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also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 2, 2017

As His Support Erodes, Selectboard Places Chief On Administrative Leave

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE — The Town of Montague has placed police chief Chip Dodge on administrative leave, pending an “internal investigation,” according to a statement issued by town administrator Steve Ellis on Tuesday. The statement went on to say that the purpose of the investigation is to “acquire a complete and objective set of facts to inform any future action...”

Although the statement did not mention the subject of the investigation, the suspension comes in the wake of revelations that the chief was the subject of a state police probe over his handling of a prescription drug drop box

located at the public safety complex, and statements made by Dodge regarding the matter.

Investigators working for the state Attorney General conducted a “sting operation” in 2016, during which pills containing fake painkillers were planted, and later found missing from Montague’s cache of unused drugs. Dodge had been emptying the drop box and storing the drugs in his office, contrary to guidelines established by the Northwest District Attorney’s office.

Why the Attorney General was investigating the drop box has not been revealed. During an interview with investigators in June 2016,



Montague police chief Charles “Chip” Dodge

Dodge said that he was in recovery from an addiction to painkillers. It is not yet clear whether investigators were

see **CHIEF** page A7

Coal Country Delegation Greeted By Throngs



Organizers said the turnout for Saturday’s cross-cultural dialogue exceeded their wildest expectations.

By MIKE JACKSON

LEVERETT — In what many said was the largest gathering in town since the 2012 town meeting that approved the broadband bond, over 250 residents, sympathizers, and members of the press packed into the Leverett Elementary gymnasium Saturday morning to listen to a visiting delegation from eastern Kentucky.

The forum was part of a weekend-long visit arranged by the Leverett Alliance and the Whitesburg, KY-based Appalshop. Dubbed “Hands Across the Hills,” the visit was framed as a way to build a bridge between two rural communities on opposite sides of the nation’s yawning political divide.

“We’re seeing the face of the other, and that’s where change happens,” Paula Green of the Leverett Alliance’s “bridging committee” told the crowd. Green said that her group, which formed in the wake of last November’s election, had tried to reach out to “dialogue partners” locally “whose backgrounds, politics, social and economic circumstances were different from our own,” but that “a lot of people didn’t want to talk to us.”

So the group ended up building a relationship instead with counterparts in Letcher County, Kentucky, and set up an exchange program. In the spring, a group from Leverett will make the return visit to Appalachia.

“We’re known in the media as left-wing

east coast intellectual elites, so we’re trying to change that a little bit,” Green said.

The Appalachian delegation included documentary-makers from Appalshop, and three teenagers, including Alyssa Helton, the World’s Teen Miss Kentucky Tourism 2017. Helton showed the audience a slide show highlighting the beauty of her home county: its mountains, lakes, folk music and farm-fresh food.

The history of Letcher County has been the history of the coal industry, and since coal mining’s dramatic decline in favor of natural gas, poverty there has worsened, a public health crisis has deepened, and nearly 80% of voters favored Donald Trump, who made campaign promises to bring back coal jobs.

Land We Did Not Own

Community organizer Ben Fink, a transplant from Connecticut, explained the concept behind Appalshop’s Letcher County Culture Hub campaign, an economic development network that seeks to bring together groups across political lines on the principle that “we own what we make.”

Though the other half-dozen ambassadors did not include any miners or former miners, many described their personal and family ties to coal mining, and painted a picture of a society completely dependent on a single dying industry, and circling the

see **DELEGATION** page A7

Housing Authority To Sell Building To Cider Startup

By MARK HUDYMA

TURNERS FALLS — The Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), which has been seeking a larger office, has agreed to share its Canal Road building with a cidery until a new location is secured.

“It’s in the name: wild apples, wild fermentation — we’re a little wild,” said April Woodard, one of the investors behind Wild Child Cider, which plans to build “a bar and event space, around 1,200 square feet,” in the historic industrial building located in Turners Falls’ “canal district.”

Her partner, Curt Sherrer, is the owner of Millstone Ciders, a “farmhouse cidery serving oak barrel-aged dry cider” in Monkton, Maryland. This summer, Sherrer submitted a bid for \$12,735 for the building, which turned out to be the only one received by the HRA.



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

The buyer has agreed to let the HRA continue to operate at the Canal Road property until it finds suitable larger offices to move into.

“The town is very supportive,” said HRA executive director Fran Phoeny. “It’s really excited about having the cidery move into this location. It’s going to be a perfect location for them — it really is.”

The HRA has occupied a section of the building since 1992, while a larger, unfinished section has been owned by Rural Development Inc. (RDI), a non-profit organization created by the HRA.

According to HRA finance coordinator Hugh Mackay,

Sherrer’s offer was “substantially lower than anticipated.” Nevertheless, the two organizations voted to accept it, with the provision that the HRA can stay until it finds a new office.

“Initially, the cidery is going to move into what we call the ‘garage area’ in back,” Phoeny said. “The HRA will continue to occupy our office spaces.”

She said the agency would not be paying rent to Wild

see **HRA** page A3

GILL SELECTBOARD

Contract with Redmond Inked

By GEORGE BRACE

Following an executive session, the Gill selectboard announced Monday night that they were signing a contract with the new police chief, Chris Redmond.

There will be a swearing in ceremony Monday, November 6 at 5 p.m. at the town hall. All are welcome to attend.

Fire chief Gene Beaubien reported that the town was “good to go” in its purchase of new self-contained breathing apparatus, and presented a purchase order, which the board approved. He lauded administrative assistant Ray Purington’s tireless efforts in securing the FEMA grant money that will cover the majority of the \$144,000 cost for the 20 new units

and associated equipment.

In the course of the discussion, selectboard chair Randy Crochier brought up the fact that many of Gill’s volunteer firefighters go on to find employment in nearby towns, which “says a lot” about the quality of Gill’s department.

Beaubien said emails were being exchanged with various vendors about the purchase of new fire trucks, but there was no real update. He also reported that the town’s Insurance Safety Office (ISO) safety rating has been raised, and Crochier mentioned that this may positively affect some homeowners’ insurance rates.

Purington presented applications for two grants from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA). The first was for

see **GILL** page A2

The Week in Turners Falls Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

This week, the Turners Falls football team won by a half, proving Bert Bell’s adage. The volleyball squad bounced into the second season, sweeping their last two opponents, and the field hockey team finished a terrific season.

Also in sports, the Franklin Tech golf team took the bronze in Western Mass, and went on to play in the State Championship tournament.

Volleyball

TFHS 3 – Mohawk 0

TFHS 3 – Greenfield 0

On October 24, the Turners Falls volleyball team beat the Mohawk Warriors in three straight matches, 25-12, 17, 9. It was senior night, and the gym was swimming with blue and white streamers, balloons, and rowdy teen spirit. Volleyball is the last best chance for Turners Falls fall sports, and the gym was rocking.

But amidst the true blue faithful, there were a few quiet spies.

The Frontier Red Hawk team has a storied history. Last year, they made it to the Massachusetts state championship game. From 2010 to 2015, they won seven straight state titles. In 2009, they were Western Mass champions,

and in 2008, they beat Turners Falls in Western Mass finals.

Why do I mention Frontier? Because they were at the Mohawk game, dressed in their colors, sizing up the competition.

In the first match against Mohawk, Turners sprouted out to a 22-7 lead on their way to a 25-12 victory. The second match was closer,

see **SPORTS** page A8



DAVID HOIT PHOTO

Net gain: The Powertown volleyball team celebrates another point during a 3-0 sweep of Mohawk Regional on senior night at TFHS.

The Montague Reporter

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Mechanic Mike Douglass works on one of 30 snowblowers awaiting seasonal maintenance at Sirum Equipment in Montague. Mostly, he says, the carburetors are gummed up by ethanol from pump gas. Running a quart of ethanol-free gas before storing any engine is highly recommended. (It goes for \$8 a quart at Sirum's!)

Suspended Disbelief

After a year spent mired in an angry jocks-versus-nerds culture war, Montague has two real problems on its hands: a school system nailed with a surprise million-dollar debt, and a leadership crisis at the police department.

Last year, when Chief Chip Dodge was mysteriously suspended and reinstated, someone made a passing, cryptic, and off-the-record comment to one of our staff

that it would have to be up to him to decide what to tell the public, and when.

It would have been a maverick move to come clean as a police chief in recovery *before* the news eventually leaked out. Too late for that, though. We'll see if the whole house can be put back in order, but it seems like long-standing resentments have come to the surface, and it's not looking great for anyone.

Hills Under Your Nose

Congratulations to the Leverett Alliance for their apparently very successful "Hands Across the Hills" program over the weekend (see story, page A1).

We hope the private events, as well as the social time spent between host households and their Kentucky guests, were as enjoyable and thought-provoking as the Saturday forum we reported on.

Still, it must be said, there is something a little funny about seeing Leverett people going so far out of their way to encounter "the other" in response to the presidential election. Sure, 80% of Letcher County residents, and only 15% of Leverett's, voted for Donald Trump. It's a big gap.

But there are specific and fairly unique factors in the heart of coal country that made their support for a demagogue who promised to restore coal jobs somewhat *unrepresentative* of his overall voters. (The average household income of a Trump voter is closer to Leverett's than Letcher County's...)

If all the colleges and universities were closing, we can imagine a dependent community like Leverett would vote just as overwhelmingly for a candidate who

promised to reopen them.

Here in Franklin County, the town with the lowest income per capita, Orange, showed the most support for Trump. Monroe, the town with the second-lowest per capita income, had the second-highest percentage of Trump voters.

Orange, which went red on the map, is two towns away from Leverett. If the Alliance wanted to have an honest, two-way dialogue with a panel of Trump voters, why not recruit there, or in New Salem, or Erving, or Whately?

There's something pretty interesting in the frank admission that more local antagonists "didn't want to talk to us," and we've got to wonder how *that* problem is addressed by talking with researchers, lawyers, and community organizers from 660 miles away, gathered by an organization that has built a good name for itself over 48 years.

Anyway, here's the big take-away: Voters rejected Hillary Clinton when they weren't convinced she had their backs. So before you start a "dialogue" with your "different" neighbors, maybe ask yourself: What have you done to make them know that, when it comes down to it, you'll have their back?

And Then There's This

A couple months ago in this space, we ran a column on the economic and political upheavals of 1917 played out in Greenfield.

In Montana and Arizona that year, striking copper miners were brutally suppressed, "subjected to immigrant baiting, union busting, deportations, and vigilante violence. These tactics continue today."

That's from a flier for an event this Sunday, November 5 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Montague Com-

mon Hall, presented by Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution.

Billed as "The War on Labor: 100 Years Ago and Today," the presentation comes in the form of "songs, slides and stories" by activist performers Charlie King and Candace Cassin. Discussion and refreshments will follow.

There's a suggested donation of \$10 to \$15, but we're sure no one would be turned away.

GILL from page A1

backup cameras for Fire Engine 2 and the rescue van, the second for security cameras at the public safety complex. Police chief Redmond responded to questions from the board about the functionality of the security camera system, the uses for the cameras, privacy concerns, and some of the legalities involved.

Board member John Ward questioned the chief on oversight of the system and who would have access to the information. The chief responded by citing a number of legal considerations involved, such as laws pertaining to evidence, confidentiality, privacy and video of minors.

Ward expressed the opinion that Redmond "would be a good one to move this forward in the right way," and they agreed that further exploration of oversight concerns should take place, but did not have to happen immediately.

The board approved both grant requests. They also announced the receipt of a grant for the purchase of two bulletproof vests for the police department.

Trash Talk

Jan Ameen of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District appeared before the board, as part of an outreach effort to provide an overview of the services and benefits the district provides, and how it is currently working with the town.

"I could talk trash all night," Ameen told them. She outlined the programs, resources and grants available through the district, and responded to questions. Among the topics covered were the availability of pellet bag recycling at the Greenfield transfer station, the possibility of curbside organics recycling, and the success of the hazardous waste disposal program.

Ameen credited the town for its current efforts, and she and the board agreed that continued coordination and planning were both necessary and beneficial.

Past and Present

Historical commissioner Ivan Ussach reported that the Riverside Village Historical District has been added to the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park

Service. A similar proposal for Gill Center is "in the pipeline."

Having received the designation for Riverside, the commission is now looking into the possibility of signage for it on Route 2.

Ussach went on to discuss planning that the commission is doing related to celebrating Gill's 225th anniversary, including the opening of an exhibit at the Riverside municipal building, and the possibility of a historical kiosk in Riverside. He also said the battlefield study project is proceeding according to schedule.

Crochier reported back from a planning meeting for the town's 225th anniversary celebration, saying a lot of good stuff was accomplished. Steve Damon is working on scheduling a sing-a-long for the afternoon of January 1, and a contra dance for February 2, both at the town hall. The committee is also looking into having a pig roast at the Christmas in July event next summer.

Pam Shoemaker has come across some videos from the 1976 bicentennial celebration and is looking into putting together a short film of past town events. Ray Steele came up with the idea of issuing a friendly challenge to committee members to each bring one additional person to the next meeting to increase involvement.

Crochier ended the report by saying that the buzzwords for the committee's work, and goals for him, are to "celebrate community" and "have some fun."

Position on Charter Schools

Board member Greg Snedeker presented the idea of the town weighing in on the subject of charter school funding and accountability, similar to the ways in which nearby communities such as Amherst, Holyoke, Northampton, and others have recently voiced their concerns.

He noted that there are school budget issues looming in the district, and now may be a good time for Gill to add its voice to the mix on these subjects – possibly through a position statement, or an article at town meeting.

Snedeker said he was presenting the idea to "get the conversation going." After some discussion, the board asked Snedeker to draft a po-

sition statement to be reviewed at a future meeting.

Other Business

The board took up the question of which two of the state's Community Compact Cabinet's "best practices compacts" Gill should apply for.

Purington recommended the town choose the "public accessibility" and "information technology" compacts. He noted that the accessibility compact would help with future grants and planning for future building projects, and that improving accessibility was simply the right thing to do.

He also pointed out that there are many town departments which have computers, and it would be a good idea to have Gill's overall IT situation looked at by an unbiased professional. He added that this compact also opens the door for other IT grants.

The board approved both compact applications.

Highway superintendent Mickey Laclaire presented a purchase order for new rear tires for the backhoe, which was approved. He also received approval to post an advertisement for on-call snow plow drivers.

The board approved the renewal of the three-year intermunicipal Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District agreement through FY'20, and Purington notified the board that the district won an award from the state Department of Veterans' Services as "district of the year."

The board approved a request from the cable committee for the purchase of new equipment totaling \$3,660.

Amy Gordon appeared, representing the After-school Community Theater (ACT), to ask that the dates for the annual elementary school play be moved forward due to scheduling issues and the sweltering heat in the town hall later in the spring; ACT would like to begin rehearsing in the town hall in late March. Permission was granted.

The board ended the meeting with a second executive session, "to comply with MGL Chapter 214 Section 1B, 'Right of Privacy of a Person'."



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Compiled by DON CLEGG

Avenue A in Turners Falls seemed to have lots more **Trick or Treaters** this Halloween than in the past few years. The *Montague Reporter* must have given away more than 120 snacks, along with lots of cavity-free items such as glow sticks, spider rings, Halloween pencils and a bunch more stuff!

It also seemed that a lot more adults got into the spirit world, and dressed up this year.

St. Kaz, on Avenue A and Seventh Street in Turners Falls, is holding its **Holiday Craft Fair** this Saturday, November 4, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Start your holiday shopping early and browse a selection of 20 awesome vendors featuring homemade crafts, candy, jewelry, and much more. There will also be a huge raffle table full of fun things. All proceeds go to Adult Day Health Services in Greenfield.

The Turners Falls Fire Department will also be **offering safety tips** at the Greenfield Savings Bank branch in Turners Falls on Saturday starting at 10:30 a.m. Come and get your fall fire safety tips first hand: from setting clocks back, to chimney cleaning, to replacing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, the firefighters will cover it all.

Does your home have an ABC fire extinguisher? Is the exterior of your home clearly numbered? There will be plenty of tips, and also some handouts.

November's **Soup and Games Night** at Hope and Olive Restaurant (at the corner of Hope and Olive streets in Greenfield) will be held next Monday, November 6, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and will benefit the Salasin Project. There will also be raffles, a bake sale, and jewelry for sale, created by the Salasin Center's Women's Art Group participants especially to raise funds for the Center.

The Salasin Center encompasses both the Greenfield Women's Resource Center and the F.U.N. (Family United Network) Center. Believing that healing happens through mutually empowering relationships, the Women's Resource Center offers a safe place for women to build community, support each other, and empower and heal themselves. The F.U.N. Center's mission is to provide a safe, family-friendly, stigma-free environment where support and connection are offered.

Walking and biking just got easier on the Franklin County Bikeway! There will be a **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony** for the new bike and pedestrian bridge, reconnecting the

"Old" and "New" Greenfield Roads in Montague, on Tuesday, November 7, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Light refreshments will be served.

The Bernardston Historical Society is presenting a special fall program featuring Boston's world famous Brattle Book Shop's proprietor and **Antique Road Show appraiser Ken Glass** on Tuesday, November 7, at 6 p.m. at the Bernardston Senior Center, 20 Church Street.

Glass will discuss the value of old and rare books and share guidelines for what to look for when starting a collection. He will also give free verbal appraisals to books attendees have brought with them. Please limit the number of books you bring to three.

The program is open to the public and admission is free, and refreshments will be served.

The **21st Annual Gem & Fossil Show**, featuring the Jurassic Roadshow, will take place Saturday, November 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Greenfield Community College. All talks are in the Stinchfield Lecture Hall, and all show dealers will be in the Cohn Family Dining Commons.

Vendors will display specimens from around the world in all price ranges. See rocks and minerals, gemstones and fossils, jewelry and fine art featured speakers, demonstrations, activities for kids, and videos, posters and books for sale. The show will also feature free meteorites for kids, jewelry, and beads.

Dealers will have amazing specimens from around the world, including a large selection of Connecticut River Valley concretions for sale this year from a long-time collec-

tor. You can bring your unknown samples for experts to identify, and teachers can find classroom kits and other teaching aids.

The Montague Congregational Church will host **Fete Noel** at 4 North Street, Montague Center on Saturday, November 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. This Fall festival features crafts, homemade food and meals to go, candy, a straw pull table, re-gifts, a tin can drawing, blown glass, a lottery wreath, food basket drawings, a pet table, Christmas decorations and gently worn winter clothing.

Morning coffee break with homemade muffins. Lunch is corn chowder, sandwiches and pie. All proceeds benefit local and global mission programs.

The **Turners Falls Water Department's** semi-annual water bills were mailed October 31. Payments can be made by mail, online, or at the Water Department office at 226 Millers Falls Road. Business hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and a drop box is located to the left of the front door for payment after hours.

Payments are due by December 1 to avoid a \$20 late charge.

Would you like to help support the Montague Libraries? Are you available for one or two evening meetings a month?

An **Interim Trustee** is needed until the next town election in May. If interested, please send a letter of interest by November 16 to the Montague Public Libraries, 201 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

HRA from page A1

Child after the cidery takes ownership, but that the "hopeful closing date" for the sale is later this month, and that the shared arrangement is "hopefully on a very temporary basis."

"We really do want to stay in Turners Falls, though," she added.

The Heart of Apple Country

Woodard, who has lived in Shutesbury for seven years, said Wild Child hopes to make the building a "destination" on Canal Road. She says the company plans to source all of its ingredients from within a 150-mile radius, the approach taken by Millstone Ciders in Maryland.

"Sourced local, local ingredients," she said. "We have our equipment, it's a matter of getting it together.... We have some plans to do some interesting ciders. If we want to do a cider infused with lavender, we can harvest that as it grows."

"We're planning on a distillery to make calvados, an apple liquor," Woodard said. "We're eventually hoping to have art studios. Initially, we're getting our cidery and cider bar going."

"I think it's good to have some non-alcoholic items on the menu, like haymaker's punch," a drink made with ginger and apple cider

vinegar, she added.

Woodard said the group aspires to rent part of the space to other businesses. "I hope someone eventually comes in and makes a restaurant there," she said, adding that the basement may be an ideal environment for cheese ripening, with the nearest commercially available cave-ripening facility in central Vermont.

"You have to take a risk to start a business," she noted.

Woodard said the group hasn't bought any apples yet, but has "visited an orchard. We plan on using local, wild, and even found apples. That's part of the draw - you're in the heart of apple country. You're with your tribe."

Lisa Davol, marketing and membership manager at the Franklin Chamber of Commerce, said she had helped connect the Wild Child team to the Turners Falls site after working with Woodard on Cider Days, an annual festival that has expanded to the village for the first time this year.

"April has been on my Cider Days committee," she said. "Curt has always been a producer. They met [Turners Falls sculptor] Jack Nelson at an event, and he told them, 'the building across the canal from me - they want to sell'."

"The town seemed to bend over

backwards," Davol continued. "They are good at cutting down the obstacles to make someone's dream come true."

An Exciting Project

"No one else wants this building," said Woodard. "We're going to put the original windows back in, and make it as authentic as possible." She said Wild Child, which is "still entertaining investors," has hopes to quickly develop an event venue with seating space for hundreds.

"There is a tentative beer festival scheduled for April," she said. "I could see a tap for Brick and Feather, a tap for Element, a tap for Ginger Libation."

Locals curious to meet Woodard and Sherrer will be able to find them at Unity Park this Saturday, November 4. Millstone Ciders is among the international selection of cideries participating in the Cider Salon, the big event of the 23rd annual Franklin County Cider Days. As of press time, the first seating is sold out, while 50 seats at the second are available, at a cost of \$30.

Montague town planner Walter Ramsey said that the town has "been engaged with this developer for months now, mostly on a conceptual level.... It's an exciting

project for the town."

He said he believed the development of the Canal Road building, "could be a catalyst for other nearby development. Brick and Feather is just down the bike path."

The building is located directly across Turners Falls Road from the Southworth paper mill, which abruptly halted operations this summer and laid off all of its employees.

As for the HRA, Pheeny said the organization is moving as quickly as it can on relocating. "We've got an RFP out right now for real estate broker services, to help us identify the right space," she said. "We're working with the state and the legislative delegation to figure out how we're going to put all the pieces together."

Pheeny confirmed that former Hallmark School of Photography buildings are possible options. "Every commercial space with 8,000 square feet or more is on the table," she said. "That's the minimum of what we need to have our operations function.... Once a new location has been identified, and the funding for it is in place, then we will move."

"We hope it's going to be much sooner than later," she added.

Mike Jackson contributed additional reporting.



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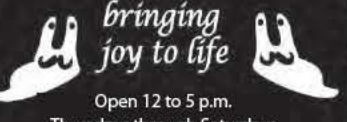


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TOWN OF MONTAGUE

Notice of Informational Meeting Spinner Park Improvements

The Town of Montague will hold an informational meeting on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 6 p.m. in the Montague Senior Center at Fifth Street, Turners Falls, MA.

The purpose of this meeting is to present and solicit public comment to the Spinner Park Improvement Project which is a component of the Town of Montague's FY 2016 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant award from the Department of Housing and Community Development. A landscape architect from Berkshire Design Group will make a presentation of the Spinner Park Proposed Conceptual Improvement Plans and take comments.

The Town wishes to encourage local citizens to attend the meeting where any person or organization wishing to be heard will be afforded the opportunity.

Town of Montague Board of Selectmen

NOTICE OF INTENT to apply for EPA Cleanup Grant

The Town of Montague, through its Planning and Conservation Department, intends to submit a proposal for an EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant to conduct cleanup activities at the vacant mill at 20 Canal Road in Turners Falls (Former Strathmore Mill).

A public information session will be held as part of the Montague Board of Selectmen's meeting on Monday, November 6 at 7:01 p.m. at the Montague Town Hall Second Floor Meeting Room, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA to receive public comment and to discuss the draft proposal and draft Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA). Public comments may also be submitted via email to planner@montague-ma.gov no later than Wednesday, November 8 at 4 p.m.

Copies of the draft proposal ABCA will be available on or before October 27 at www.montague-ma.gov, and at the Montague Planning Office at Town Hall during regular business hours, Mondays through Thursdays.

TOWN OF MONTAGUE

FY18 Community Development Block Grant Request for Proposals for Social Service Programs

The Town of Montague requests proposals for public social service programs that will meet the needs of Montague residents for inclusion in its FY2018 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application. All proposed programs must address needs identified by the Town of Montague's Community Development Strategy (2015-2018) and the MA Department of Community Development.

The Town of Montague will accept and open all proposals received at the Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, in Turners Falls, MA by 3 p.m., November 28, 2017. Postmarks will not be considered. Proposals submitted by fax or email will not be considered. Five (5) copies of the proposal are required. The envelope containing the proposal shall be marked "MONTAGUE FY2018 PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICE PROPOSAL."

For a copy of the RFP, please contact Bruce Hunter, HRA, by phone at (413) 863-9781 x133 or email: bhunter@fcrhna.org. For additional information, please contact Walter Ramsey, Town Planner, at (413) 863-3200 x112.

Town of Montague Board of Selectmen

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Leverett Officials Skeptical of Shutesbury's Sharing Skills

By ROB SKELTON

A proposal to contract out police chief services to Shutesbury fell flat at Monday's joint selectboard/finance committee meeting, thanks to a history of contention between the abutting towns around funding the regional school district.

Members of the two boards took turns describing years of bad-faith negotiations with Shutesbury, and took exception to Leverett police chief Scott Minckler's assertion that the consolidation would be a money saver.

Shutesbury currently has a "strong chief," with authority to hire, fire, and adopt policies, while Leverett has a "weak chief." In addition to the chiefs, Shutesbury has three full-time and four part-time officers; Leverett has two full-time and six part-time officers. The Shutesbury chief Tom Harding is on the cusp of retirement; the next ranking officer is a sergeant who – according to a retired Leverett chief who in the past has turned to Sunderland instead of Shutesbury for backup – has not actually completed sergeant's training, and may not enjoy the confidence of fellow officers.

"I have grave reservations about entering into contract with Shutesbury," said fin com chair Tom Powers, citing a "long run of difficult negotiations over a fifty-year contract."

"At this point, I'm so like done that I should just recuse myself," said selectwoman Julie Shively. "I'm up to here dealing with Shutesbury. There's an element of good faith that has to be there. They're not for the

good of the whole."

Ann Delano of the finance committee cited "liability, complaints, accountability. How are disagreements arbitrated, fairness, time spent?" she asked. "That's where I see a giant black hole."

Minckler stated he didn't know if it was the right thing for the town and that he had reservations himself; he proposed a one-year trial. Members of the selectboard expressed confidence in Minckler's capacity to do the job, but hedged on most of the details.

Delano said Shutesbury was trying to save money. Finance's Steve Nagy asked why they should expect to pay less.

"We're going to be fighting about what's relevant to talk about," Delano said, referencing again the reputation of a long string of Shutesbury negotiators.

"I'm in favor of the idea," said Powers. "I have real reservations about this particular town."

The boards agreed to send an initial cost analysis to Shutesbury which, selectboard chair Peter d'Errico said, "will reveal the pattern we've seen."

He cited Shutesbury's recent failures: "No new library, no broadband, no smooth path to regional assessment agreement. We've seen that deep pattern. From the outside it seems like civil war over there."

Other Business

The selectboard and fin com are shooting again to hold budget increases to 2% so as not to trigger the contingencies of Proposition

2 1/2, a state-issued governor on spiraling costs.

The boards directed selectman Tom Hankinson, who is the liaison to the school committee, to direct the committee to hold school spending to a 2% increase. Eighty percent of the school budget is salaries, leaving little to spare.

"You can't cut heating oil," said one fin com member. Nagy wondered whether teachers could be induced to work summers as an incentive for a higher salary, noting that teachers "don't work fifty-two weeks a year."

The regional assessment working group, which sets the middle and high school budget, has been directed to stay with the current 5-year "rolling average" means of assessment, which requires no unanimous consensus from the four involved towns: Leverett, Pelham, Shutesbury and Amherst.

Leverett and Pelham have declining enrollments; Shutesbury and Amherst have growing school populations. Pelham has 79 in-town students between grades K-6. The remainder are "choiced in," a situation Tom Powers called "off the rails."

"I'm afraid to adopt any of the other options, because they become statutory, with no options to tweak it," said Shively, who is an accountant and said she still can't make sense of the school assessment numbers game, especially when proposals come rolling in at the eleventh hour, as they had two days prior.

The scheduled tax classification hearing was postponed.

Sue Nagy was appointed to the Council on Aging.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Selectboard Sets New Tax Rates

By JEFF SINGLETON

At its October 30 meeting, the Montague selectboard voted to set a residential tax rate for FY'18 of \$17.09 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, and a rate of \$25.92 per thousand for commercial, industrial and personal property. According to estimates made by assessor Karen Tonelli, this represented a shift of 1.3% in the total tax burden from residential to commercial, industrial, and personal property under Montague's split tax rate.

Tonelli's estimates were made during the "tax classification hearing" which preceded the vote. Her data showed a relatively stable residential rate over the past five years, ranging from a high of \$17.61 in 2016 to a low of \$16.34 in 2014. The percentage shift in the tax burden to non-residential property has been

1.3% during that period.

Tonelli did not estimate the burden the 2018 rate would produce, but she did present data for 2017, which showed an average annual single-family tax bill of \$3,218 on an average home valuation of \$193,053. For comparison, Greenfield's average bill in 2017 was \$3,960 on a lower valuation (\$182,240), while Athol's was \$2,766 on an average valuation of \$135,603. Neither Greenfield nor Athol has a split tax rate, so homeowners shoulder more of the tax burden than in Montague.

Selectboard member Chris Boutwell pointed out that fire district taxes are not included in the assessments presented by Montague.

The tax rate approved by the selectboard will produce an increase of 6.2% in the total amount of taxes raised – the "tax levy" – from \$15,946,042 in 2017 to \$16,941,693

in 2018. She said this was a product of the budget voted at town meeting.

The total value of property in Montague increased by 2.8% this year, to \$849,641,435. According to the handout presented by the assessors, "[t]his is mainly attributable to an increase in utility property values, as well as increases due to new construction, additions, renovations and additional personal property."

"I've got to be the bad guy," said Chris Boutwell. "I've spoken to people in town, and [they feel] we're out of control... Fifty two percent of our population is seniors. They're not too happy out there. I'm not going to support it."

"What would you offer as a solution?" asked town administrator Steve Ellis.

"Well, as a solution, they think we need cuts," responded Boutwell.

see MONTAGUE next page

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Downtown Lot Talks Plod On

By KATIE NOLAN

The board discussed the 0.77-acre property for sale at 10 West Main Street, located near Riverfront Park and the municipal parking lot. The property's former residential well, not yet located, could be developed into a public water supply well and supply water to Riverfront Park and Erving Center.

Administrative coordinator Bryan Smith said that highway foreman Glenn McCrory was working on mapping the well's location.

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache said, "Finding the water source is one thing – getting there is another thing." He noted that engineering consultant Tighe & Bond had estimated a cost of approximately \$100,000 to bring water under the railroad tracks.

"I am not opposed to making an offer on the property," he added. "We can sell the property later, but we bought some time to look at it."

Jeff Dubay said he doubted that the Department of Environmental Protection would approve a public water supply well at 10 West Main Street, but he felt that more parking was needed for Riverfront Park and Erving Center, and the property could be used for additional parking.

Jeanie Schermesser said, "It's an important parcel to obtain. If it becomes a viable water source, it's valuable."

Selectboard member William Bembury said that, for a public water supply, "You're talking about a lot of money."

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith said the town has not pursued a

public water supply for Erving Center because it lacked a water supply source, it was costly and there was a lack of interest from residents, many of whom are satisfied with private wells.

The board plans to discuss the 10 West Main Street property further at its November 6 meeting.

They also reviewed a list of 73 town-owned properties prepared by Bryan Smith. Jacob Smith noticed that several properties were missing from the list.

Bastarache said the important questions were "What are these used for," and "why are we hanging on to them?"

The board asked Bryan Smith to update the list, calculate the lost tax revenue from town ownership of the properties, and have the Franklin Regional Council of Governments prepare a digital map of the properties for discussion at the next board meeting.

Traffic Safety

Bryan Smith told the board that "Slow Ahead" and "Yield" signs are being painted in the southbound lane on North Street, and that a handicapped-accessible sloping ramp is being installed at the Church Street pedestrian crossing.

Selectboard chair Smith said that a truck exclusion for North Street is on hold: "We can't do anything without interest from Northfield."

The administrative coordinator said that the Route 2 Safety Task Force, which has not met for two years, will meet November 16 at 5:30 pm in Erving. The task force will discuss traffic safety issues for Route 2

between Athol and Greenfield.

Selectboard members said they hoped the task force will discuss the traffic problems at Church and North streets. The location of the meeting has not been set.

Other Business

Finance committee chair Eugene Klepadlo sent a letter of resignation to the selectboard. Jacob Smith expressed thanks for Klepadlo's service.

There are now two vacancies on the finance committee, and the board is looking for people who want to serve on it.

The board signed an agreement with Erving Industries regarding third-party wastewater, which will be in effect until June 30, 2018. Since last June, the town and Erving Industries have been working on a "Third Party Wastewater Agreement" that governs revenue for outside septage accepted at the POTW #2 wastewater treatment plant.

POTW#2 is owned by the town, but operated by ERSECO, an Erving Industries subsidiary, under an agreement with a renewable term of ten years. It primarily treats wastes from Erving Paper Mill, but also treats wastes from some Erving residences. In addition, the plant treats waste from third parties (outside septage) for a fee.

The board discussed possible grant-funded projects under the state Community Compact program, including an assessment of internet technologies. They decided to consider Community Compact projects at the November 6 meeting.

MONTAGUE from prev page

"That's the discussion in the spring with the finance committee," responded Tonelli.

Selectboard member Rich Kulewicz focused on the impact of the split tax rate on business. "It's considered by businesses that come to town, and we've heard it... is that 'your tax rate for commercial/industrial property is much higher than your surrounding communities'.... It's a big difference, and it can be a detriment to draw business to town."

Kulewicz estimated that changing to a single rate would produce a \$450 tax increase for the average homeowner. "It's a bigger discussion for a different time. That's what we say every year, though."

In the end, the board unanimously voted in favor of the rates proposed by the assessors.

Leaking Theater Roof

Steve Ellis updated the board on the leaks in the Shea Theater roof caused by rainstorm on the night of October 24. At that time, the town was "already in the process" of repairing the lower of the two Shea roofs, the front roof over the lobby. Work on the upper roof is waiting for a larger appropriation from town meeting, Ellis said, "but the level of disruption from moving things out left us vulnerable in what proved to be a very rainy week."

Ellis stated the town does not have the time right now for a complete reconstruction of the upper roof, but has received an emergency

waiver from the state to do more work than originally planned without a formal bidding process. That will allow more "substantial professional repairs" than originally planned – "much more substantial than sending someone up there with a bucket of sealant," Ellis said.

At Ellis' request, the board voted to commend three members of the town highway department for their "ongoing responsiveness to weather-related events and other emergencies in town," including the leak at the Shea.

Leaking Middle Class

The selectboard voted to accept the provisions of a state law, Massachusetts General Law chapter 32B Sections 21 through 23, to allow a change in the "plan design" of health insurance policies for town employees. The vote was in response to a decision by the town's employee health insurance carrier, the Hampshire Group Insurance Trust, to raise copayments and deductibles for its policies next year.

The state law which Montague adopted allows the town to change the structure of employee benefits without a formal collective bargaining process with unions. However, the law establishes an elaborate process for making those changes, including negotiations with an "insurance advisory committee" and a "public employee committee" that includes union members.

The process was explained by Timothy Zessin of Kopelman and Paige, the town's legal counsel. The

law requires the town to estimate the savings produced by proposed plan changes, and to share a percentage of those savings with employees. The town must also attempt to "mitigate" the impact of the changes on retirees, low-income subscribers, and subscribers with high out-of-pocket health care costs.

"This is only the beginning of the process," said Zessin.

Other Business

In his capacity as its organizer, Michael Nelson gave a generally upbeat "review and debriefing" of the Great Falls Festival, held on the previous weekend in downtown Turners Falls. The name of the festival was changed this year from the traditional "Pumpkinfest."

Nelson and Ellis reviewed some of the input they had received from those attending the festival, and Nelson requested, and received, various permits for the 2018 festival. As a selectboard member, he recused himself from those votes.

Bruce Hunter of the Franklin Regional Housing and Redevelopment requested, and received, certificates and allocations for parts of the Avenue A streetscape and lighting project.

The board adjourned to an executive session "to discuss complaints and potential disciplinary action against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual..."

Their next meeting will be held November 6 at the town hall.



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— Lisa McLoughlin, editor

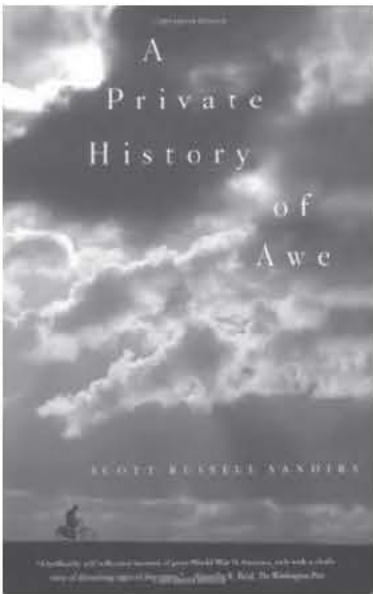
The Science of Awe

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

In “Awesome Awe” (*NewScientist*, 29 July 2017), Jo Marchant discusses scientific research that treats awe as a state with psychological and physiological components. Dacher Keltner, a scientist who studies awe, defines it as “a subjective feeling rooted in the body.” He describes it as being reliably brought on by sending people into Nature, a cathedral, or in front of a dinosaur skeleton, and as being measured by psychological scales as well as physiological ones such as goosebumps.

Scientific studies show that feeling awe lowers stress and boosts creativity. Feeling awe makes us more ethical, kind, and as Keltner says, reduces our sense of self by encompassing a bigger picture, but with no drop in our sense of status or self-esteem. People who have experienced awe are more likely to help someone who stumbles, and feel more connected to people in general. This can be quantitatively measured by magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Studies by neuroscientist Michiel van Elk showed that awe quiets the default brain work that relates to our sense of self, that “voice in our head” disappears, and we connect to others more fully.

Scott Russell Sanders writes eloquently about his awe-filled experiences in nature in *A Private History of Awe* (NY: North Point Press, 2006). Divided into sections called *Fire, Air, Water, and Earth*, and



bookended with a poignant prologue and epilogue, this book is an honest and lyrical exposition of the role awe has played in this man’s life.

Sanders – part religious, part scientific – writes in such a way that you feel his experiences as if you were there, even experiencing awe yourself. He uses the Quaker term “Openings” to describe poignant moments of awe: “When I first heard the term ... I thought of how, on an overcast day, sunlight pours through a break in the clouds. After the clouds drift on, eclipsing the sun, the sun keeps shining behind the veil, and the memory of its light shines on in the mind.”

If you can’t get out to a forest or in front of a dinosaur skeleton, read a little of this book. Sanders’ “history of openings” is a near substitute. You’ll feel awesome afterwards.

BOOK REVIEW

Josh Vanbrakle, *Backyard Woodland: How to Maintain and Sustain Your Trees, Water, and Wildlife* (Countryman Press, 2016)

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

Who owns our forests? We do. And it's up to us to care for them.

— Josh Vanbrakle

Globally, governments own 85% of forested land, while in the United States, private citizens own 56%, and most of that is small family parcels. Many of us have seen forests we grew up near or in, logged-off and turned into house lots.

Usually this happens when the patriarchs or matriarchs of families have died and deeded the land to multiple adult children who don’t have a plan in place, or even, sometimes, an interest in it.

A recent Harvard Forest report *Wildlands and Woodlands: Farmlands and Communities* (Foster et al; 2017) showed that New England has been losing forest land to development at a rate of 65 acres per day, and that public funding for preservation of open land, both state and federal, has also been on the decline in all six states. This means planning for our local forests is more important than ever.

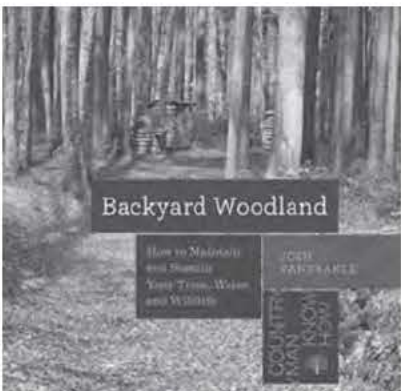
Backyard Woodland talks about logging and getting money from your forest, but its focus is on di-

verse ways to use and value your forest, and how to plan for its future. While I have some issues with foresters thinking of themselves as “architects for the woods,” this particular forester is an exceptionally thoughtful and even-handed one.

I liked this book in part because of its readability. It is written in a conversational tone and is nicely laid out, with “Try this” sidebars for hands-on projects (large and small), and “Watch out!” features that caution against common misconceptions or problems, and counsel how to avoid them. It has a good index, citations, and a nice section on further resources.

Content-wise, the book’s goal is harmony between land and landowner. When you’re in partnership with your land, both win. Vanbrakle offers six simple rules to “do right by” your land: protect the soil, protect the water, provide diversity, leave something for the future, keep the land intact, and meet your ownership goals.

To me it was most interesting how comprehensively he treated each topic. Take the example of access. One chapter explained how posting and marking boundaries might help prevent tree theft, while another discussed how to make money by leasing hunting rights.



This is someone who knows a lot about all the options available to us, and who thinks carefully about which option works for which type of landowner and piece of land.

He addresses the intersection of culture and nature, e.g. he understands that some people need to make or save money to keep the forests they love, and gives lots of ways to do that without simply clear-cutting: tax breaks, farming the forest, alternative leases or access, selective cutting, and so on. Vanbrakle also addresses influences on the forest like invasives, disasters, and global warming which elucidate how forests fit in with the rest of Nature.

It was a pleasure to skim though this book, and I’d recommend it as a great resource for anyone who manages their own woodland, large or small.

Letter to the Editor
A Fun Science Resource In “Your Uncle Neil”

Dear Science Editors,

I was so happy to see a call for “light hearted science resources,” in the October 5 paper. One of my favorites is a podcast by Neil deGrasse Tyson called “Star Talk” (startalkradio.net).

Dr. Tyson, the snappily-dressed director of the Hayden Planetarium in Brooklyn, refers to himself as “your personal astrophysicist.” He has many academic credentials, and his pop-culture power includes narrating the new *Cosmos* (and since he has actually met Carl Sagan, that is even cooler), and helping Superman locate the planet Krypton in DC’s *Action Comics 14*, in which he appears wearing one of his trademark science-print vests. He is also wearing the same vest when he appears as a character in *Ice Age: Collision Course*.

In my house, and my Holyoke elementary classroom, Dr. Tyson is known as “your Uncle Neil.” I can’t think of a more humorous and grounded scientist – especially a man of color – to be part of their academic family. Very frequently, after listening to a podcast on my morn-

ing commute, I greet my students with, “Guess what your Uncle Neil and the scientists just learned!”

Each episode features Uncle Neil replaying a recording of his interview with a celebrity, or a top-notch researcher in his office. He dissects and footnotes the interview with the help of additional science-friends with him on stage, and the self-effacing comedian Chuck Nice. They argue and joke about a wide range of Nobel-worthy topics with the same intensity as a tavern brawl, made even more enjoyable

by their New York accents.

That being said, savvy adults might want to preview each episode of “Star Talk” before sharing it with any youngsters. Uncle Neil, his science all-star guests, and Chuck Nice pull no punches when discussing a wide range of science topics. Some of their scientific candor could be upsetting for the sensitive listener, and their fart jokes might try some people’s patience.

Cheers,

Elizabeth Irving
Montague Center

Moon Calendar for November 2017:

Saturday, November 4:
Full Moon

Sunday, November 26:
First Quarter

Friday, November 10:
Last Quarter

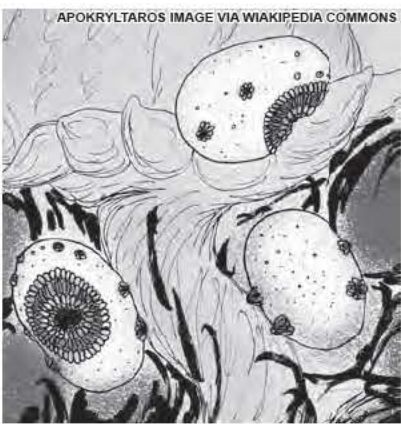
Saturday, November 18:
New Moon

Combination of two photos – moon and meteor – in Oxted, England.

Scientific Genealogy:
Excerpted Summary

A *Science News* web story in January of this year reports that a “microscopic, bag-like marine creature” was identified from microfossils found in Shaanxi Province, China. The creature lived approximately 540 million years ago in the Fortunian stage of the Cambrian period.

The creature is our ancestor, the earliest yet found in the deuterostomia chain of evolution. They believe the creatures lived between grains of sand on the ocean floor, moved about by wiggling, and both ate and excreted via their very large mouths. Forty-five specimens, which are about a millimeter in size, were found in central China, and were analyzed by experts from the University of Cambridge in the UK, the University of Kassel in Germany, Northwest University, China University of Geosciences and Xi’an Shiyou University in China.



Reconstruction of Saccorhynchus coronarius: lateral, hind and ventral views.

For more information on our chain of evolution, see ucmp.berkeley.edu/phyla/deuterostomia.html.

For more detail about this particular research, read the original article published on January 30, 2017 in the journal *Nature*.

NOTE: The peak of the Leonid Meteor Showers is on Friday, November 17 – right near a new moon, so it should be spectacular. Send photos, poems, and prose about the event to Science@montaguereporter.org to be featured on next month’s NatureCulture science page!

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CHIEF from page A1

aware of this prior to the interview.

In early July 2016, the district attorney's office, which has organized the drug return program, removed the drop box from the station and suspended Montague from participation in a regional anti-crime task force. These actions were made public in a September 2016 article in the *Greenfield Recorder* based on files obtained by public records request.

The state's investigation was terminated last spring without any charges being brought. However, on October 13, 2017, the *Recorder* published a three-page article based on a summary of Dodge's June 2016 state police interview. The newspaper did not reveal how it had obtained this document, which was written nearly four months after the interview.

The article on the investigation was accompanied by an interview in which Dodge spoke at length about his drug addiction. He stated that the publicity surrounding the investigation "was an opportunity for me to be able to help my community from what I had learned."

Rank and File Rebellion

The newspaper also reported on a 2016 email from Dodge to state police detective Steven Fennessy, in which Dodge, who had denied taking the pills, claimed that other officers in his department may have had keys to his office.

These statements raised the ire of rank and file members of the Montague Police. At a meeting on October 19, members of the patrolman's and sergeant's unions, part of the Police Benevolent Association, passed a motion stating, in part, that the "entire membership... has no confidence in [Dodge's] ability to lead this important public safety department."

The statement noted that no officer had been questioned during the state police investigation, had been questioned about keys to Dodge's office, or had access to the drop box.

The union letter also raised the issue of a disciplinary action in 2000 where Dodge had been demoted from sergeant to patrolman for attempting to cover up car damage he had caused during a conflict with another Montague police officer. The union also accused Dodge of making personnel changes, after his state police interrogation, "in retaliation for the Chief's perception that a patrolman or sergeant from the Montague Police Department had initiated the Attorney General's investigation."

The union members also challenged Dodge's claim that he had not emptied the drop box late at night. "[T]he public statements made by the Chief are inconsistent with the observations of our membership," they wrote.

The letter was signed by every full-time member of the department, with the exception of Jamal Holland, who was attending the police academy, and Lieutenant Chris Bonnett, whose position is not covered by the union.

Shadow of Suspicion

The union that represents the department's dispatchers, the National Association of Government Employees, also sent a letter to the selectboard denouncing Dodge. The letter, signed by the union's regional supervisor Robert F. Dickson, accused the chief of attempting to "throw others under the bus in an effort to make himself appear less guilty."

The employees of Montague dispatch department, however, followed this up with their own letter to the board expressing "disappointment with the tone and wording of Mr. Dickson's letter," which they called "inflammatory and unprofessional." They asked the board not to read the Dickson letter in public.

Their statement, however, did not voice support for Dodge. Nor did a letter sent to the board on October 17 by former Montague detective, and former police chief, Ray Zukowski.

Zukowski referred to Dodge as "An admitted addicted man who needs medically assisted treatment for his addiction routinely taking prescription drugs into a closed room. These are not the actions of a man in recovery. These are the actions of an addict out of control."

He went on to criticize Dodge for "attempting to cast a shadow of suspicion over members of his department... [who] deserve to be treated better than this."

Then, on October 24, the regional district attorney's office informed Montague that it would not be reinstated to the anti-crime task force "until such time as there is a change in personnel at the position of police chief."

The decision, made by the task force's executive board, was justified by stating that "placing a member of the Montague Police Department in the position of answering to both the Montague Police Chief and the leadership of the Task Force, where drug investigations would need to remain confidential from the Police Chief, is untenable."

When asked by this newspaper why drug investigations would need to remain confidential from the chief, the district attorney's office refused to comment. Montague town administrator Steve Ellis said that the town would be seeking clarification of the task force's statement.

Although the decision of the Montague selectboard to suspend and investigate Dodge comes on the heels of the apparent loss of support for the chief within his own department, the October 31 statement says that the board "makes no presumption with regard to the outcome of this investigation."

Ellis told the *Reporter* that the board is currently working with town counsel, the firm Kopelman and Paige, to identify "suitable consultants... that specialize in confidential investigations of municipal agencies, with an emphasis on police investigations."

The issue of hiring an investigator is currently on the agenda for the November 6 selectboard meeting.



Ten Letcher County residents discussed their home and answered questions.

DELEGATION from page A1

wagons around its defense.

"I know, from the organizing efforts of the Culture Hub, that we can, as a people in our county, overcome the loss of coal," said Nell Fields, a researcher at the University of Kentucky and a board member at the Cowan Community Action Group.

Fields said she had initially felt "resentment and anger" toward members of her family who had supported Trump, including her son and her brother, who had started working at 12 and eventually rose to prominence as a strip-mining operator, reinvesting a small fortune in the local community.

"There are some things that happened in people's lives that brought them to this point," she said, "and it's up to us to try to develop an understanding of that, instead of just despise who they are."

Valerie Horn works for a Kentucky organization called the Community Farm Alliance, directing a program called Appal-TREE, which distributes healthy, locally raised food as a demonstration project intended to affect health outcomes.

"Our life expectancy, according to [the] Robert Wood Johnson [Foundation], is about eight and a half years less than yours," Horn told the assembly. "Over 40% of the children in our community live below the poverty line."

While she described some of the public health problems as "self-induced," she described different ways organizing efforts in the region were taking aim at systemic problems, including an enormously popular "community feeding program" that allows SNAP and other forms of assistance to be traded in for fresh, local fruits and vegetables.

"It seems that today, intentional civic discourse with those with whom we disagree has all but disappeared in the public square," said attorney Tyler Ward. Ward is the son of Jim Ward, Letcher County's Judge/Executive – its highest elected office, something like a county commissioner. His maternal grandfather had owned a mining equipment company, and watched it shrink from over 80 employees to four.

"I don't believe the folks in the mountains have an aversion to science," Ward said. "[But] climate change is something attenuated, when you've been living on fixed incomes, or for a century have been reliant upon another."

"No one in my family's ever been a coal operator, or the owner of a coal company," Gwen Johnson told the audience. "My dad was a UMWA man, and an organizer."

For his activism, Johnson's father was blackballed from working in the mines, and growing up, her family struggled to survive by providing secondary services to miners. Her brother, and three of her uncles, were killed in mining accidents.

Johnson spoke of ancestors who were refugees from Scotland, displaced by the Highland Clearances, and her people's "long history of not having ownership of where we are – being attached to the land that we did not own." She described herself as a "tree hugger."

Still, she said, "when the coal industry began to crumble out from under us, we were mad."

"It's a weird thing," Johnson said. "I want people to be able to work. I want them to be able to put food on their table, and I don't want them to have to live on handouts. And so, with that being our only industry – really and truly – we've had very little choice."

Relatively Lucky

A portion of the forum was dedicated to presenting some local context for the visitors. All three of Leverett's featured speakers – Edie Field, Dave Palmer, and Julie Shively – happened to have moved to town in the 1970s.

Field spoke of Leverett's early history, and selectboard member Shively of its recent developments and "social hubs" – the library, the coop, and especially the transfer station. But Palmer, originally tasked with focusing on North Leverett, responded to what he had heard from Whitesburg with a run-through of the factors he saw as having contributed to Leverett's success.

These were the decline of agriculture, and the fallowing of pastureland, followed by the decline of industry. "Property prices crashed, and all of the back land was bought up by large lumber companies, and consolidated into vast tracts of forest land," Palmer explained. "The local economy was negligible."

On the other hand, by the mid-20th century, neighboring Amherst had become "a magnet for colleges and universities."

"People from the colleges began to migrate into Leverett because it was a quaint place to live," Palmer

remembered, and spoke of his own generation "trying to go back to the land, and have communes, and avoid zoning laws." "No hovel was too cheap for them," he said, showing a picture of his younger self assessing a dilapidated barn to much laughter from the crowd.

"We were welcomed by the old-timers," Palmer continued. "What surprised us immensely was how the old families seemed to come together with the draft-dodging, no-good hippy types."

"Property prices went up and up and up," he went on. "And nearly everybody's a commuter." (Palmer himself teaches behavioral psychology and statistics at Smith College.)

He tried to extract a lesson from this history that could be offered to the Letcher County guests. "We were rescued by the presence of a large, institutional source of money and employment nearby," he told them.

"Without that, I don't know where Leverett would be today. I guess we could extrapolate by moving to the towns west of us, and further away. I think Leverett is relatively lucky.... You can't just ask a university to move in next door."

Different Necks of the Woods

"I was just in awe when I was listening to this presentation on Leverett, because it's so vastly different from where we are," said Gwen Johnson. "In our neck of the woods, coal severance tax has paid for all of our county services: our garbage pickup, our water – any infrastructure that we have in our county, coal severance tax money has paid for that."

"I did not vote for Donald Trump, but if I grew up in Letcher County, and that were my history, I very well might have," Fink told the crowd, explaining that soundbites of Hillary Clinton saying "we're going to put a lot of coal miners and coal companies out of business" were circulated endlessly in regional media.

After explaining how loss of coal tax revenue meant that first the county's senior centers had closed, cutting many off from a source of meals, and then its public dumpsters disappeared, leaving residents nowhere to dispose of refuse, Johnson choked up when she related that in the recent months, her own grandchildren had moved away, as their father sought work elsewhere.

"Hillary Clinton shot herself in the foot, with me, when she made the remarks she did about coal," Johnson said. "I can't begin to tell you how that touches where we are."

The forum closed with a performance by the Leverett community choir, followed by a potluck meal, and later, contra dancing at the Montague Common Hall.

"One stereotype that I had of this part of the country was coolness and distance," said Letha Dollarhide, in one of the event's lighter moments. "Well, that's been totally disproven."

The self-described "grandmother to everybody" later joked that she had been warned, when she left, not to "bring one of them home with you."

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DAVID HOLIT PHOTO

Hat Trick and Treat: Turners' Cassidbe Wozniak scores 3 goals against Smith Academy as Powertown and Falcons tie 4-4 during the final season game.

SPORTS from page A1

and ended on a Mohawk net violation. In the third, Mohawk hung tough but at game's end, Turners broke open a 17-17 tie to take it 25-19.

Two days later, on Thursday, October 26, Turners finished their regular season by sweeping Greenfield 25-10, 15, 18.

The wins give Turners a record of 17-3, and a fourth seed in the D3 West bracket. Meanwhile, Frontier is ranked #1 in the same bracket.

Turners opens the playoffs this Thursday at home against Southwick. If they win, they earn a date with the winner of the Easthampton/Athol game on November 11.

Golf

On October 23, the Franklin Tech golf quintet – Hunter Session, Mike McGoldrick, Nate Pelletier, Michael Patenoide, and Travis Cutting – competed in the Western Mass D3 Championship held at Orchards Golf Club in South Hadley. The Tech team shot a combined 363, earning them third-place finish and a trip to Great Barrington.

A week later, Tech competed in the State Championship at the Wyantenuck Country Club in Great Barrington. They improved by five strokes to finish with a 358 and a re-

spectable 12th-place finish.

Field Hockey

On the other side of the Millers Falls Road, the Turners Falls High School field hockey squad hung up their sticks and put away their kilts.

Last season ended on a shootout. This season ended on a tie.

I saw Frontier coach Missy Mahar on Monday. Her mother lives next door to my brother, and we were both examining the huge trees lying on their lawns. We estimated how long our relatives would be without power, and then we spoke about field hockey.

A day earlier, Frontier had played Greenfield. Whoever won that game would win the Valley Wheel Title. The winner would also be ranked higher in the playoffs. But if the game ended in a tie, Frontier would take the VW by a half game and would probably get the higher seed.

Greenfield had been winning 2-1, but with less than two minutes to play, Frontier tied it up. The tie gave Frontier the VW Championship, and the top seed in Western Mass D-2.

Then I told her about the Turners game.

On Wednesday, October 25, the Turners Falls field hockey team hosted Smith Academy. It was Senior

Night. If Turners won the game, they would make the playoffs. If they lost or tied, they were out.

Sometimes you win when you tie. Sometimes you lose when you tie.

In Wednesday's game, the Smithies scored first at 21:54, forcing the Blue Ladies to play catchup ball. Twelve and a half minutes later, at 9:26, Cassie Wozniak intercepted the ball at midfield. She ran past the defenders and scored on a fast break, tying the game at 1. But the Academy went back on top off a corner penalty with 6:39 on the clock, and held the 2-1 lead for the remainder of the first half.

Cassie tied it up early in the second, and then scored the go-ahead hat trick to put the Blue Tribe up 3-2 with 14:13 left. But again Smith tied it at 11:38.

With 7:13 left to play, Turners scored its fourth goal to go up 4-3. This time it wasn't Cassie, but she did get the assist. With the defenders swarming Wozniak, she simply passed the ball to Lexi Lacey, who put it in the net giving Blue the lead.

For the remainder of the game, Smith put enormous pressure on goalkeeper Haleigh Greene, and with 3:33 left in the game, one finally got past her, to end the game in a knot.

With the tie, the 2017 Turners Falls Field Hockey season is over. But they have nothing to hang their heads about. They had a terrific season which didn't end until the very last goal was scored. And along the way, they surprised some pretty good teams.

Football

TFHS 27 – Easthampton 14

Last Friday the Easthampton Maroon Eagles hosted Turners Falls.

"I like this league. Any team can beat any other team." This was a random comment on the sidelines of Friday night's game.

It's true: Every team in the Inter-county North Conference has at least one loss, and one win, against ICN rivals. It seems that on any given Friday, every ICN team can win or lose against any other ICN team.

Easthampton, however, was hov-

ering at the top of the conference. If they beat Turners, they might get a share of the title, depending on the outcome of the Athol/Frontier game. And there was no certainty in that game either.

So going into Friday's game, Easthampton had a shot at the title if they could beat Turners Falls. Turners Falls, however, was playing for pride.

The game was a blowout – for a half. In the first quarter, Powertown scored 14 points, and in the second they scored 13 more, putting the halftime score at 27-0. East won the third, 14-0, and there was no scoring in the fourth. So Turners took the game, two quarters to one, for a final score of 27-14.

Turners got the ball first and opened the game with consecutive running plays and beat the ball into Hamp's territory. Then Kyle Dodge hit Jaden Whiting for a 46-yard completion to put Blue up 6-0 at 5:59 of the first quarter. Tyler Lavin added the 1-PAT.

On Easthampton's first play from scrimmage, Liam Driscoll made an interception, giving Blue a first down on East's 30. Powertown was only able to gain five yards on three plays, but on fourth-and-5 from the 25, Dodge passed to Andy Craver to set up first down on the 15. Four plays later, John Torres bulled into the end zone to give Turners a 14-0 lead.

On the first play of the second quarter, Andy Craver got a takeaway and Turners got the ball on their own 37. After a 10-yard sack, Powertown drove down the field, and Dodge poked into the end zone for a 1-yard score with 3:24 left.

Turners scored one more time with 1:47 left in the half when Torres hit pay dirt for his second TD of the night. Before the halftime whistle blew, Liam Driscoll made another pickoff, and Dodge made another long completion, but there wasn't enough time.

The second-half kickoff bounced all the way to the 1-yard line. When Easthampton finally got to the ball, they ran right down a lane, and 99

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yards later were on the board. The Blue D prevented the 2-PAT attempt, and the score remained 27-6 at 17 seconds of the third quarter.

That runback took the wind out of Blue's sails, and gave Easthampton some hope. And the Eagles didn't relent. Their defense stopped Turners on fourth down, and their offense capitalized on their newfound momentum to score another touchdown and a 2-PAT.

In the fourth, Turners chewed the clock while Easthampton played with growing desperation. Neither team was able to put any points across in the final quarter, and Dodge took a knee to give Turners the 13-point victory.

The win gives Turners a 4-4 record (3-3 ICN): smack dab in the middle of their conference. But unlike other high school sports, football has a postseason schedule for teams who don't make the playoffs.

This Friday, November 3, Powertown will put their pads back on to host the Mohawk Warriors.

*Next week:
Southwick and Mohawk.*



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The Couches of Montague: A Police Log Retrospective

Compiled by EMILY ALLING Illustrations by NINA ROSSI



Saturday, 9/14/13

11:44 a.m. Complaint regarding a couch that has been sitting on the Eleventh Street tree belt for over a month.

Thursday, 9/11/14

8:05 p.m. Caller observed a couple who lives at the house across K Street dragging a couch to the dumpster behind Booska's. Caller upset about dumping. Officer located responsible parties, who were very cooperative and returned the couch to the house.

Wednesday, 4/1/15

10:08 p.m. Caller reports that there was an object in the middle of the travel lane on Turners Falls Road; she swerved to miss it but is unsure what it was. Officer checked area and found a couch cushion that was moved to the side of the road.

Wednesday, 4/22/15

5:30 p.m. Two people into lobby to speak to an officer about a female party who is pregnant and drinking

and living on their couch.

Monday, 5/11/15

2:38 p.m. Request for officer to come to the transfer station, where three subjects are reportedly trying to dump several couches without paying the required fee.

Sunday, 7/26/15

9:40 a.m. Caller from Millers Falls Road reports that someone broke into his apartment through a window this morning. Caller returned home to find his window open; he now cannot find his cat and believes it was stolen. Report taken. Caller later called back advising that he found the cat hiding inside his leather couch.

Tuesday, 10/27/15

2:43 p.m. Caller from Randall Road requesting to speak with officer regarding one of his tenants who is moving out and dumped a couch over an embankment behind his business. Officer spoke to caller

see **SOFAS** page B4

A Saw Makes a Delightful Instrument

By ALICE THOMAS

GREENFIELD – Vi Walker has played the musical saw for over 25 years. Yes – that tool you may have in your garage, lean-to, or basement is the stuff of excitement! “The sound excites me,” Vi says, with a generous smile and gusto in her voice.

While the saw is a bowed instrument, it doesn’t sound like a violin. Its music can sound like hooting owls, windstorms, or other instruments that may be plucked (this includes a fretted instrument) rather than a violin.

A review of the literature reveals that playing the musical saw might have begun in one of several locations: this country in mid-west Ozark, Appalachia; brought to the US on African slave ships in the 1700s; or in Scandinavia in the 1800s. Let’s just leave the sorting out to the historians.

Historically, it was only men who performed as sawyers. However, there is documentation that ladies began to perform in public after 1910.

In its heyday, the years of vaudeville meant one could play the saw to produce an entertaining number of sounds. Even Humphrey Bogart’s brother – who lived in Massachusetts – and the actress Marlene Dietrich found that being a sawyer lent a twist of performance beyond the commonplace, producing a novel and pleasing sound while playing the musical saw.

When Vi and I settle into a comfortable and in-depth period of discussion, she takes a deep breath, and when she speaks at length I realize her very manner of speaking is like silk falling on a plump velvet pillow. She, herself, has become the sounds of music.

When I ask about her musical history, she responds that she began playing the violin at the age of 8, and the guitar a bit later. She beams



Vi Walker demonstrates how she plays her instrument, the saw.

at the very mention of her experiences and her pleasure in them. Vi offers a complete history of her performances, adding that she currently “drops in” to play at places around Franklin and Hampshire counties.

She recalls to me that she actually began performing as a clown... not just any type of clown, but one who provided educational messages. It was during the years that it was first evident that children were smoking and it was observed as a serious problem for youth. “Smoking Is Yucky” is the title of her first skit. This was funded by the tobacco industry when they learned that something had gone awry with the messages children were getting, so Vi wrote, played and acted her way into history, delivering the message that smoking was not for children.

“Recycling” was her second message; she danced and sprung into teaching that recycling was absolutely essential at that point in our

nation’s history. Vi just kept going from there, having fun and showing children how some of the most important decisions they make are easy, doable, and important!

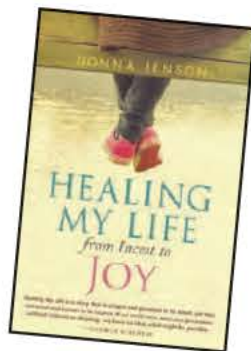
These days, Vi sometimes plays her saw with an orchestra. She’s an active member of the New York City Musical Saw Society and plays in New York in orchestral performances. She is one of the 56 sawyers who recently broke Poland’s record for the number of sawyers to play actual music in the same place at the same time.

She has also played, by request, at weddings and funerals, her saw sounds being so unique. Having worked on a variety of college campuses in the past, she also mentions that there is a monthly Wednesday noon jam of students and musicians on the UMass campus. Vi likes to keep her options open for extemporaneous venues such as this.

see **WALKER** page B6

BOOK REVIEW

Donna Jenson, Healing My Life: from Incest to Joy (Levellers Press, 2017)



By CANDACE CURRAN

LEVERETT – *Healing My Life: from Incest to Joy* by local author Donna Jenson is a personal narrative, a road map with huge chunks of bread crumbs masterfully placed for the #metoo’s, the grown-up children and adolescent victims of incest, sexual abuse and trauma.

The author informs us that “our bodies hold our experiences of trauma, loss and suffering on a cellular, muscular and visceral level constricting our capacity to be fully present.” There’s a lot of work to be done. It necessitates courage, and Jenson leads us to the right places.

In reconstructing and sharing her own journey from debilitating shame, blame and rage – “you tell anyone, and I’ll kill you” – Jenson, after 15 years of gaining strength and finding her voice has reformed herself into a leader, counselor, artist and social activist. She has actively pursued every soul-healing treatment she could find available to get that self and that joy back, and be able to share and help others who have experienced sexual violence.

It didn’t happen easily or just like that, and Jenson is quick to say that it is still a journey she is on, and will stay on, until the close of

the coffin lid.

In New York City in the 1970s and ‘80s, Donna Jenson built a grassroots women’s center. In western Massachusetts she founded Time to Tell in 2009. Sponsored by Fractured Atlas, a non-profit arts service organization, it is meant to spark stories affected by incest and sexual abuse to be told and heard.

Jenson has also written and performs a one-woman play based on her experiences, titled *What She Knows: One Woman’s Way Through Incest to Joy*, with master guitarist John Sheldon, who composed the score and two original songs that “have made big boys cry.” Through art, once again the great universal meeting place, they perform at correctional facilities, colleges, police departments, conferences for mental health professionals, sexual assault advocates and for communities and facilities with people in need of healing.

Healing My Life: from Incest to Joy is a difficult subject that’s easy to read. Some of its memorable insights appear in the margins. There’s humor in there, too, as well as the joy she has reclaimed; and the many local heroes that influenced her healing spirit, such as

see **BOOK** page B4

THE GARDENER’S COMPANION

In Search of Family

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – My mother loved the holidays, especially the family gatherings. Thanksgiving was her favorite. She invited her mother and all of the aunts and uncles, including Uncle Alfred, the black sheep of the family. He was a benign and gentle fellow: quiet, never married, perhaps earning his title because he spent all of his working life teaching in Japan. There were also countless cousins, spouses and every year, a lone soul or two with no family to go to.

She produced a ceremonial day worthy of a Norman Rockwell painting: the huge table with all of the leaves put in; every straight up chair in the house pressed into service; the enormous turkey with stuffing, three or four kinds of vegetables and two cranberry garnishes. Then there was the requisite walk to settle dinner before the return to table for the pies: pumpkin, mince and apple, served with coffee.

This special day required several days of preparation, including baking bread to use for stuffing the bird; paring and cutting squash, turnip, potato and more. Polishing the family silver, cleaning house, ironing tablecloth and napkins; the preparation and serving of chowder and soup, fresh bread and salad for

supper the day before.

This tradition lasted through three moves, a couple of deaths, and her own divorce. Cousins married and moved away to other states. When my mother became too infirm to host these gatherings, as the elder daughter, I took it on. Two cousins, my sister and her own brood, her husband and mine, filled a smaller table.

My mom was a hard act to follow but I did my best. The year my husband died, I called my sister and announced that I didn’t think I could handle Thanksgiving that year. She took it on at her house, and I spent a quiet day alone, but traveled north to be with her and her family the day after.

For several years afterwards, I took up serving the Thanksgiving meal again. Now her children are spread far apart, and I have a new partner, so there is another family to visit as they celebrate this very American day. This was an uncomfortable change for my sister, who yearns for this family day to be as much like the original as possible.

Yet things change, sometimes by choice, others by happenstance. Her own children have moved on with their own partners and are not always present. Ken and I are usually at home, now that his family is done with their own version. We are con-



tent to have a small gathering with one or two of his brothers. Yet these family traditions die hard.

We all yearn for family and for connection. We search for our roots and ancestors on line, we have annual family reunions. Adopted children long to find their birth parents. For some of us, community is family, as we are separate from or do not have our own.

We have from the beginning been a nation of people who traveled far from their homelands, with or without family, to begin new lives in the hopes of freedom whether religious, political or economic. For decades we have invited these travelers to come and share our bounty and to bring their families to join them as they have become settled.

Terrorism on our own ground fostered a growing wariness and mistrust. Some believe that by closing our country from certain immigrants we will better protect ourselves. Still, we have few qualms about invading other countries under the guise of protecting them, or

see **GARDENER’S** page B3

Pet of the Week

See my ear? It's evidence that I used to be a pirate! Yep, I used to be a stray who slunk around eating out of dishes on people's steps.

Boy oh boy am I glad that some nice human took a shine to me and decided to bring me here. Soft beds, an endless buffet, clean litter boxes, it's close to paradise! There's just

one thing missing: you.

I'm ready to move on to the next chapter of my life, i.e., into a home with you!

I'm your guy, and I'm right here waiting for you.

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



CHRISTOPHER CARMODY COLLAGE

“BARKER”

Senior Center Activities NOVEMBER 6 to 10

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at Noon.

Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 A.M. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted.

Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

Tues–Thurs Noon Lunch
M, W, F 10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Monday: 11/6
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday: 11/7
10 a.m. Shine Presentation
1 p.m. A Matter of Balance
3:30 p.m. COA Meeting
Wednesday: 11/8
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach
11:30 a.m. Friends Meeting
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday: 11/9
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
10 a.m. to Noon Brown Bag
1 p.m. Cards & Games
Friday: 11/10
NO 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 Betters, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

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

Monday: 11/6
9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones Balance
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi
Tuesday: 11/7
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
Wednesday: 11/8
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
12:15 p.m. Bingo, Snacks, Laughs
Thursday: 11/9
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
12:30 p.m. Holiday Crafters
Friday: 11/10 CLOSED

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.

NOVEMBER LIBRARY LISTING

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 MONDAY

Leverett Library: *Strength Training and Stretching for Seniors*; six-week free program with trainer Emily Mailloux. November 13 through December 18. Limit 10 participants, pre-register. 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

EVERY TUESDAY
Wendell Free Library: *Intro to Strength Training* Classes for Adults of all Ages. Tuesdays in November, led by Dr. Kathy Sward. Pre-register for one of two classes: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., or 10:45 to 11:45 a.m.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Craft Time w/Angela*. Children, all ages. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Spanish Conversation Group*, 4 to 5 p.m.; *Qigong with Dvora Eisenstein*. 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Adult Watercolor Art Group*. Call Rosie for details.

3RD TUESDAYS
Dickinson Library: *Genealogy Group*. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Carnegie Library: *Story Time w/Karen*. Story, project, snacks. Young children w/caregivers. 10:15 to 11:30 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.

Leverett Library: *Tales and Tunes Story Time w/Heleen Cardinaux*. 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Carnegie Library: *Homeschool Science*. Hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering, math). All ages. November 1, 8 and 15. 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Cushman Library, Bernardston: *Story Hour*. Stories, crafts, and snacks. 4 to 5 p.m.

1ST WEDNESDAYS
Dickinson Library: *Reader’s Choice*. Book discussion. 10 a.m.

EVERY THURSDAY
Millers Falls: *Music and Movement w/ Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*, for children. 10 a.m.

Dickinson Library: *Knit With Us*. All levels welcome. 6 to 8 p.m.

1ST THURSDAYS
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Adult Coloring*. 10 to 11 a.m.

Dickinson Library: *Environment Awareness Group*. Discuss the monthly topic facilitated by Emily Koester. 6:30 p.m.

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

2ND THURSDAYS
Dickinson Library: *Readings: Non-fiction, Fiction & Poetry*. 3 p.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Knit for Charity*. Your own work or try the monthly project, some supplies provided. 6:30 p.m.

3RD THURSDAYS

Dickinson Library: Rep. Paul Mark: District Office Hours. 1 to 4 p.m.

4TH THURSDAYS
Dickinson Library: *I’d Rather Be Reading Group*. 7 p.m.

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

EVERY FRIDAY
Dickinson Library: *Story Hour*. Stories, crafts, music and movement with Dana Lee. Preschoolers and their caregivers. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.; *Kid’s Friday*. When Northfield Elementary gets out early, come across the street to the library. Sometimes we have a program, or just to hang out. 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Explore Yoga with Shay Cooper*. Mixed levels. 10 a.m. \$ or barter.

1ST FRIDAYS
Leverett Library: *Movie Night*. 7:30 p.m.

EVERY SATURDAY
Wendell Free Library: *Free Healthy Bones & Balance Class*. Drop-in. Form taught first Saturday each month. 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.; *AA Open Meeting*. 6 to 7 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Tai Chi*. 10 a.m.

1ST SATURDAYS
Carnegie Library: *Book Sale*. Books, dvds, cds, etc. \$1 or less. 10 to 1:45 p.m.

2ND AND 4TH SATURDAYS
Dickinson Library: *Food Pantry*. 11:30 to 2:30 p.m.

EVERY SUNDAY
Wendell Free Library: *Mostly Yoga*. Variety of instructors; see website. Donation. 10 a.m.; *AA Open Meeting*. 6 to 7 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Memoir and Fiction Writing Workshop* with Mara Bright. Beginning November 5 through December 3. Pre-register. 3 to 5 p.m.

EXHIBITS
To apply to have a show at these venues, find application forms on library websites.

Dickinson Library: *Laura Kaye, Birds-eye Viewpoint*. Through November.

Leverett Library: *Susan Valentine, Paintings*. Through December.

Wendell Free Library: Herrick Gallery. *In Response to Paper*, recent works by Julia Rabin. Fall show.

EVENTS
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2
Dickinson Library: *Environment Awareness Group*. This month, watch and discuss film *An Inconvenient Sequel*. 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3
Dickinson Library: Kid’s Friday presents *NaNoWriMo*: In celebration of National Novel Writing Month, write a story with an easy-to-make 8-page mini book-

MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

Interim Library Trustee Needed

By LINDA HICKMAN

MONTAGUE – Would you like to help support the Montague Libraries? Are you available for one or two evening meetings a month?

An Interim Library Trustee is needed until the next town election in May due to the recent resignation of long time member Sharon Cottrell.

If interested, please send a letter of interest by November 16 to the Montague Public Libraries, 201 Ave. A, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

let. We'll supply story starters; you supply the imagination. 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Leverett Library: Movie Night presents *Beatriz at Dinner*. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4
Carnegie Library: *Book Sale*. Books, DVDs, audio books, and CDs for \$1 or less. 10 a.m. To 1:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8
Dickinson Library: *Barchester Towers* by Anthony Trollope. Book discussion. 3 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9
Leverett Library: *Ukulele Play-Along with Julie Stepanek*. 7 to 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10
Dickinson Library: *Kids’ Friday*. Play Games or Read or... (No school, but we’re here 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14
Dickinson Library, Northfield: Book discussion, *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17
Dickinson Library: *Kid’s Friday*. Movie: *Cars 3*. 2 to 3:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18
Carnegie Library: *Woodland Magical Creatures Party*. Come build a fairy house, using natural and recycled materials. Snacks provided. Children of all ages and their caregivers. 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Wendell Free Library: *Movie Christmas on Mars*. Part of the Science Fiction and Horror Movie Series. 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23
Leverett Library, Leverett: Library Book Group. 6:30 to 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28
Dickinson Library: *Ice Fishing w/ Allan Butler*. For beginners and experienced anglers. 6:30 p.m.

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GARDENER’S from page B1

in the endeavor to destroy the source of those who wish to destroy us.

But we have not even been able to manage the growth of terrorism from within. We are vulnerable even to violence from our own. This is the one of the greatest dilemmas of the modern world, and one no nation can resolve on its own.

When my mother was a young teenager, her father was hospitalized with a mental illness that would institutionalize him for his lifetime. She and her mother were alone. My grandmother found work and supported the two of them on her own. But they were also embraced by his family, relations not of blood but through marriage, who began to become their new family. That family invited them to all of the family celebrations and in turn became the family my mother brought into her home. Perhaps that is why she so loved those family holidays.

As a nation we keep pulling away from our international family, the very members we need to work

with collectively to deal with the growing environmental concerns – famine and disease, to name a few. We’re not going to fix the world’s problems on our own, nor do we seem to really wish to do so.

In 1955, Edward Steichen curated an exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art which featured 503 photographs from 273 artists of humans in 68 countries. Steichen described it as a “mirror of the essential oneness of mankind throughout the world.” It was published in book form (*The Family of Man*) that year, and remains a moving classic today. Pick it up if you can and see the family of our world.

Safe communities are an effort to maintain the home we want to provide for those who wish to make a new life here. They are an important step, both literally and symbolically. But it’s only a small step in a journey that will be long and hard.

Now my sister’s children will form their own traditions, and build an extended family that will still include all of us.



MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAL TATARIAN

Happy November from Montague Community TV! Check out the latest videos in our TV schedule & online:

- Meet local police officers and firefighters at the Montague Public Safety Open House;
- Travel the world as Robert “Bo” Warren shares his walking adventures in all but a handful of the world’s countries; and

- Watch your home team’s exciting win in Turners Falls versus Pioneer Girls Volleyball 2017!

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

Contact us at (413) 863-9200, fromontaguetv@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!

TV REVIEW

Marvel’s Inhumans (ABC)



By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

When I first saw the previews for this TV show, I went online and looked up the history of the *Inhumans* comic book. I watched the two-hour premiere when it aired on ABC on September 29 at 10 p.m.

Despite the previews spoiling the plot of the show, I enjoyed the episode. The show does a pretty good job with keeping on track with the way the Inhumans are written, and how things are in the comics. One example is how Medusa and Black Bolt fell in love.

It has quite a large amount of sci-fi stuff in it, which I like very much. There was some action in there as well, and that worked very nicely for me too.

The story begins with a royal family, headed by Medusa and Black Bolt, ruling over the city of Attilan. They oversee two of their subjects’ “Terrigenesis,” ritually inhaling a special mist that causes

activation of their inhuman genes. This will show what Inhuman powers the subjects have.

Someone tries to overthrow their rule, and the family has to flee to Hawaii. Let’s just say the family dog Lockjaw comes in handy. But for the rest of the season, the family has to find each other again, and learn who to trust on Earth.

I know they try to trust a scientist who was featured in the premiere because she is in additional episodes of the season. Also, there are now other Inhumans on Earth, due to a contamination from the Terrigenesis mist.

As for the actors that played these characters on the show: Anson Mount, the actor who plays Black Bolt, did an excellent job. Acting, to me, involves speaking a lot of lines. This man conveyed quite well in his performance a man who doesn’t speak because of the power of his voice.

I believe it will be a challenge to play that part, but I read somewhere that the actor rather enjoys playing the character. In the episode, he shows his wife, in a powerful way, that he is all right. That is one way this guy shows off his acting talents.

I really don’t understand why this series was a flop at IMAX theaters, where they decided to show the first two episodes before airing the series on ABC. Like I said, I enjoyed it very much – but I am into this kind of thing. Maybe it had to do with the IMAX ticket prices being too high!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Purported Silly String; Wires On Fire; Tires Slashed; Trespassers; Flash Floods

Monday, 10/23
5:46 p.m. Caller from Second Street states that his female neighbor continuously comes onto his property at all hours of the night. He has asked her repeatedly to stop coming onto his property, but to no avail. Unable to make contact with female. Caller advised of options.
6:33 p.m. Caller from Laurel Lane believes that one of her car tires was slashed yesterday.
Tuesday, 10/24
8:05 a.m. Greenfield PD requesting assistance searching for a suspect on Second Street. Unable to locate.
8:11 a.m. 911 caller reporting minor two-vehicle accident on Industrial Boulevard. No injuries. Officer provided transport to tech school for students who were in the van.
11:04 a.m. Caller from J Street just wants it noted that there was some “silly string” sprayed on his business over the weekend.
3:51 p.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant Road states that her next door neighbor was inside her gated yard and on her back porch when she arrived home. When questioned, neighbor stated that she was looking for a package from FedEx. Caller advises that this same female has stolen things from her home before; wishes to make a report as a precaution in case another incident occurs.
4:51 p.m. Caller from Third Street states that a female is wandering in and out of the building entering various people’s apartments. Officers on scene; female transported.
7:15 p.m. Caller reporting loose pugle with no collar running loose in area of Keith Street and Avenue C. Call received from Greenfield PD dispatcher; it is his dog, and his wife will be en route to pick it up.
9:58 p.m. Officer requesting that DPW be contacted about flash flooding and advised that leaves are blocking multiple sewer drains in Turners Falls. DPW will be sending a crew.
10:48 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Fourth Street; caller states that neighbor was attempting to gain entry into his apartment. Other male could be heard yelling in background. All units clear; both parties sent back to their apartments. Caller was irritated with other party because he was going up and down the stairs too much.
11:41 p.m. Caller states that she was at St. Kaz this evening and believes that someone slashed one of her tires while she was in the bar. Report taken.

Wednesday, 10/25
12:22 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street calling back advising that same issue is still occurring with his upstairs neighbor. Officer reports all quiet upon arrival; involved party was just smoking a cigarette on the back porch.
1:18 a.m. Caller from Avenue A apartment building states that male party set off the smoke alarms to the building and sprayed a fire extinguisher. Officers off at male party’s residence.
[REDACTED] was arrested and charged with disturbing the peace.
1:32 a.m. Report from West Mineral Road that pole has snapped in half; wires and a transformer are down. Eversource and TFFD en route.
5:28 a.m. Caller from Montague Center reporting bridge completely underwater. Officer states that one of the drains is clogged and there is about a foot of water on the bridge. DPW notified; they will get to it at 6 a.m., when they begin work. Officer remaining on scene to slow traffic down.
11:48 a.m. Caller reports that he had to slam on the brakes in his car and his son’s head hit the windshield. Son is now lying in road bleeding. MedCare and MCFD en route.
4:28 p.m. Caller from Bridge Street reporting elderly black Lab wandering in area without collar. Unable to locate.
4:48 p.m. Caller from Third Street reporting suspicious vehicle and possible drug activity behind his business. Unable to locate.
6 p.m. Report of trash dumped at turnaround at end of Poplar Street. Message left for DPW.
6:45 p.m. Caller from the Elks Lodge states that a tire was slashed on his girlfriend’s vehicle. Third tire in three days; caller and girlfriend identified possible suspect. Report taken.
7:45 p.m. Multiple 911 calls reporting two-vehicle accident on Millers Falls Road. One party complaining of leg injury. Fire and MedCare en route.
8:50 p.m. Caller from

Montague City Road states that an individual is throwing firecrackers at vehicles as they pass by. Unable to locate.
Thursday, 10/26
1:56 p.m. Computer reported stolen on Spring Street. Report taken.
3:19 p.m. TFFD took report of tree on wires on Lake Pleasant Road. Same caused widespread power surge. MPD and TFFD currently on generator power. Second caller added that wires are on fire. PD and TFFD responding; Eversource and DPW en route.
4:15 p.m. Report of increased foot traffic and possible drug activity on Eleventh Street.
6:31 p.m. Caller advises that as he was entering Riff’s North, a red truck drove by and someone yelled obscenities at him. Officer advised.
7:15 p.m. Caller from F.L. Roberts states that a male party used their restroom and left behind a spoon with cotton; they need it cleaned up. Item retrieved.
7:52 p.m. Greenfield PD reporting that one of their officers observed suspected drug activity in a vehicle on Turners Falls Road. Officers advised.
11:17 p.m. Caller from Third Street reported hearing someone messing with her bike or moped outside her apartment building. Caller spoke out the window and heard parties warning each other with “dog or bird noises.” Officer on scene. Unable to locate suspects. Both items still locked up; no damage noted.
Friday, 10/27
7:11 a.m. Report from Unity Street that vehicles are not stopping for pedestrians in crosswalk; caller will be contacting DPW to inquire about additional signage.
11:51 a.m. Caller requesting police assistance with youths smoking cigarettes in Unity Park.
6:12 p.m. Caller states that a female who appears to be intoxicated is attempting to strike people at the bus stop in front of Food City. Courtesy transport to Greenfield provided.
7:30 p.m. Caller states that

she is upset with downstairs neighbor because she slammed the door to her apartment. Advised to call back if anything further occurred.
9:56 p.m. First of two complaints regarding loud party at the Shea. Parties advised of complaints.
Saturday, 10/28
1:53 p.m. Caller from Avenue C states that some people are cutting down a tree at his neighbor’s house and a large branch fell onto his truck, causing damage. Report taken.
4:33 p.m. Walk-in party reporting that her windshield was damaged by a rock overnight on Third Street.
4:41 p.m. Caller from Church Street complaining of very loud event at the old church in his neighborhood. Parties advised of complaint.
Sunday, 10/29
1:56 a.m. Officer checking on occupied vehicle parked at Food City. Party works nearby but is from out of town; resting.
4:31 p.m. Officer checking on suspicious vehicle in parking lot near high school baseball fields. Parties advised to clean up after themselves and then moved along.
9:41 p.m. Multiple callers reporting seeing blue flames and smoke coming from an electrical line leading into the Plains. Shelburne Control notified and toning out MCFD.
9:46 p.m. Report of wires down on Lake Pleasant Road. TFFD and Eversource on scene.
Monday, 10/30
12:36 a.m. 911 caller from Wendell Road reporting lines down across road near her house. TFFD en route; Eversource advised; delayed response. Officer reports primary down in road, service to house down, and line to pole broken. Roads blocked. Additional tree and wires found down on Wendell Road. Eversource on scene. Roads reopened; power not yet restored.
2:40 a.m. Tree and lines reported down on Lake Pleasant Road. Shelburne Control advised for MCFD; Eversource on scene. Roads temporarily closed.

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

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BOOK from page B1

author Genie Zeiger who encouraged writers to find their words, their voices.

Donna Jenson is using her voice, telling us right now to come out as a survivor. Secrecy keeps it going. Now is the time to tell.

Find out more about the author and her work by going to timetotell.org.

Release Parties and Readings:

November 12 at 3 p.m., in Eastworks in Easthampton

December 3 at 3 p.m., at the Arms Library, Shelburne Falls

December 7 at 4 p.m., at the Center for Community Resilience after Trauma, Greenfield



T-RUMP



by denis f. bordeaux

Volunteers Needed for Trail Construction

The Erving Conservation Commission is looking for volunteers to help with constructing a new trail at the Poplar Mountain Conservation Area on Saturday, November 4 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The work party will trim branches and remove woody material from the proposed trail, and create edging along sloped sections. If you've never explored this network of trails, this is a great way to become familiar with it! Please note that this trail is rated moderate to strenuous.

If you are interested, please meet at 10 at the parking

area on the right, approximately 1 mile from the western entrance of Old State Road in Erving.

Please plan on bringing a snack, plenty of water, and hand tools such as gloves, loppers, clippers, handsaws, and shovels. We will have some extra tools available. Chainsaws are welcome too! Be sure to wear sturdy footwear and dress appropriately. Homemade baked goods will be served at the end of the work day.

For more information, please contact Laura at (413) 423-3027 or laura@ladyelvis.com.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

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

Veterans Memorials Restored on Avenue A

The drive to create a restored, unified memorial for all Montague war veterans, announced on Veterans Day in 2002, has finally come to completion – five years and one hundred thousand dollars later. In the meantime, Veterans Day parades have returned to Avenue A, and the ceremonies at the veterans memorial on Memorial Day and Veterans Day have swelled in numbers as new conflicts have broken out in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"I'm really proud of the fact that 95% of the money we raised [for the memorial] came from businesses, social clubs, and the people of Montague and surrounding towns," said Trustees of the Soldiers Memorial chair Art Gilmore. "The state only gave us \$5,000; all the rest came from the community."

Whassup with the Turners Skate Park?

After a few initial years of success, the skate park located at the end of Second Street near Unity Park in Turners Falls has been closed for repair since June 2003.

Four years ago, the park was closed by the mutual consent of the Montague parks and recreation department and the kids who used it, when the plywood used for the original ramp construction had deteriorated to the point of being unsafe. After a meeting at the Great Hall of the Discovery Center between town officials, parents and teens April 2005 – and an anonymous gift to the Brick House Community Resource Center of \$5,000 for repairs to the skate park – it seemed everyone was in agreement to get the park up and running

again. The necessary repairs were made to the ramps, and a new chain link was installed last winter, at a cost of \$5,075.

However, a series of missteps followed, and the park remained closed all spring and summer. With no official word from the town, the police didn't begin regularly unlocking the gate in the morning. Recently, some unauthorized person took matters into their own hands and pulled down a section of the fence.

What has followed is an absence of leadership, as frustrated town officials try to wash their hands of responsibility, while the skate park waits on the verge of being open for legitimate use.

Lake Pleasant Losing Longtime Postmaster

It's the end of an era in Lake Pleasant. Joyce Cote, who has served the town as postmaster for 24 years, is retiring this week. She's looking forward to the free time and space that retirement brings, but village residents will greatly miss her lively, upbeat presence in the post office.

Over the years, many of the residents visited the post office not only to pick up their mail, but also to spend a few enjoyable minutes chatting with Joyce. Always ready with a smile and a willing spirit, Joyce would stop whatever works she was involved in at the moment to arrange for a money order or conduct other postal business for customers.

Christmastime, in particular, was always an extremely busy time, with mounds of packages and cards coming and going, filling the shelves as customers warmed themselves for a few minutes.

Personally, I always wondered how she did it – I've noticed that when I get a little too busy, I get cranky pretty quickly. But even at her busiest, Joyce always offered a smile and a kind word.

SOFAS from page B1

and tenant. Tenant denies dumping couch and stated she still has her couch.

Thursday, 1/21/16

12:26 a.m. Officer out with suspicious males on Third Street. Upon clearing, officer advised that one male states he has permission to be at the laundromat from the owner; he is staying on the couch for a couple of days until his new apartment is ready.

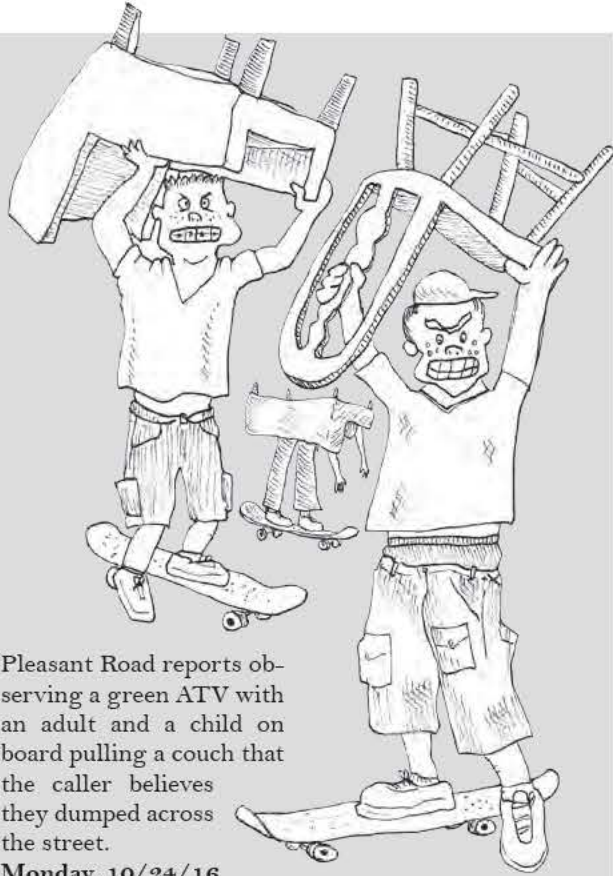
Saturday, 2/27/16

9:33 p.m. Caller advising

of "odd behavior" from neighbors; stated that earlier today, parties had thrown a broken couch outside, then stuck a running hose out the window so that water was running down the side of the building. The lights in the apartment were then seen flickering. Officer spoke to tenants, who advised that they are in the process of moving out; water was from a fish tank they were emptying.

Saturday, 8/6/16

12:38 p.m. Caller in area of Ramblers on Lake



Pleasant Road reports observing a green ATV with an adult and a child on board pulling a couch that the caller believes they dumped across the street.

Monday, 10/24/16

2:56 p.m. Caller from Avenue C reports that someone may have dumped a couch in the front yard of her neighbor across the street.

Friday, 2/24/17

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

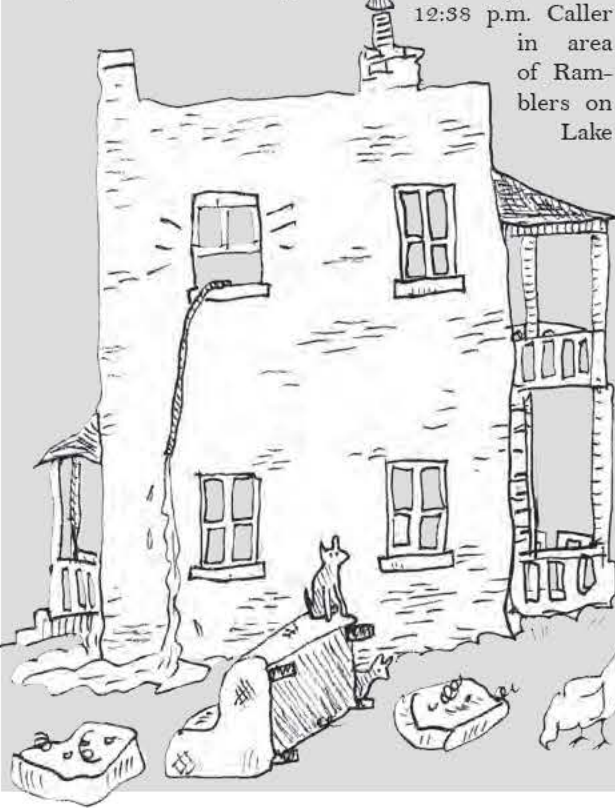
address a few days ago.

Monday, 7/24/17

5:46 p.m. Following up to a previous call on Fourth Street. Officers spoke to several people; nobody knows where the couch came from that was left at this location.

Monday, 8/7/17

8:07 p.m. Report of three teenage males on skateboards picking up chairs, couches, etc. and smashing them in the road.



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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

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

EVERY MONDAY

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

2ND AND 4TH MONDAYS

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

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.

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAYS

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

EVERY THURSDAY

Millers Falls Branch Library, Montague: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers. 10 to 10:45 a.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.

EVERY FRIDAY

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

EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

Free Arms Library, Shelburne Falls: *Open Prose and Poetry Reading*. Arrive early to sign up for 5 to 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. \$

EXHIBITS:

Augusta Savage Gallery, UMass: *Future, Unknown*. The brave paintings of Rodney Madison, veteran educator and self-taught artist located in Millers Falls. Opening Reception Thursday,



On Friday, November 10, 7 p.m., The Hampton Trio will perform in the Great Hall at The Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls. The Hampton Trio consists of Beverly Davis, classical guitar; Mark Davis, mandolin; Robert Margo, mandola. They perform original music and arrangements for ensemble of mandolin, mandola, and classical guitar. Also, special guest Michael Nix on classical guitar and Banjar. Suggested sliding scale donation \$6 to \$12, free for children.

November 2, 5 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Paintings by Charlie Shaw. Through November 12.

Leverett Crafts and Arts, Leverett: *"Oh Beautiful Glass"* An eclectic and exciting group show. Dozens of artists in a first time glass exhibit! Opening reception, November 4, 4 p.m. Through November.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Live Studio Artist/owner Nina Rossi* creates her own makerspace in the tiny gallery: paint, wire, fabric, wood; assorted fine art and craft as well. Through Thanksgiving.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Andrew Quient: An Intersection of Pottery & Architecture*: Ceramics & Drawing. Inspired by history, drawings on ceramic vessels. Through December 9.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *"Fiber Optic"* showcases workday artists of the Shelburne Arts Co-op in many fiber media including quilting, weaving, knitting, silk painting, fabric dyeing, needle felting, wet felting, paper collage, mixed media and up-cycling. Includes both wearable and decorative pieces in a variety of traditional and avant-garde styles. Through November 27.

Smith College Lyman Plant House, Northampton. *Annual Fall Chrysanthemum Show* fills the plant house with a riot of color. November 4 through 19.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *In Response to Paper*. New art exhibit by Wendell artist Julia Rabin. Through November.

Deerfield Valley Art Association Center for the Arts, Northfield: *Art as Expression of Cultural Heritage*. Art Inspired by cultures all over the world. Through November 12.

gae. Martell tragically died in an automobile accident just a few months into recording a CD of original songs with his partner Libby Volckening. Since then, Volckening has been working to transform those last recordings of Jeff's voice into a beautiful tribute to the duo and the music they created together. 7 p.m. \$

Greenfield High School, Greenfield: Ja'Duke continues its 20th Anniversary Season with the glorious Broadway musical comedy *Sister Act*, at 7 p.m. \$

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Elric Walker*. Original tunes. 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne Falls: *Mark Nomad*, blues. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites* Reggae Fantastico! Full bar and Pizza by the slice 6:30 p.m. \$ after 9 p.m. for band.

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *Shokazoba Funkestra*. Shokazoba performs top quality, high energy music designed to move your feet, inspire your mind, and stimulate your soul. Benefit for the Orange Library. 7:30 p.m. \$

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Greenfield High School, Greenfield: Ja'Duke continues its 20th Anniversary Season with the glorious Broadway musical comedy *Sister Act*, at 2 p.m. \$

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Spontaneous Combustion #6*, participatory improvised music workshop, featuring sets from Andy Allen / Arkm Foam Duo and Jenifer Gelineau. Bring an instrument, bring an amp. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Women of the World Unite: Yael Deckelbaum* and the Prayer of the Mothers Ensemble. 6:30 p.m. \$

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Kathy Sylvester and Joe Pod*. Original and cover pop rock, folk, country. 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Frost Library Chi Salon, Amherst College: *Some Thoughts about Musical Abstraction*. Ryan Vigil argues for a powerful new aesthetic; includes musical performances. 4:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Start Making Sense*: Talking Heads Tribute. 8:30 p.m. \$

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Jim Eagan*. Finger picking guitar player, folk covers and originals. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne: *Patti T Blues Band*. Patti T on vocals and guitar, Rick King on lead guitar. 7:30 p.m.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series* poetry reading. Hannah Fries and L.I. Henley, 7 p.m. *The Equalites*, 9 to 11:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Greenfield High School, Greenfield: Ja'Duke continues its 20th Anniversary Season with the glorious Broadway musical comedy *Sister Act*, at 7 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Rebecca Hartke*, classical cellist, CD release party. 7 p.m. \$

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Katie Clarke and Larry LeBlanc*. Alt-Country and Bluegrass. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Dawg Yawp and Dez Roy*, folk/country/blues/roots; part of Cider Days at 9:30 p.m. \$

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: CD Release for *Jeff Martell: Heart Centered Kirtan*. A modern interpretation of the ancient practice of kirtan, devotional call-and-response singing, weaving inspirational texts from ancient India into their own original blend of rock, blues, and reg-

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WALKER from page B1

But how do you learn to play the saw, you might ask. After listening to Vi, you might arrive at an idea by thinking of how the sounds are somewhere between a violin and trombone, sliding across your ears. When asked how one learns to play the musical saw, Vi thought a brief moment, then gathers her lips together to form a tight-excited "O."

"First," she says, "you have to be able to carry a tune by humming or whistling, as there really isn't a specific book that teaches the skill. So... you have to hear the sounds, and remember them as you go along. This may take some practice, but it's fun." She holds her hands together in front of her body, giving the impression of patience and perseverance. "It's the most exciting and wonderful sound!"

Then, she adds warmly, "It's worth it!"

Find a good saw. Vi shows me four of her saws and lays them together on the sofa (see photo). There's a *Stanley Saw*, that makes a tinny sound; a *toothless saw* (I'll tell you a story about that in a minute); a *Sandves* high pitch saw; and a professional saw from Sweden titled *Mussuhl & Westphal*, Vi's version of a *Stradivarius*.

Once you have decided



These four saws comprise Vi Walker's musical toolbox.

on a particular saw, and have found a comfortable cello bow, lay the saw across your lap with the teeth pointing toward you (see photo). Screw on a c-clamp or vice, as shown, and hold it with your free hand. Use your legs and hands like Vi, and your other hand will draw the bow across the un-toothed side to create sounds.

Feel comfortable and able to create an 'S-curve' with your hand, so that you can shape the blade to make different sounds as you saw it. While watching her, I learn that some sounds are actually made by simply moving the "s" while the bow is removed! This is probably most easily learned if you can find her at a public venue and watch how she does it.

But always remember: experimentation is important when you're alone.

Vi says that you have options of playing all sorts of music: classical, folk, jazz, pop, country, and Middle Eastern. She played "Yesterday," the Beatles favorite, and then Rimsky-Korsakov's "Song of India." What a treat!

Oh! I almost forgot to tell you about the toothless saw.

It came about that a woman used to play the musical saw in the subways of New York City. Subway officials instructed her to stop after 9/11, as her saw became classified as a weapon. It was then that she began using a "toothless" version of the saw, and continued to play!



MONTAGUE REPORTER



Ferd Wulkan of Montague Center reads the Montague Reporter in Cetinje, Montenegro — "in front of the jail where my grandfather was a prisoner of war in World War I," he writes. Whoa!

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

ON THE ROAD

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