. But we have told stories from all over the world.”

Adam actually talked quite a bit about storytelling when he did a forum for Wolfgard in Greenfield,

which I went to. “We tell old and new stories about wolves,” he says. They focus on taking people out in the woods and telling them stories, because that is what they want. Adam himself wears a wolf mask as part of the storytelling.

Beside talking quite extensively and at length about wolves and the organization at the forum, Adam also talked about different aspects of what they do with the wolves, such as what a “wolf center” is: “a place where people can visit wolves in their home.”

But that thought doesn't mean he wants every wolf under the sun at the place. He wants to have as few wolves as possible, to educate the public – he doesn't want a bunch of wolves in captivity.

It would seem he cares about them deeply. How much he talks about the wolves, and Wolfgard in general, clearly indicates to me he's very knowledgeable and passionate about them. He mentions that “when we have the center, we will have a regular staff and more volunteers, and possibly interns. The staff and volunteers will be educators.”

At the moment, the board of directors apparently do most of the work at Wolfgard. These guys are also storytellers for the place. I saw the wolf mask they use for storytelling in a display at the forum, that also included t-shirts for the place you could buy, along with a mailing list that can be signed up for to get updates, hear about programs and events connected to Wolfgard.

With this going on, let's hope Adam Katrick's desire for the place happens, which is that he “wants people to go to their programs, and be excited about going out into the wildness.”

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Rectory Break-In Thwarted; Coconut Found; Bear Snuggling In Tree; Paper Mill Leak

Sunday, 4/23
2:30 a.m. Officer out with vehicle outside Pipione's; female operator did not want male in vehicle any longer. Verbal dispute. Courtesy transport to Greenfield provided for male.

4:39 p.m. Caller from T Street reporting a male on a cell phone squatting by the side of a garage; caller believes that an exchange of drugs may take place. Officer observed male party walking and talking on cell phone in the area; however, no exchange observed.

7:09 p.m. Caller from K Street reporting male subject in the area screaming and yelling; sounds like an argument. Subject located; same advises that he did have a verbal only altercation with his upstairs neighbor on K Street. Units en route back to K Street to speak to other half.

[Possible gap in records provided to the Montague Reporter.]

Monday, 4/24
3:58 p.m. Caller reporting that one of her drivers stated that a vehicle went through a bus stop sign once on Fifth Street and again on L Street. Driver reporting vehicle parked on L Street. Area searched; unable to locate.

6:58 p.m. Caller reporting witnessing some sort of exchange between two vehicles in Unity Park. Unable to locate.

8:25 p.m. Caller from Oakman Street states that her neighbor across the street has a floodlight that continuously goes off and shines in her windows; would like advice on how to deal with situation. Officer in area observed light; no one appears to be home at this time. Caller advised of options.

9:22 p.m. Reverend at Our Lady of Peace Church reporting that 5-6 younger males are attempting to break into the back entrance of the rectory. Subjects running upon officers' arrival. Officer off with one subject in front of church. One subject transported and turned over to mother, who will have a conversation with her son and Father Stan to attempt to work out the possible charges.

Tuesday, 4/25
1:44 a.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and possession of heroin.

9:25 a.m. 911 call received from Greenfield Savings Bank; series of beeps heard in the background, but no voices. Called number back; received fax machine. Officers on scene. Second 911 call with same beeping heard in background. Officers confirmed misdials; believed to be issue with incoming faxes.

2:34 p.m. Walk-in from Carlisle Avenue states that his vehicle was keyed overnight. Report taken.

11:05 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street reports hearing a female yelling and screaming; unknown what issue is. Second caller reports thin white female, possibly wearing a jean jacket and carrying a blanket. Area search negative.

Wednesday, 4/26
12:02 a.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

picking up dog.

7:42 p.m. Officer spotted a male and female arguing in the Food City parking lot and recognized male as having a warrant. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

Friday, 4/28
5:46 a.m. Caller from Montague Street states that there is a bear in a tree in her backyard and she is unable to bring her pets out because of it. Message left for animal control officer; caller advised to stay away from bear. Officer states bear appears to have snuggled down into the tree for the day and she does not believe it will be a problem.

10:43 a.m. Passerby reporting several boxes blocking traffic on Montague City Road. Boxes fell off a truck that just left Hillside Plastics; they will be making arrangements to come and get them.

10:51 a.m. Food City store manager reporting that two females have stolen some deli meat. Summons issued.

2:20 p.m. Officer discovered a pipe leaking brown liquid under the footbridge that crosses over the bike path and canal. DPW supervisor determined that pipe was coming from paper mill; made contact with supervisor from Southworth and advised that problem needs to be fixed ASAP.

[Gap in records provided to the Montague Reporter.]

11:40 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle near High Street and Crocker Avenue; white van has passed caller's house twice very slowly in last five minutes. Officer out with vehicle; independent contractors for yellow pages delivery.

Saturday, 4/29
12:29 a.m. Caller reporting woman causing disturbance in alley between Third and Fourth streets, yelling, banging, and throwing items. Believed to be same woman who did similar a few weeks ago. Officers spoke with two females and advised them of the complaint. One female moving some items, but will be finished soon.

1:35 a.m. Officer advised three females in Unity Park of trespass; parties are leaving.

3:15 a.m. Caller reporting same female from earlier call out in alley yelling. Female advised of complaint again; she will be going inside for night.

10:18 a.m. Officer received third party report of a kayaker who may be in distress. Area checked; officer has visual on kayaker, who does not appear to be in distress. Kayaker was intentionally riding rapids and was a considerable distance from dam.

12:14 p.m. Report of male walking in the middle of Bridge Street with his hands up in the air. Unable to locate.

5:32 p.m. Anonymous caller reporting suspected drug activity on Third Street. Officer advised.

8:50 p.m. Six or seven young kids moved along from skate park.

8:57 p.m. Caller from L Street reporting strong smell of smoke in area. Officer stating that there appears to be an open burn on the upper half of K Street. Fire extinguished; homeowner advised of open burn policy.

9:22 p.m. Multiple 911 calls reporting two-car accident with possible entrapment near Millers Pub. TFFD and MedCare en route. Officer advising both parties conscious and alert; one complaining of head and neck pain. One vehicle towed; one able to drive away under its own power.

11:17 p.m. Employee from Between the Uprights requesting to speak with officer regarding female who was in bar earlier causing trouble; same has since left but has called bar nine times. Report taken.

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SANCHEZ from page B1

“My work is drawn from memory, not reference materials,” explains Hannah. “And if I can remember my dreams, the work is better. All of these things come from my subconscious.”

There are memories of being a child, and visions from dreams, reimagined as a sort of new, matriarchal religion of the domestic. Hannah likes to envision things such as lamps, and electrical switches, as representing modern halos of sorts. Although she was not raised religious, and has never attended church, the story of Mary, the virgin birth, and the visitation by the angels has been in her awareness all her life.

“There is still a spirituality that science does not explain,” says Hannah, referring to the experience of motherhood. She wanted to create female angels, as counterpoint to the male archangels depicted in the Christian iconography. These swim in and out of “natural and spiritual ecosystems, and the distractions/freedoms of our current society.”

An unusual horizontal format complements her themes, with seven pieces on long slices of paper, like a narrative scroll. Her angels fly horizontally, and the artist feels adding horizons to her work is important. The theme of flying is one that she feels also relates to the fact that she flew regularly between Texas and Florida from a very young age, shuttling between divorced parents four times a year. “In the air, I was with both of them at once, in the in-between.”

As a young mother of two girls, Hannah creates her work in the “in-between” of naps and daycare schedules, in a small third bedroom in her Turners Falls apartment.

Not quite 30 years old yet, Hannah has accomplished much, and traveled afar. She attended Design and Architecture High School in Miami, Florida and graduated from the University of Florida with a bachelors in wildlife ecology and conservation. Afterwards, she worked on leadership endeavors in Albania, Panama, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia.

From 2009 through 2012, she focused on specializing in applications of GIS (Geographic Information Systems), working on university research projects looking at wildlife occurrences, environmental education, local food deserts, na-

tional childhood obesity, and statewide emergency management. As an AmeriCorps Volunteer in 2013, Hannah served as Operations Coordinator at an emergency shelter for immigrants and political asylees in Austin, Texas.

Since 2014, she has pieced together a handful of part-time assistant jobs while pursuing her artwork and raising kids. Currently, she has been working as our advertising manager at the *Montague Reporter*, and also as a clerk at LOOT Found and Made.

This is her very first solo exhibit; the opportunity arose from the successful debut of her work in a group show at the same location two years ago.

The reception will be from 5 to 8 p.m. at the ECA gallery at the Old Town Hall, 43 Main Street, Easthampton. Hours at the gallery are Tuesdays 12 to 5 p.m. and Thursdays 12 to 7 p.m. Through May 30. Visit the artist’s website for more info: hannahhurricane.com.



“The Angels’ 40 Hour Work Week,” copperplate etching and aquatint.

TREES from page B1

provide services to the communities that support us. The plan is to plant 75 trees a year over five years. After five years, we can harvest the trees from Year One, and use the money we sell them for to buy more trees.” In this manner, the tree nursery will become a financially self-reliant enterprise after the five-year mark.

David Detmold is equally enthusiastic. “We’ve worked under the inspirational direction of Nancy and Kurt,” he said, “to develop and expand this municipal shade tree nursery at the tech school. Not only will the students advance their career training and knowledge in horticulture, but the potential benefits for the towns, who are members of the tech school district, such as Greenfield and Montague, are virtually endless.”

Detmold points out that the tree committees will have the capacity to purchase selected species of shade trees for their own towns and

villages at a substantial discount. Thus, the towns’ tree wardens can extend their budgets much further.

“In future years,” said Dave, “our homeowners and business owners will see the benefits of this program in the form of many new healthy native trees being planted in their yards and tree belts.

“It costs \$200 to \$350 to purchase a tree to plant,” continued Detmold, “and those have to have three inches in caliber. Our tree warden will buy six or seven this year. We’re simply not keeping up in Montague and other towns. Trees are affected by storm damage and the natural aging cycle of trees planted decades ago.

“Montague, like many towns in Franklin County, used to be able to afford to maintain its own shade tree nursery. We paid municipal employees to maintain our own tree nursery until the 1990s, when we lost more than one third of our highway staffing due to budget cuts.

“However, our collaboration

WICKLINE from page B1

the park in the gazebo, and the whole field would be full of people on blankets, partying. Wow – we saw a lot! It was rock ‘n roll, man – what a biff! I saw a lot more at a younger age than many of the kids from up on the hill, that’s for sure.

It’s like there is a line, downtown and on the hill. Cultural differences. When I went to Hillcrest after the Central Street school, all of us kids from downtown had a tough time. It was a slap in the face. I got in more than one fight about it.

If you were a downtowner, you were poor, you know, compared to the hill and the nice houses and stuff. Central Street school was the best. That leveled out a bit after a couple years of going to school together, but still, you were always broken apart or separated. We were just “downtown” – it is hard to explain.

Businesses

The original Pipione’s, Peter Pipione, used to be across the street and to the left of where it is today. When I was a kid, that seemed like the biggest store in the world. You’d go there, and there was fishing stuff down both walls, and glass cases full of hunting and fishing stuff everywhere... I delivered papers there, and I used to go to the Shady Glen for Peter Pip every day. He’d get a fried hamburger with fried onions and a coffee.

Peter Pip, he was a big guy. He’d tell you hunting and fishing stories, and us kids would never get tired of that. I also delivered to his house on Fourth Street, and I’d run errands back and forth from his house to the store. He took care of me, he’d give me a lure or something.

He was a real good guy. I would have listened to him for nothing anyway; when you are a kid, to listen to the fish stories was wonderful.

Equi’s made their own candy.

The back door was always open and you could watch him pulling taffy and doing the big flats of fudge and making the big fat candy canes for Christmastime, all different flavors. Equi’s was the one place that was forever.

I go down to the Glen, how can you beat it! You’ll never beat the Glen. And the guy that owns it deserves all the credit in the world. He’s been there forever, and he puts in hours and hours. It’s nothing to go by there and see the lights on at 2 a.m. and see John Carey in there mopping and cleaning, or cutting stuff for the next day. Endless, endless... It takes some kind of person to have that kind of drive.

You go in there and have to wait in line, but that’s expected. The whole time you’re waiting, you are having good conversation. It’s nothing to have a guy stand up and start talking to you right across the restaurant. It’s a great place.

The Pizza House was a big laundromat where a lot of people hung out in winter, because it was warm in there, with seats all the way around in a circle in the center of the room, and washers and dryers around the sides. The change machine in there, all us kids used to get cash out of there. If you beat it up enough it would always spit out something for you, it was so old.

There were so many vacant places down there, at one point, the state came through and it turned into housing for low-income people. I hate to say it, but it changed the town.

The American House had single rooms over the top, and that was one part of the Powertown package as well. No regrets, though. If downtown hadn’t changed the way it did, which I am sorry to say it did, I would recommend any kid growing up here. It’s not the same.

Below the Dams

I grew up on the river, below the dams. As kids, we hated it when they started building the fish ladder. We hated it. When the shad ran every year we used to go down there with a net and literally snatch them out of the water. We had a hell of a time, there were so many of them. You can’t do that now.

I’m glad they built the ladder in a way, it’s helping the river out, but when you’re a kid... it took something away. We’d go down with spears and bow and arrows when they’d drain the canals every year, and shoot the pools of carp. I’d come home with mud up to my chest. Lucky one of us didn’t die!

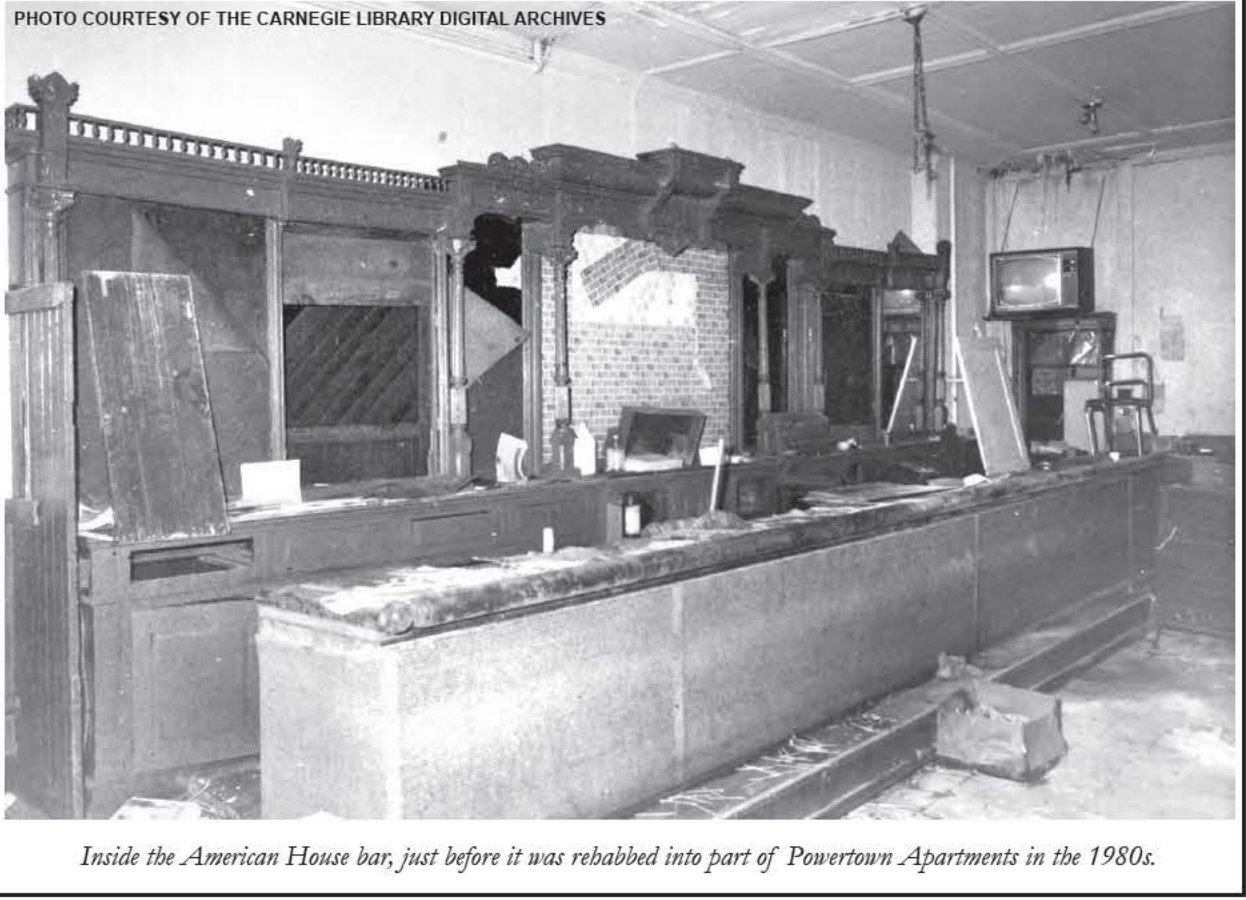
In back of Strathmore, there’s tunnels that go into the mill, and we’d fish down there – and all of a sudden the water would change color, and we’d have to stop. We didn’t eat the stuff. The river is cleaner now.

Along the canal wall, there’s tunnels that go in there, about 20 or 30 feet deep. We’d hide in there with our smokes when we were kids. They were like little dungeons. It was cool as hell.

It’s just a changed town. It’s a whole different adventure now. When we were kids, we had the run of downtown; we didn’t worry. We saw drunks and stuff, but they were harmless.

Maybe it wasn’t funny, but with all the bars downtown, we saw a lot of people doing weird things. I had no clue why there were people freaking out, but I guess it was the seventies, and people were doing drugs. I was just a kid.

But there were eight bars down there, a lot of stuff going on, drunken stupors right on the street. There was one drunk that used to chase me and my brothers in the alley for a half hour at a time, until he’d lie down somewhere and pass out. But it was fun.



Inside the American House bar, just before it was rehabbed into part of Powertown Apartments in the 1980s.

with the tech school and the Greenfield Tree Committee will restore the purchasing power that Montague enjoyed when we grew our own trees in our town’s nursery.”

Meanwhile, Nancy Hazard notes that most people don’t realize the many challenges facing urban trees. “These trees,” said Hazard, “have a difficult time of surviving in the neighborhoods of Turners Falls and Greenfield. They must overcome salt from the road in winter, and always get their water needs met, for instance. And

the soil affects trees’ capacity to breathe. Some trees do fare better than others. Hypothetically, Dave and I might choose a sugar maple, and Kurt might indicate, with his expertise, that it isn’t a good choice to flourish in the community.”

A large percentage of trees are faltering in the county, and are being removed. More trees have been taken out than planted of late in Montague and Greenfield. Even more alarming, the Greenfield tree inventory, conducted about three years ago, ascertained that aging

Norway Maples made up more than half of the local trees listed, and will probably meet the Grim Tree Reaper over the next decade.

Unfortunately, trees can be taken somewhat for granted. Besides being a source of oxygen, their contribution to the environment is immense: trees increase the amount of places for many animals to live, bring down temperatures in the summer, reduce climate change emissions, help to boost business, and bring beauty to the environment.

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SPORTS from pg B1

against Mohawk, but took second against Pioneer and third against Athol. In another event, a girl may have finished first against Mohawk and third against Pioneer while taking second against Turners. Coaches and their helpers from each school (and retired Turners coach Bob Avery) were hurriedly penciling in results and tabulating their scores against each school while simultaneously cheering on their athletes. This flurry of activity was only broken up by officials handing over more sheets of results.

To add to this excitement, there were sporadic gusts of wind which occasionally sailed the sheets of paper to the football infield. And while coaches and officials were jabbering to one another and athletes and their supporters were loudly cheering, and the starting pistol was jarring loudly, Kristin Slowinski was calmly taking the sheets of paper from the officials, recording them, and handing them to the various coaches.

Ms. Slowinski, fresh off her shotput and discus wins (against Pioneer), was the calm oasis at the scorer’s table. She did finally take her clipboard and sat against the concession stand away from all the noise and confusion to complete her task.

One of the most memorable races for Turners Falls was the 2-mile. Seventh grader Chloe Sumner, who had never run the 2-miler even in practice, was told by Turners coach Ron Hebert that she would run the race. Chloe paced herself for the first two laps, but then began to make up some ground on the front runner. By the time she started the third lap, she had taken the lead.

With a mile and a half to go, the question was: would her stamina hold up? But it did. She retained her lead and finished red-faced and strong before collapsing over the finish line. After the race, her only request was a trip to the creamy for soft serve.

And in a show of team spirit, Chloe and 10 other Blue Shirts cheered on Cat Bezio as she completed the grueling race. And when it was all said and done, a sea of Blue, Black, Gold, Red and White shirts and shorts converged on the infield, smiling and slapping fives.

Other Powertown girls who placed on Tuesday include Dabney Rollins (high jump 3’10”, javelin 74’3”, 100m hurdles 21.6, 400m hurdles 1:20.7); Amanda Cooke (100m 14.7, triple jump 27’4 ¼”, long jump 12’7 ¼”); Bryn Kruzlic (100m dash 14.4, triple jump 26’2-¾”, 200m dash 30.8), Karissa Fleming (high jump 4’, triple jump 25’3-¼”); Josy Hunter (javelin 43’9”, discus 41.2); Jenna Haskett (pole vault 6’); Abby Johnson (discus 50.11); Emily Denison (javelin 42”); Allison Wheeler (javelin 36, discus 45); Cat Bezio (discus 42.8); Lucy Postera (high jump 3’10”); and Kristen O’Brien (100m dash 16.2).

Boys Tennis

TFHS 5 – Greenfield 0

TFHS 4 – Sci-Tech 1

On Thursday, April 27, Turners swept Greenfield 5-0. “We’re not doing too well against our cross-river rivals,” Greenfield coach Andrew Varnon confided in me as he looked at his clipboard. Greenfield had already forfeited the second doubles match, and Turners had won the first sets in the other four matchups.

“But remember,” Turners coach Steven Touloumtzis told me about 15 minutes later, “when you win big, it’s more about not letting up when you’re ahead.” Coach T. was referring to the Saint Mary match in which Turners had not lost a single game. And as Turners proceeded to sweep all five contests, the Blue and Green fans and players graciously accepted the outcome. It’s a gentleman’s game, after all.

Jimmy Vaughn, who has the toughest job each match won 6-3, 6-0. In second singles, Ricky Craver went 6-1, 6-2 and Brian Porier stayed unbeaten in the third seat 6-0, 6-2. Giovanni Ruggiano and Nick Morin won first doubles 6-love, 6-2.

On Monday, Turners beat Sci-Tech and in the process, again demonstrated that tennis really is a gentleman’s game. Coach T. decided to let his best doubles duo sit and take a forfeit, allowing his second doubles to play against Tech’s best. By doing this, he preserved the dignity of his opponents while

probably still getting the W.

But Tech is not just a bunch of science nerds; they also play pretty good tennis. Their first singles player is undefeated and their second was unbeaten before going against Craver. Turners did win the match 4-1, with Vaughn dropping the first singles match. Porier kept his perfect winning streak going by blanking his opponent 6-0, 6-0 and Will Turn and Josh Gaulin stepped up to win their match 6-0, 6-1, but the most entertaining match of the afternoon was the second singles with Craver winning the tiebreaking third set, 7-5.

Softball

TFHS 12 – Hopkins 0

Wachusett 3 – TFHS 1

Greenfield 2 – TFHS 1

This week the Turners Falls softball team was knocked out of the cat seat. Although they mercied Hopkins on Thursday, April 27, they then dropped the next two contests off late-game homers.

Thursday was a great day for Turners Falls against Hopkins as they swept in softball as well as baseball. At the Hampshire softball game played on April 23, I sat next to Hopkins coach Paula Cristoforo. She said she attends many softball games including Turners Falls’ playoff games. Before Thursday’s game, I wished her good luck, and her response was, “I just hope we don’t get mercy-ed too early.”

And Turners didn’t mercy Hopkins until the fifth inning, although the game was pretty much done with in the first when 9 runs crossed the plate. In the third, Gabby Arzuaga dinged a homer off the Bush foul pole to make it 10-nil, and the game was mercifully called when Abby Loynd batted in the 12th run of the game in the fifth.

Arzuaga led Powertown with 4 hits and 3 RBIS. Loynd had 3 hits, Cassidhe Wozniak and Jordyn Fiske had doubles and finished with 2 hits apiece, while Alyson Murphy and Maddy Johnson both had singles. Katherine Garcia and Eliza Johnson also scored for Turners. In the circle, Peyton Emery only allowed 1 hit and 1 walk while whiffing 4.

The first thing I noticed in the Wachusett game played on Sunday was the age difference. Softball stalwart Vicky Valley had made sure both teams were listed in the rosters. In the bottom of the third, Olivia Whittier, Taylor Murphy, Cassi Wozniak and Aly Murphy – a couple of 8th graders, a 9th grader and a 10th grader – all came to the plate for Turners. When I flipped the roster over, I noticed that Wachusett had some sophomores, but most of their players were juniors and seniors.

To increase the David v. Goliath matchup, a rumor was floating around the field that 90 girls had tried out for Wachusett softball. But that didn’t dissuade Powertown. In the JV game against Goliath, played on the adjoining diamond, 8th grader Jade Tyler had just pitched an 8-K, 4-walk 2-0 shutout with fellow 8th grader Mercedes Morales providing the firepower. The Varsity game was just as close.

Wachusett drew first blood in the top of the fourth when a two-out double sent in a run. In the bottom of the fifth, Loynd led off with a hard single. But Turners got two quick outs.

Then Wozniak reached on a single, sending Loynd to second. Alyson Murphy, who was up next, walked up to me and said, “watch this.” She then proceeded to clock a RBI single, sending Abby home and tying the game. Gabby Arzuaga came to bat next. In her previous at bat, Arzuaga hit a fly over the fence but an alert outfielder knocked it back in play, forcing Gabby to settle for a double and robbing her of the home run.

Gabby sliced the first pitch between two outfielders but an incredible diving catch robbed her again and kept the game tied. And when Murphy came back to get her glove she took a deep breath and said seriously, “How’d you like that hit?”

The game remained a 1-1 knot until the last inning when a 2-out, 1-on homer sealed the victory for Wachusett. In the circle for Turners, Peyton Emery gave up just 4 hits while striking out 2. The next day, Monday, May 1, Turners dropped a one-run game against Greenfield on a two-out, full-count inside the park homer which flirted with the right field stripe.



Welcome home!: Gabby Arzuaga is greeted at home plate following her massive third-inning solo home run against Hopkins Academy.

The game was scoreless until late in the game, as neither team could cross the plate. But then in the sixth inning, Wozniak scored the go-ahead run for Turners off a double steal pickoff attempt. In the bottom of the inning, Greenfield took the lead back, and beat the Blue Tribe 2-1.

Wozniak was the lone producer for Powertown, slugging a double, a single and scoring a run. Emery allowed three hits, struck out 11, and gave no bases on balls.

Girls Tennis

Chicopee Comp 3 – TFHS 2

Belchertown 4 – TFHS 1

Frontier 3 – TFHS 2

On Thursday, April 27, the Powertown Ladies traveled to Chicopee to take on Comp. Alysha Wazniak swept the first singles match 6-1, 6-1 and Hailey Trott took the third 6-4, 6-1 but Turners dropped the second singles match (Kortney Thurber 3-6, 3-6) and both doubles matches (Amber Taylor/Carlie Kretchmar 6-1, 4-6, 1-6 and Rachel Turker/Maria Labelle 0-6, 0-6).

Then on Friday, Belchertown came to town. Because they had to drop their boys’ team off in Northampton, the game was delayed. This gave me the opportunity to watch the pregame instructions given by Coach Victor Gonzalez, who drew a chalk line on the blacktop and went over all the rules for both teams.

During the match, I had the good fortune of consulting with retired coach George Bush and Brian Lamore, who played for Mr. Bush when Turners won the tennis championship sometime last century. (See the banner in the gym for more details.) Both men provided me with quiet instruction about ball placement and other strategy.

Thurber was the sole winner for Turners, taking her second singles match 6-1, 6-2. Then late in the contest, with the sun beating down, the only match still playing was the second doubles team of Taylor and Kretchmar. Blue had won the first set 6-2 but had dropped the second 3-6, and the match had come down to a 10-point tie breaker.

Both duos were playing through their pain and exhaustion. Turners suffered an ankle injury, and a Belchertown girl’s legs were cramping up. But the match went on after an injury timeout. Belchertown took a significant 6-1 lead early in the tiebreaker, but then the other Turners girls got loud. They cheered on Amber and Carlie and encouraged them to rally, and Blue eventually tied it at 8. Belchertown managed to eke out the last two points to take the match 4-1.

On Monday, Turners hosted Frontier. Thurber, who improved to 4-1, had Turners’ only singles victory 6-1, 6-3 while Kaili Lynch and Kretchmar took the first doubles match 6-3, 6-4.

Baseball

TFHS 4 – Athol 2

TFHS 5 – Hopkins 3

TFHS 14 – Franklin Tech 1

Greenfield 5 – TFHS 4

On Wednesday, April 26 Turners came back from a one-run deficit to take out Athol,

4-2. Athol scored a run in the bottom of the second, but Powertown put two on the board in the top of the third and scored an insurance run in the seventh.

Powertown again relied on singles, hitting safely eight times. Ryan Campbell paced the Blue Tribe with three hits, Kyle Bergmann and Kyle Dodge had two apiece, and Nick Croteau added one. Tionne Brown and Tyler Lavin batted in runs, and on the mound, Lavin scattered 8 hits, struck out 2, and allowed no bases on balls.

The next day Turners defeated the Hopkins Golden Hawks 5-3. The win gave Powertown their first league victory and improved their record to 5-3.

Turners scored four runs in the second thanks to a walk, some wild pitches, and a RBI by Don Carne. The Tribe’s other run came in the bottom of the fifth. Although Hopkins had 13 hits in the contest, Quinn Doyle scattered them and the Blue D stepped up, allowing only three Hawks to cross the plate.

In the win, Doyle struck out 7 while only walking one. Brown clocked a triple and was the only Blue jersey to have two hits. Campbell, Bergmann and Carne had the other three hits for Turners.

Then on Monday, the Blue Boys hosted crosstown rivals the Franklin Tech Eagles, winning 14-1. The victory gave Powertown a 6-3 record, which is the same number of wins they had for the entire 2016 season.

The Blue Tribe scored consistently against Tech, putting three runs across in the first and two more in each of the next three innings. They capped off the victory with a 5-run sixth. Franklin scored their lone run in the top of the seventh.

Blue’s hitting was evenly spread as 10 different Tribesmen had hits: Brown (4), Croteau (2), Jon Fritz (2), Ryan Campbell, Bergmann, Dodge, Lavin, Mike Babcock, Carne and Jeremy Wolfram. Lavin pitched 4 innings, allowing three hits, one walk, and striking out two. Reliever Babcock got the win, allowing just one hit while striking out two, and fellow reliever Bergmann struck out two and let up two hits.

On Tuesday, Greenfield defeated Turners in a rain-soaked affair.

Brown led off with a triple and went on to score Blue’s only run of the first inning. In the next four innings, Greenfield stormed out to a 5-1 lead using the long ball. Turners narrowed the score to 5-2, but three consecutive pickoffs kept the margin at 3. Then in the sixth, Turners finally began a rally, putting two men on (safely) and the tying run at the plate.

But then it began to rain consistently. The game was delayed, and resumed within a half hour. Turners was able to put two more runs across before retiring the side. Babcock who came in for an injured Quinn Doyle, kept Greenfield at bay in the Green half of the inning, but Powertown was unable to score the tying run in the seventh, and Greenfield took the victory 5-4.

Next Week: More games, matches and meets!



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The American Paleolithic

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

AMHERST – Almost 30 people packed the room at the Five Colleges in Amherst to hear Dr. Paulette Steeves’ presentation, “The American Paleolithic: Decolonizing Indigenous Histories and Archaeology.” A Cree-Metis descendant from Canada, Dr. Steeves returned to school after having children, and was told by the elders in her tribe that her work would be important to all people. If accepted within the academic community, it will change the way we see Native Americans and their history on this continent.

Steeves’ research focuses on North and South American archaeological sites that are older than the Clovis period, which is at the end of the last ice age about 13,000 years ago. The Clovis period was previously thought to be the first time when humans inhabited these continents, moving into the area as the ice retreated.

Exposing the systematic suppression of the existence of these sites, some of which are hundreds of thousands of years old, will force archaeologists to reconsider their theories about the land bridge migration of humans from Eurasia.

The land bridge theory was developed for religious reasons so that colonists could explain why Native Americans were not in their bible (they asserted indigenous people were “lost tribes of Israel,” and had walked here). Steeves said that this theory has little or no sci-

entific proof.

Allowing that Native Americans were really Native to this land, and not merely the first immigrants would have long-reaching repercussions in the fields of legal studies, anthropology, and related sciences, as well as history. It could even affect how everyday people think about the land around them here in Franklin County.

It is common for people in our area to assert that the tribes who lived here during colonial times were not descended from or related to in any way the humans or proto-humans who were here before and during the time of Glacial Lake Hitchcock.

But why do we think that? In part it is because anthropologists have not systematically studied sites that link that time with the nearer past and the present. Steeves asserts that the denial of indigenous peoples being native to the Americas contributes to very high rates of suicide within Native communities, as people feel displaced and disconnected from their homelands by this larger narrative.

Dr. Steeves, whose work has been accepted for publication by an academic press, faced discrimination from anthropologists who did not want to change their ways of thinking. Her work is written using Indigenous methodology and theory, which she explained includes storytelling and circularity.

She has over 800 citations in her doctoral dissertation to combat the pervasive pro-Clovis mindset

that keeps the older generation of archaeologists able to deny new theories such as hers. She has built on the work of previous archaeologists, such as Dr. Louis Leakey, who were well-respected until they challenged Clovis.

Her hope is that as the history of people indigenous to North and South America becomes melded with world history, more people will see the injustices we continue to inflict upon Native communities as based in long-term prejudice, and as unsustainable.

The good news is that students in her classes are very open to learning, and even become angry that they were not aware of this history, saying they thought all indigenous people were wiped out. The government sometimes shares in this fantasy, as it has declared several tribes “extinct” whose members were in the room with us to hear this talk.

Steeves ended by adjuring the audience to bypass the academics and speak directly with Native people. “If you want to know something, ask the people directly.” Audience member Rhonda Anderson mentioned this was especially important in local politics, including the Turners Falls mascot debate.

In her next project, Steeves will take her own advice and expand her research to connect known archaeological sites with indigenous oral tradition. She may find even more than the hundreds she has already mapped.

Moon Calendar for May 2017:

Tuesday, May 2: First Quarter		Wednesday, May 10: Full Moon
Thursday, May 18: Last Quarter		Thursday, May 25: New Moon

View of a waxing gibbous moon from the space station.
Sky Events Calendar by Fred Espenak and Sumit Dutta (NASA's GSFC).

NASA PHOTO

OPINION

Public Science in the Trump Era

Can we still access the scientific data we pay for?

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

WASHINGTON DC – It is very disconcerting to learn how President Trump’s restrictive policy on scientific information is different from other administrations’, and how it affects public scientific discourse.

A January 25 story by Dina Fine Maron in *Scientific American* emphasizes that while previous administrations have restricted communication on policy, the Trump administration’s crackdown on communication of scientific facts to the public via the press is unprecedented. Scientists within various government departments are still allowed to publish in peer-reviewed journals, but apparently are not allowed to communicate, or translate, that information for the rest of us.

This is a step backwards that is dangerous to our way of life. Without scientific literacy, we will not have the tools we need to make good decisions. For example, on an individual level, if drivers do not understand fuel efficiency, they cannot make good decisions about

what vehicle is right for them.

On a bigger scale, if business leaders do not understand global warming, they cannot begin to calculate how it threatens their operations. A March 16 *Vox* article by Brian Resnick confirms that Trump’s budget is as bad as scientists had feared, cutting \$7 billion from climate change, disease, and energy research. This includes an 18% reduction in the National Institutes of Health funding; a \$102 million cut for NASA “eliminating four NASA Earth science missions completely”; nine hundred million dollars reduction in funding for the Energy Department, including completely eliminating the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy; and a \$250 million cut to NOAA.

A few programs remain protected, while the Environmental Protection Agency is cut by 31%, which includes zero funding for many climate programs, including the Clean Power Plan, and even the consumer-serving Energy Star certification program.

Previous to this administration,

our quest for science and scientific literacy was on an upward trajectory that started in 1957, when Russia sent the Sputnik I satellite into space before we had one. It surprised us, because we had been working on a satellite too, and worried for our national security.

Our policies then reflected a democratic approach to knowledge, that it should be shared by all citizens. For example, President Kennedy understood that not just academic talent but public support and understanding was needed, so instead of hiding our innovations, he helped us as a nation get to the moon by broad-sweeping investments in science education.

President Trump is undoing this progress by cutting funding for basic science, and then cutting us off from the understanding that science brings to our everyday lives, and the possibilities it opens for careers and enjoyment.

Further, he is isolating US scientific education and research communities from the rest of the world by not allowing free travel into and out of the country. Michael Lucibella


FEATURED WEBSITE:

The International Space Station

nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/main/index.html

Each NASA mission has its own web page. The International Space Station’s includes a live camera view of Earth (although it looked dark when I visited because the station was on the night side of the earth); a counter, recording how long the station has been in orbit; access to Space Station Updates telling you about the latest activity on the station; and comprehensive background stories and information about the missions being undertaken there.


For example, in January NASA announced two new astronauts who will be crewing the station: Andrew Feustel and Jeanette Epps. Feustel’s background is in earth sciences and geophysics, while Epps, who will be the first African-American space station crew member, studied physics and aerospace engineering. Both have doctorates in their chosen fields, and will be working as flight engineers. They each have Twitter feeds you can follow, as do all the astronauts.



NASA PHOTO


A satellite is ejected from the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Small Satellite Orbital Deployer on the International Space Station on December 19, 2016. The satellite is actually two small satellites that, once at a safe distance from the station, separated from each other, but were still connected by a 100-meter-long Kevlar tether.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ONGOING EVENTS

EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

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

FIRST SUNDAY MONTHLY

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

EVERY MONDAY

Greenfield Harmony Spring Session. No auditions. 6:45 p.m. Contact mcbarrass@vermontel.net for location and details.

EVERY TUESDAY

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

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.

3RD WEDNESDAYS

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Roots at the Root Cellar*. Reggae DJs

mixing up roots, dub, dancehall, steppas and more. 9 p.m. Free.

EVERY THURSDAY

Montague Center Branch Library, Montague: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers. 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.

FIRST THURSDAYS

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

EVERY THIRD THURSDAY

Tilton Library, S. Deerfield: *Book Discussion*. 6:30 p.m.

2ND AND 4TH THURSDAY

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

EVERY FRIDAY

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.

EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

Free Arms Library, Shelburne Falls: *Open Prose and Poetry Reading*. Arrive before 7 p.m. to sign up for 5 or 10 minute slots. 7 p.m.

Element Brewing Company, Millers Falls: *Brule's Irish Band*. 6 p.m.

EVERY FOURTH FRIDAY

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

FIRST SATURDAY MONTHLY

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

EXHIBITS:

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Mother and Son Exhibit*. Jon Bander shows his welding artwork, with paintings and sculpture by his mother, *Nina Rossi*. Exhibit through May 9.

Artspace, Greenfield: *Photography by Trish Crapo*. Reception on Friday, May 12, 5 to 7 p.m. Exhibit through June 2.

Easthampton City Arts, Easthampton: *Long Days, Long Nights, Swim Often*, prints, drawings, and paintings by *Hannah Hurricane Sanchez*. Artist reception on Saturday, May 13, 5 to 8 p.m. Through May.

GCC, Greenfield: *Art Student Exhibit 2017, South Gallery*. Includes painting, photography, computer arts, video and more. Through May 11.

Great Falls Discovery Center,

Turners Falls: *Catch and Release*. Exhibit of river and water-themed art by western Mass. artists. Exhibit opening reception, Sunday, May 7, 2 to 4 p.m. Through May 29.

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

Leverett Crafts and Arts: *The Loss You Feel by Buzzy Napoli*. Images and videos. Artist reception Thursday, May 4, 5 p.m. Through May.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Paintings by Louise Minks and her students*. Through June.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Spring Mix*. Fine Art and Craft by area artists. Through May 10.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *The Nearest Faraway Place by Christin Couture*. Encaustic landscape paintings. Reception Saturday, June 10, 4 to 6 p.m. Also: *Winter's Bone, digital photography by Carl Nardiello*. Artist's reception Saturday, May 13, 4 to 6 p.m. Both exhibits through June 25.

Sawmill River Arts Gallery, Montague: On-going art offerings by gallery member artists.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *A World Beneath our Feet*, exhibit of rag rugs and floor cloths by *Lynda Faye and Joanne Gold*. Artists' reception on Saturday, May 13, 2 to 5 p.m. Through May 29.

SUBMISSIONS:

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

Slate Roof Press announces the 2017 Elyse Wolf Prize for their annual poetry chapbook contest. Deadline June 15. Details at: slateroofpresscontest.submit-table.com

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, MAY 4

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Collected Poets Series featuring Rebecca Morgan Frank, and Henry Lyman*. 7 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *MV/J Mascis Duo*. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Screaming J's*. Ragtime Boogie Woogie Piano Band. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 5

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *It's Kidleidoscope! This week it's fish*. For children ages 3 to 6, their siblings and an adult companion. 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Dickinson Memorial Library, Northfield: *Lion Story Hour cel-*

ebating National Children Book Week. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Greenfield Public Library, Greenfield: *Friends of the Library Special 2-Day Book Sale*, Friday, 4 to 6 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Dave Dersham and Alice Howe*. Singer/songwriters. 8 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Greenfield Police Association Presents: Comedy Night. Brad Mastroangelo, Steve Guilmette, Matt Berry*. 8 p.m. \$

Underdog Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Django Night*. Hot Club jazz. 7:30 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Shokazoba Cinco de Mayo*. 8 p.m. \$

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Skell Entertainment presents: Crafter*. Record release party. 8 p.m. \$

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

SATURDAY, MAY 6

Barton's Cove, Gill: Northfield Mountain sponsors a *Barton's Cove Treasure Hunt*. Family fun. Pre-register. 1 to 4 p.m.

Montague Common Hall: *Montague Center. Montague Square Dance*. Family event. 7 p.m. \$

Underdog's Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *the frost heaves and hales*. Acoustic trio. 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Juliet Simmons Dinallo*. Country pop. 8 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Gypsy Layne Cabaret and Company*. "Burlesque show." 8 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Angry Johnny and The Killbillies*. 8:30 p.m. \$

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Harry Nilsson tribute night*. Benefit for Planned Parenthood. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 7

Montague Center Town Commons: *May Day Celebration*. Maypole, singing, Morris dancing. 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Exploded View performs River/Water*. Arts ensemble gives performance in conjunction with art exhibit opening reception. 2 to 4 p.m.

Underdog Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Jim Eagan*. Finger-picking guitar. 7:30 p.m. \$

The Brick House, Turners Falls: *Eliza (Montreal), Phantom Head (Kansas City), Anti-Cosmos, Strange Fate*. All ages / substance free space. 8 p.m. \$

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

New Salem Public Library, New

Salem: *Neurofitness Class with Emily Hodos*. Pre-registration required. 7 to 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 11

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Ray Mason*. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 12

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Great Falls Coffeehouse presents: *The Bork, Tinen, & Kahn Trio*, contemporary acoustic and electric music. Donations support educational programming. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *GCC Dance Department Concert*. 7 p.m. \$

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *She Said*. House band. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks and Reed Performing Arts Center, Greenfield: *Lee "Scratch" Perry, and the Alchemystics*. 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Trio Balkan Strings*. World guitar. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Youngstown, and Mamma's Marmalade*. 8 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band*. 8:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Galvanizer*. "Groove to the psychedelic rock, funk, dub, surf & jam sounds." 9 p.m. \$



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POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

WEST ALONG THE RIVER: DEEPENING THE ARCHAEOLOGIES OF 1676

By DAVID BRULE

PESKEOMPSKUT – For those of us who live in this place, The Falls Fight or the massacre at Peskeompskut on May 19, 1676, was our Gettysburg, our Antietam. We live on or close to the site, yet we unconcernedly pass by the place where a most significant chapter in American history occurred. That chapter in our history made this region and ourselves who we are today. Few of us realize that, even fewer can imagine what really happened.

But we are ever inching closer to uncovering the full story.

Archaeologists, local historians, and American Indian tribal historical officers are pursuing the stories of King Philip's War, also known as Metacom's Rebellion, which met its turning point at the falls and gave a town its name. That event forever changed the lives of Indians who called this place their home, and had peacefully lived at the falls for 10,000 years. Their legacy, and the legacy of that disaster that befell them, reverberates through to 2017.

Readers will have heard by now that the town of Montague has been awarded a grant by the National Park Service to continue pursuing the story of the massacre that gave the village of Turners Falls its name.

Montague has headed a coalition of five area historical commissions (Montague, Gill, Greenfield, Deerfield, and Northfield) and three tribes (Narragansett, Wampanoag, and Nipmuck), plus a team of professional archaeologists from the Mashantucket Pequot Museum Research Center. This coalition is developing the most definitive analysis yet of the 1676 massacre which played a key role in ending King

Philip's War. That war was the single most costly war, in terms of fatalities proportionate to population, that this country has ever known.

Now having secured funding for Phase II of the study, Montague has hired the archaeologists of the MPMRC. That team, composed of Kevin McBride, David Naumec, Ashley Bissonnette, and Noah Fellman, has published the Research Design detailing the next steps of the archaeological study to take place over the next two years. (That document will soon be available on the Town of Montague website.)

Phase I was a "Pre-Inventory Research and Documentation" grant. That documentation is a thorough, meticulous and fascinating collection of archives, documents, maps, and a timeline of the attack at Peskeompskut. It, too, is available for viewing on the Town of Montague website, and a highly recommended read for the citizens of Montague who should know more about their history. It also contains more than fifty pages of narratives written by the participating tribes, describing their histories and traditions concerning the war and its impact on their tribal existence.

The Phase II Research Design is entitled "The Battle of Great Falls/Wissatinnewag-Peskeompskut Site Identification and Evaluation Project. This phase of the study, set to begin this month, has an eight-point list of tasks:

1. Develop an archaeological research design in accordance with the National Park Service and the Massachusetts Historical Commission.
2. Submit required permit applications to the MHC and obtain landowner permission for excavation and artifact donation.
3. Conduct a field survey, including:

a. Walkover survey; b. Remote sensing (metal detector survey of selected locations within the Core Areas); c. Subsurface testing seeking non-metallic artifacts and features; d. Presence of a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer from either the Narragansett, Wampanoag, or Nipmuck tribes, as cultural monitors.

4. Laboratory analysis and curation. This process will be designed to document battlefield boundaries as well as to assess artifacts for conservation needs.

5. Coordinate a public planning process.

6. Prepare a Final Technical Report.

7. Provide the Advisory Board with monthly updates.

8. Provide the Town of Montague with ten copies of the Technical Report and GIS map.

Many readers are familiar with the Core Areas of the study: the site where more than three hundred tribal refugees were massacred in their encampments near the falls, the area where the colonials tied their horses before the assault, the retreat route near the French King Highway into Greenfield, and the ford of Green River where Captain Turner was killed.

These Core Areas will provide challenges to the archaeologists since significant parts of these areas have been disturbed, built over, or otherwise occupied for the past 350 years.

The team anticipates they will encounter perhaps thousands of objects scattered throughout these landscapes. They will need to determine which ones have significance to the events of so long ago, but given the current technologies and state-of-the-art equipment, they are confident.

They state: "Over the last decade



TURNER'S FALLS, ON THE CONNECTICUT RIVER.

A 19th-century engraving of the Falls.

the Research Center battlefield archaeologists have acquired a great deal of knowledge and experience in the identification and analysis of a wide range of Colonial Period domestic and military material."

Without a doubt, we are poised on the brink of uncovering definitive details of this event, given the team's considerable resources and experience as stated in the design: "field, laboratory, technical personnel, facilities, services including metal detecting remote sensing (ground penetrating radar, electrical resistivity, magnetometry), archaeological testing and excavation, artifact cataloging, identification and analysis, radiography and microscopy."

This is the phase of the multi-year study that will concern itself with the archaeological signature of the event, the field work, the boots on the ground. In addition, the team will continue scouring the colonial archives from Connecticut and Massachusetts in order to profile troop dispositions, numbers, command structures, and disposition of personnel, equipment, and units. They will reconstruct the progress of engagements, and try to fill in the gaps in the historical record.

The team notes: "This is particularly important with respect to the Battle of Great Falls given that the historical record is often incomplete, inconsistent, or biased."

As we all know, the victors write the history.

The continued involvement of

tribal historical officers is vital to providing a complete picture of events during that war, as well as of the massacre by Turner's forces and the counter-attack by Indian soldiers.

Not enough research has yet been done into the tribal military tactics and strategies which were highly successful in fighting the united colonies of Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth, and Connecticut to a standstill. Each side was battered, and a number of peace negotiations had been initiated just before the massacre of May 19.

This Research Design proposes to push further into the archaeological, military, and cultural history of this event in greater detail than any study ever before.

This research will shine a strong light upon the most significant historical event of our region. It will provide all of us with a level of detail and perspective about our early history, thanks to state-of-the-art archaeological tools, and the expertise provided by both native tribal specialists and professional archaeologists.

The Research Design is available on the Town of Montague website. In addition, monthly meetings of the Battlefield Advisory Board and the Research Team are held on the first Wednesday of every month at 11 a.m. in the Montague Town Hall. All meetings are posted and open to public participation.



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