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# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 16 – NO. 6

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 16, 2017

## Report from Bonn: System Change, Not Climate Change!

By ANNA GYORGY

**BONN, GERMANY** – The long trip from Wendell back to the Rhine put me at the center of world discussions on climate. Bonn, former capital of a divided Germany, was my home base for decades. Now, thanks to a grant from the Traprock Center for Peace & Justice and its supporters, I am back for the 23<sup>rd</sup> “meeting of the parties” of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, known as COP23.

I can witness this history, and report back. Not from the conference floor – check out the excellent reporting at Democracy Now! for that – but from the outside, attending some of the many meetings and actions of those demanding and working for strong action for climate protection, and climate justice.

For delegates in Bonn, from November 6 to 17, the goal is to define and firm up the terms and goals of the Paris Agreement, drafted with much fanfare at COP21 in Paris in 2015. Participating countries agreed to make voluntary goals to keep the increase in global temperatures to 1.5° Celsius (2.7° Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels, and below the even-more-dangerous 2° C (3.6° F).

Putting things in perspective as COP23 opened, the World Meteorological Organization reported that



A huge crane holds the message, “End Coal,” behind the stage at the closing of a 25,000-strong demonstration in Bonn.

2017 was on its way to being one of the three hottest years on record. A 1° C increase has already happened, and according to press and UN reports, current Paris pledges would leave the world “3° C warmer than in pre-industrial times.” The UN warned that projections show a 3.2° C increase by 2100.

Although the agreement is widely acknowledged as see **COP23 REPORT** page A4

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Internal Affairs: Town Hires Special Police Investigators

By JEFF SINGLETON

At the November 13 Montague selectboard meeting, town administrator Steve Ellis announced that the town of Montague has hired a firm called APD Management to conduct a much-discussed “internal investigation.” Although Ellis, as at recent meetings, did not say out loud what the subject of the investigation was, the board’s action comes two weeks after police chief Chip Dodge was placed on administrative leave pending an “internal investigation.”

It was recently revealed that the state Attorney General’s office last year investigated complaints from unknown sources that Dodge had mishandled drugs deposited in a prescription drug drop box at the police station. The state did not press charges against the chief, but his suggestion to state detectives that other officers in his department may have had access to the drugs raised the ire of the officers in his department, all of whom signed a no-confidence statement on October 19.

Dodge, who has admitted that he is a recovering opioid addict, has been publicly supported by the

state Chiefs of Police Association.

At Monday’s meeting, neither Ellis nor selectboard members discussed the goals of the investigation, but Ellis stated that it had “already commenced, and we are hoping that it will be a relatively brief process.”

APD Management is based in Tewksbury, Massachusetts and was founded by Alfred P. Donovan, a former Tewksbury police chief. The company’s website says that it specializes in “consulting, assisting and conducting confidential investigations for municipal government agencies with emphasis on police internal investigations.”

**Town Website**

Mik Muller of Montague WebWorks introduced the new website he has developed for the town. Muller stressed that his product would provide significantly greater access for town employees, and members of town boards, than the previous platform.

“We have been working with an archaic product for a long time,” said Ellis, “Which makes it more difficult for our staff to update it, which makes it more difficult to be

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

## The New Route to Dry Hill Cemetery: Progress, If Not For The Family Car

By JEFF SINGLETON

**MONTAGUE** – Last August, the town of Montague signed an agreement with the Eversource Electric

Company for use of the gravel access road next to the power lines crossing Wendell Road east of Millers Falls. The road, which is used for power line maintenance, will al-

low town vehicles limited access to the historic Dry Hill Cemetery.

To get there, vehicles need to travel south up a steep incline on Eversource’s road to a dirt road called Dry Hill Cross Road. Taking a right on the Cross Road, vehicles would travel west approximately one-third of a mile to where the Cross Road reaches the upper portion of Dry Hill Road, at one time a major east-west thoroughfare.

The voyager would then take another right-hand turn, back down the hill toward Wendell Road. Approximately halfway there, one encounters a fence blocking further progress. To the right of this fence, and up an incline, one can see a rather decrepit, sparsely populated cemetery.

This is Dry Hill Cemetery, the subject of at least thirty years of local controversy.

The rather circuitous route to this see **DRY HILL** page A8



Our reporter, cemetery commissioner Judith Lorei, and highway superintendent Tom Bergeron check out the scene at the centuries-old, public cemetery.

GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## Pioneer Officials To Visit Gill-Montague; Rural Districts Face Pressure To Regionalize

By MIKE JACKSON

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – On November 7, the Gill-Montague school committee had discussed applying for a state grant to study the feasibility of shared services, or perhaps regionalization, with Pioneer and the Franklin County Technical School district, and gave superintendent Michael Sullivan the go-ahead to prepare an application.

But as of the following Gill-Montague meeting Tuesday night, November 14, Pioneer’s committee had not yet been able to discuss the matter. Nevertheless, Sullivan was au-

thorized to submit an application this week, hopefully after hearing back from Pioneer and otherwise using his own discretion, and chair Timmie Smith was authorized to sign it.

On November 21, representatives from the Pioneer Valley Regional school committee and its member towns will join as guests in Gill and Montague’s ongoing talks on their own district’s long-term sustainability. That meeting will be held at the Gill-Montague Senior Center at 6:30 p.m., and is open to the public.

**General Business**

Lesley Cogswell reported that

the Friends of Hillcrest have formed a committee to replace the school’s kindergarten and first-grade playground. They “desperately need” volunteers to serve on that committee, she said, including grantwriters, and the FoH will meet on November 21 at 4 p.m.

On December 4, the playground project will be the beneficiary of a Free Soup and Games Night at Hope and Olive restaurant in Greenfield.

Heather Katsoulis, the school committee’s liaison with the taskforce it has appointed to select a new high school nickname and logo,

see **GMRSD** page A7

## New Salem “Ultra” Will Aid Local Family

By JOE KWIECINSKI

**NEW SALEM** – Imagine if you could design your own race and could determine its distance, and run – or even walk – as much or as little as you wished. Now further envision that you could help raise money for a worthy family in need, while aiding in bringing the community a little more together by raising its awareness of a serious disease.

Well, you’re in luck. Enter the inaugural Village Ultra 10-Hour Race in New Salem this weekend. This exciting event unfolds Sunday, November 19 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. starting at the New Salem Common.

Devised by Carla Halpern of New Salem, the mother of three children and a proud long distance runner and ultra-runner herself, this fun-filled event will attempt to raise consciousness of two especially unforgiving, cruel maladies: PANS and PANDAS.

The acronym PANS stands for Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome, while PANDAS represents Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections. The terminology may seem cumbersome, but that’s merely a faint reflection of how complex and complicated these illnesses are.

see **VILLAGE ULTRA** page A5



CHRISTINE MORIN PHOTO

Every contribution helps: The shortest version of Sunday’s race is simply a quarter-mile jaunt around the New Salem Common. The longest route will take ten hours for practiced runners to finish.

# The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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August 2002

## Our Regular Appeal

Earlier this month, 115 writers for the New York-based online news networks DNAiufu and Gothamist were laid off after their company's owner, a *billionaire*, decided he'd rather shut the sites down than deal with union writers. Less than a week before, they had voted to join the Writers Guild of America East.

Whenever we see this kind of news – or news of a more traditional print publication folding – we think about our own odd predicament. The *Montague Reporter* is kept alive at the very edge of the economy, at the very edge of absurdity.

We pay some stipends, but in the grand scheme of things, we're basically a volunteer-run project.

In this business, revenue tends to feel like quicksand. If you've been reading this paper for very long, you'll know we're not too shy to point out three basic facts: we are only kept going by our loyal and patient subscribers; we are only kept going by our sympathetic and supportive advertisers; and on top of all that, we are only kept going by generous and thoughtful donors. (We're owned by a non-profit, governed by a community board of directors.)

It's that time of year again, and our usual December fundraising event will actually take place in February, so before we take our week's vacation for Thanksgiving, we might as well make this pitch:

If you don't subscribe, please consider doing so. Our rates are dirt cheap, and if you live in our cover-

age towns, we'll bring every paper right to you, hot off the presses.

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If you're looking around and listing worthy local causes for your charitable giving this holiday season, think of us. We're not at the top of the list in terms of either need or glamor, but we stretch every penny we get, and we go out of our way to support many other local efforts year-round with free coverage, so it's a wise investment.

Get in touch if you're a writer, or a photographer, or especially a grantwriter. Get in touch, too, if you might be able to invest in a larger, long-term project that will help sustain the newspaper.

This season, we also have stocking-stuffers: gift subscriptions, as always; handsome *Montague Reporter* coffee mugs for \$10; bundled sets of past full-year volumes, price negotiable; and complete sets of our four special historical editions, a very popular item, also for \$10. Do you know anyone interested in history, or coffee?

We don't think there's any local paper quite like us out there. We work very hard, and we ask that you support our continued work. Thank you!

## The Competition Just Got Easier

Best wishes to Miranda Davis, the *Greenfield Recorder* reporter, who mentioned to the crowd lingering after Tuesday's Gill-Montague school committee meeting that she has accepted a tempting job offer back in her homeland of Kansas.

Over the last year, Davis did a great job on this side of the river, especially for a new arrival who was thrown in on the deep end, and it's a shame she's leaving so soon.

We witnessed quite a bit of unfair shoot-the-messenger mentality, particularly around her school committee coverage, and she always seemed to endure it with good humor and professionalism.

Time will tell, but Davis' lasting legacy here may be her 3,831-

word answer to the riddle of Montague police chief Chip Dodge's mysterious 2016 suspension.

The public had a right to know, and in such a situation, it is the job of journalists to be forthright, persistent, and attentive to details, however sad, uncomfortable or politically charged they might be.

Plus, it saved us having to do it.

So safe travels, Miranda, and best of luck! It's incredibly difficult to build a career as a working journalist in this day and age, and you are wise to pursue opportunities as they open up.

We hope your time here in Franklin County was an enjoyable practice run for the battles we are all sure to face in the years ahead.



PV Squared solar installers Jeremy Latch and Bob Hiland complete the wiring for a 4.9 KW solar array on Central Street in Turners Falls this Tuesday morning.

## GUEST EDITORIAL



CHRISTOPHER CARMODY ILLUSTRATION

## OKCannabis Part 1: The Scrum

By ROB SKELTON

**MONTAGUE – SCRUM:** 1a. a rugby play in which the forwards of each side come together in a tight formation and struggle to gain possession of the ball when it is tossed in among them. 2a. *British:* MADHOUSE.

We are in the Massachusetts cannabis scrum. Who will shape the coming pot future?

Up until now, it has been the public health authorities, who've overseen the previous incarnation of legal weed under the auspices of "medical." Now that "recreational" has been mandated by the voters, official power will migrate to the newer Cannabis Control Commission, constituted by the political class.

The governor and attorney general are still in Just Say No mode. The legislature, which never had the capacity, courage or imagination to embrace weed, was overridden by the people via referendums.

Nonetheless, the pols are eager to cash in on their cronyism – think Bill Delahunt, whose former colleagues granted him *three* licenses to operate med-marijuana facilities, despite his having jailed hundreds of people for pot possession while he was in "law enforcement."

Corporate interests are anxious for a stake in the action. Some religious groups and other pot haters want a stake in the "inaction."

Meanwhile, the punter who wants a bag of weed still has to go downtown and hope to score in the park, before more cameras get installed. The backyard grower has a pretty random limit placed upon production, and has hoops to squiggle through which may or may not be real, or enforceable.

Dispensaries, which people are freaking out about, face financial hurdles which will ensure only the well-capitalized survive. Amherst's limit of eight outlets for weed was criticized by its own selectwoman Connie Kruger, who cited publicly that number's random and unscientific basis.

In an agricultural enclave which has the potential to be a world leader in weed production, we are hearing little. Where are the weed economic development czars?

Cannabis has returned to stay. I'll spare you the history of weed's prohibition. Like all such experiments, it was a colossal failure, spurred on by anti-weed forces within the alcohol, oil, and tobacco industries. (Read Jack Herer's book.)

Now it is back with a vengeance, and it ain't your shady uncle's grass.

It now exists in so many forms, and has so many uses, that it seems like it was put on this earth by God to make life better for us. How else to explain its utter usefulness across the board, from rope, to medicine, to nourishment, to fuel?

Law Enforcement, meanwhile, is in a flux. There is no way to test for impairment, and no agreement on what "impairment" is, or how long it lasts. Cops love pot, and they'd rather deal with a stoner than an alcoholic anytime.

The low- and no-bail for the five growers recently raided for 50 pounds of weed on Amherst's Bay Road indicates the "seriousness" of the "crime."

Meanwhile the thousands of people whose lives were thwarted or ruined in the drug war deserve truth and reconciliation.

Looming still are the Feds, not yet ready to acquiesce to modern pot

## Letter to the Editors Give Dodge A Break

My name is Luis Carromero, and I moved to Turners Falls from Miami, Florida.

I was harassed by a Montague police officer, and was arrested for no reason – the officer made a mistake. I then called Chief Dodge about the situation that had happened, and explained it to him, and he helped fix the problem.

I know a lot of people like to slander police officers, but news flash, people: We need police officers to serve and protect.

The town of Turners Falls should get over the mistakes and help bring back Chief Dodge. He really is trying, people. Let's get together and write a letter to Steve Ellis so he can stop, and bring Chief Dodge back.

Luis Carromero  
Turners Falls

reality. UMass prof Lyle Croker was shot down for twenty years, petitioning the US government for a permit to grow cannabis for experimental purposes, since the only authorized college – UMiss – grew shitty weed.

The genie is out of the bottle, and the weed war has come to a draw. How can we shape the future of weed so that it's not controlled by corporate interests, or haters? How can the weed culture be shaped to allow for the most benefit for the most people at the least cost?

These are some of the issues I plan to cover in future essays. Welcome aboard OKCannabis.

Rob Skelton lives in Montague.

## Published weekly on Thursdays.

Every other week in July and August.  
No paper last week of November,  
or the Thursday closest to 12/25.

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# LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by **DON CLEGG**

The October 19 issue of the Montague Reporter mentioned that we mail the newspaper to subscribers in **18 states** outside of Massachusetts. A curious subscriber from Maine wondered what those states are.

So here you have them: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Thank you for asking!

The Friends of Gill will hold its **Apple Pie Sale** this Saturday, November 18 at the Gill Church from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Frozen, unbaked pies sell for \$12. You can come in to get a pie, or call to reserve one at 863-2105. You may also stop in at the Gill Town Hall during office hours to purchase your pie.

The Gill/Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street in Turners Falls, is holding a **Christmas Bazaar** on Saturday, November 18. Stop by anytime between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. for raffles, food, crafts, and gifts!

Profits from this event provide funding for maintenance of equipment, social events, kitchen sup-

plies, repairs, and other senior center expenses. Enjoy a day of Christmas-filled fun, and support the Senior Center.

Explore **all 4-H has to offer** on Saturday, November 18 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Greenfield Savings Bank branch in Turners Falls. Families are invited to drop by and check out 4-H's many specialty programs.

Whether you are interested as a youngster or an adult, there is something for anyone and everyone. Tom Waskiewicz will be there with 4-H staffers to answer questions on local 4-H groups, and how folks might be able to join or how new groups and leaders can get started.

Attendees can also find out about the latest partnership with none other than Google. Outer space and programs in aeronautics are within the scope of 4-H, as well as the more traditional programs such as farming, sewing and equine clubs. The list of opportunities is endless, needing only imagination, leaders and participants.

The Nolumbeka Project presents the 5th annual **Beaver Moon Gathering** on Saturday, November 18 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

Explore concepts of personhood and identity with speaker Melody Walker Brook. Indigenous people occupy a unique cultural space, and view the world through a different lens. Put on your Abenaki glasses and see a world full of people, human and non-human.

There will be refreshments, a raffle, and donations are welcome.

A **free community meal** will be shared at the Elks Lodge in Turners Falls from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, November 23.

Everyone is invited to enjoy a traditional **Thanksgiving Day dinner** on Thursday, November 23, from noon to 5 p.m. at the People's Pint, 24 Federal Street in Greenfield.

Pay what you can – all proceeds will be donated to the Western Mass Food Bank.

The United Arc and Stone Soup Café are also partnering to host an inclusive **community Thanksgiving Dinner** from 1 to 4 p.m. at 399 Hope Street in Greenfield.

Stone Soup is a family friendly, pay-what-you-can café, welcoming individuals and families from all walks of life and abilities to enjoy a holiday meal together. There will even be crafts for the kids.

The suggested donation for guests is \$10 a person, and volunteers are needed. To volunteer, please contact Patti at (413) 768-7346 or at [info@stonesoupgreenfield.org](mailto:info@stonesoupgreenfield.org).

**Do you like puzzles?** Do you want to swap them? If so, stop by the Turners Falls branch of the Greenfield Savings Bank on Satur-

day, November 25, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for a puzzle swap.

Join the Greenfield Business Association and the Greenfield downtown merchants for something called a **Jingle Fest** on Friday, December 1, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Visit Santa in Wilson's from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and get a gift, see the town tree light up on Veterans Mall at 5:30 p.m., get cocoa from the GBA for a quarter at Frosted Bake Shop (while supplies last), hearing caroling on Veterans Mall, see "A Charlie Brown Christmas" for free at 6:30 p.m. at the Garden Cinema, attend a free craft workshop for kids, and enter to win a shopping spree by voting for your favorite holiday window.

Have you started your Christmas shopping yet, or have you run out of **gift ideas?** Well, why not an oversized *Montague Reporter* coffee mug as a stocking stuffer? We have them for \$10.

We also offer gift subscriptions...

**There will be no issue** of the *Montague Reporter* during Thanksgiving Week. Our next issue is November 30... So, if you were planning on committing any high crimes or other dubious acts, finding a cure for the common cold, or winning a Nobel Prize, then please hold off until the following week so the newspaper's dedicated staff can cover that news in a timely fashion.

Plus, we will just be too darn busy eating turkey and watching football. **Have a safe holiday.**

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



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**Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week**

*week ending 11/3/2017:*

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Devin Emond

**Grade 7**  
Levin Prondecki

**Grade 8**  
Emma Laster

**NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD**

## Impatience Grows Over Electricity Aggregation

By **ROB SKELTON**

The Leverett selectboard met with officials from Colonial Energy and the town's energy committee to peruse the "retail power supply pricing matrix" at Tuesday's bi-weekly conclave. Leverett now has the state-granted authority to enter the electrical market as an "aggregator," but Mark Cappadona and Denise Alard from Colonial, citing the prices released Monday, said that "at this time, the market is not in our favor."

The Leverett energy committee's choice for aggregation was to buy energy that is 10% cheaper than Eversource, to encourage maximum buy-in. The menu of energy options range from "brown" (dirty) energy from coal plants to 100% "green" energy from Texas wind and Maine hydro-power.

Resident Richard Nathorst urged the town to get moving.

"It doesn't matter a damn whether it's from Texas or Cabot Station," Nathorst said of the electrical grid, disavowing the energy committee's preference for "local" green energy

and calling it "regional bullshit. Let's just get on some green power, and get going."

The selectboard tried to get a bead on when to jump into the energy market, with selectman Tom Hankinson asking, *What's the criteria?*

"We've got to be able to move on it fast," Hankinson said, citing a 24-hour window in which energy choices are made following rate release. He claimed for the selectboard its predominance over the energy committee, for decision-making authority around electrical aggregation.

Energy committee members groused about the time it has been taking to buy green energy, citing Leverett's projection on the town website to have pricing by January.

The Village Co-op in Moore's Corner has been buying energy for at least five years in aggregate from the Mass Retailers Association, at what manager Paul Rosenberg said was a favorable rate. That has now shifted, with an emphasis on "stable" over "favorable," prompting the store to plan to switch to the Leverett aggregation, when it becomes available.

**School Funding**

Tom Powers, who sits on the regional working group tasked with assessing Amherst, Leverett, Pelham and Shutesbury money to fund the Amherst middle and high schools, reported no new developments big enough to change Leverett's preferred choice of "S-4," which is the current default agreement and which doesn't require unanimity from all four towns.

The consultant hired to help the towns craft an agreement is being paid \$9,000 and is only nominally familiar with the process, according to the selectboard. To be fair, the formulas are a mélange of factors, including aggregated wealth, ability to pay, per-pupil average cost, and declining enrollments at two of the four towns.

Amherst's numbers are inflated by its large student population, which skews the formula into meaninglessness. Nathorst cited Amherst's \$300,000 settlement, "to alleviate their superintendent," as grounds to disregard cries of poverty and unfairness from the college town.

**Other Business**

Tom Masterton of Village Neighbors, a group formed to help elders "age in place," sought permission to use the town hall without fee for meetings. Granted.

The highway department is down two workers, and the positions will be advertised this week. Road boss David Finn interviewed two candidates, one of whom he's likely to speak with again. Shutesbury also is seeking laborers, and officials wondered if the pay scale was high enough to attract qualified candidates.

The decrepit Blinn house at 1 Dudleyville Road is believed to contain massive archives of Leverett history, collected by the late Cliff Blinn over his lifetime as a longtime town official, according to Gordon Fretwell of North Leverett Road, overheard in a sidebar with the board.

The future of the house is up in the air, but it hasn't collapsed into the river just yet. Fretwell was hoping to get at the purported historical documents before it's too late.

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**COP23 REPORT** from pg A1

being too weak and, as is, will keep us on a climate collision course, it has now been signed onto by all countries – **except ours.** Perhaps a bright note is that official US withdrawal from the agreement will not be in force until November 4, 2020, the day after the 2020 elections. (Another reason why climate should finally become a major political issue in the US.)

Islands from Puerto Rico to Tuvalu are especially vulnerable to global warming, rising ocean levels and devastating storms. At this COP, front-line island nations of the world have a major voice, as Fiji, one of their own, is this year's conference president. As this archipelago of more than 330 islands in the south Pacific, already a victim of major storms, lacks the logistics to welcome some 25,000 delegates and others, the summit is taking place in Bonn, home to the UN climate change convention secretariat.

As the second week of the conference began, the Global Carbon Project announced that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for 2017 would increase by 2%, after two stable years. And this increase is itself evidently related to climate change, as drought in China lowered its hydroelectric resources, leading to greater dependency on coal.

This is just part of a serious picture worldwide. Clearly, big changes are needed to restore a measure

of climate stability on this planet. And there are major differences in opinion and analysis about what needs to be done.

But for activists – from communities opposed to nuclear energy and its radwaste (some for decades), to the recently formed “GASTivists,” who see no difference between reliance on “conventional” and “fracked” gas (“it’s all methane, and a climate killer”), to the indigenous people whose culture and livelihoods are threatened by climate change and “extractivist” policies of endless growth – the slogans were loud and clear: “System change, not climate change,” and “Climate Justice Now!”

**Challenging the Status Quo**

This opposition set the tone for the climate conference before its official opening on November 6. From November 3 to 7, hundreds of people, mainly young and from European countries, gathered for a People's Climate Summit to discuss and hear from experts and affected people around the world, as they described climate disruption in their home communities and countries, and steps taken to counter it.

There were great workshops and panels, translated in two to four languages; a raft of studies and literature; and a major demonstration on Saturday, November 4, that brought 25,000 people into the streets of Bonn – 3,000 in a bicycle parade.



Part of the international “GASTivists” action in the delegate area on November 9. “Don't let the gas industry greenwash COP23!”



No coal, no gas – no nukes! Nuclear opponents were present at all the conference's actions, including here at the November 11 demonstration in Bonn.

It was the biggest climate march yet in Germany.

There, “END COAL” was spelled out in bobbing black balloons on a giant banner behind the stage. International speakers addressed many climate- and justice-related themes, but a major focus was the hypocrisy of German energy policy. Although known around the world as a leader in renewable energy, Germany is in fact a major emitter of CO<sub>2</sub>, and dedicated to mining the “dirtiest” form of coal: brown coal, or lignite.

**Ende Gelaende – Stop Coal!**

After months of careful planning, on the day after the demo, 4,000 people went to the site of Germany's biggest surface mine – a moon-like landscape of devastation, just 50 kilometers north of Bonn. In the largest civil disobedience action against the largest CO<sub>2</sub> emitter in Europe, 3,000 people were able to get on the site and shut it down for the day.

The action by the Ende Gelaende (“Stop and No Further”) movement was seen in living rooms across the country, and helped make the crucial exit from coal a major topic in political talks around the formation of a new coalition government, which are going on parallel to the climate negotiations.

Every day at the conference will be full, as delegates from the most

affected countries press for financial aid to repair damages and invest in renewable energy and efficiency; oppose massive, often privately funded and for-profit plantation projects; demand a greater voice for indigenous people and women; and more.

Alongside the many talks and closed negotiating sessions are numerous side events, many put on by the same social movements and progressive parties that organized the People's Climate Summit.

For more information on some of the key topics involved, check out this story on the Women & Life on Earth website, [wloe.org](http://wloe.org), for links to groups offering excellent resources on many key issues.

I look forward to writing and talking – and showing – more about these when I get back home with my videos, photos, and all that documentation. The energy, knowledge, and vital determination to change the current system of exploitation, privatization and destruction shown in Bonn gives hope.

Anna Gyorgy coordinates the Women & Life on Earth website, a project of the Traprock Center, from Wendell. Email her at [info@wloe.org](mailto:info@wloe.org). This article, all links, and more will be available at [wloe.org](http://wloe.org).

**NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD**

## There's A New Sergeant in Town

By **GEORGE BRACE**

Last Monday at Gill's selectboard meeting, police chief Chris Redmond appeared before the board to recommend that Jason Bassett, an 11-year veteran of the Gill department, be promoted from special officer sergeant to full-time, permanent sergeant to fill the vacancy left by Redmond's promotion to chief.

Redmond highlighted Bassett's qualifications, and the extra level of dedication he has shown by working for the Gill department above and beyond, working 40 hours elsewhere as well. The hiring was unanimously approved by board members Randy Crochier and John Ward. (Greg Snedeker was unable to attend the meeting.)

Crochier and Ward described Bassett as a “very good choice” and a “known quantity.” Crochier added that Bassett was a good candidate to provide a “strong second” to Chief Redmond, and be the team member a small department needs.

**Medicaid Reimbursement**

School superintendent Michael Sullivan provided an overview and update on the Gill-Montague Regional School District's Medicaid reimbursement issue. The state of Massachusetts has determined that, over the course of a number of years, the district has claimed and received reimbursement for ineligible para-professional services, and is asking for over \$900,000 of it to be repaid.

Sullivan began by noting that he had been given public talking points by the school district's attorney, and was under a “tight leash” due to sensitive ongoing legal matters, but would provide as much information as he could.

He said the GMRSD is in discussions with MassHealth about the reimbursement process, and is also “strongly pursuing” relief from the New England Medical Billing, the company that had managed the district's Medicaid billing during the period in question. He went on to outline the history and elements of the problem to the board.

Finance committee member Tupper Brown asked some specific questions, which Sullivan said he was currently not able to answer due to the legal issues involved. He assured Brown that he agrees the questions ultimately need to be answered publicly, and that they will be.

**The board acknowledged an increase in the Montague sewer rate of 3.4%.**

**Cultural Council**

Ronnie LaChance of the Gill Cultural Council appeared before the board to submit paperwork related to several council activities.

The board approved and signed an annual renewal of the commission's bank loan, appointed LaChance to a new three-year term on the council, and authorized fund-

ing applications to the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The board also approved designating council members as “special municipal employees,” in order to conform with financial disclosure and other regulations concerning council activities. Both board members and town administrator Ray Purington noted this is a common practice.

They then went on to approve two financial disclosure documents from council members: one from Isaac Bingham, due to a grant application by Sorrel Hatch, and the other from Judd Greenstein, due to a grant application by Michi Wiancko.

**Other Business**

Tyler Nelson-Yarrows of Ever-source appeared, to petition the board to move a utility pole located at 121 Barney Hill Road approximately 30 feet, in order to facilitate “make-ready work” for Comcast's last-mile broadband project, and provide better access and reliability. The board approved the request.

A request by Steve Damon to

use the town hall for a sing-a-long to celebrate the town's 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary was approved. It will take place January 1, between 1:30 and 3:30 pm. All are welcome.

The board acknowledged an increase in the Montague sewer rate of 3.4%, which applies to waste pumped under the river to that town from the Riverside neighborhood. Ray Purington discussed a timeline for looking into any adjustments Gill may make in its billing to Riverside residents.

Trash and recycling pickup scheduled for the day after Thanksgiving, Friday, November 24, is being moved to Saturday, November 25.

The Friends of Gill will hold an apple pie sale from 9 a.m. to noon at the Gill church on Saturday, November 18. The homemade, unbaked pies will cost \$12.

The Franklin County Regional Housing Redevelopment Authority is hosting first-time homebuyer workshops on two Saturdays, December 2 and 9. Registration is required.

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**VILLAGE ULTRA** from pg A1

The overarching purpose of the event, though, is to financially support a New Salem family, the Van Iderstine-Derderian clan, as they struggle to meet the skyrocketing health care bills incurred in the care of their 14-year-old son, David Burl Derderian.

Race originator Carla Halpern relates the background. "I'm a family friend and neighbor," she said, "and my part came about when David Van Iderstine and his wife, Jean Derderian, expressed concern this past August about mounting medical expenses, now surpassing \$60,000 and counting.

"Since Jean, nurse Nan Mead at Swift River Elementary School, my friend Christine Morin, and I run and race together, it was natural that we work on planning and implementing a racing event that would attract as many runners as possible."

Sunday the 19th was selected because it was the date that least conflicted with already announced races in the New Salem area. "We brainstormed and came up with the name 'The Village Ultra,'" she said. "Sometimes it really does take a village to help raise a child. This race reminds us that we can help real people on a local level, bettering our community and encouraging each other to do our best."

The big day's ten-hour race gets underway at 7 a.m., and a six-hour race begins at 11 a.m. The word "ultra" is an abbreviation of "ultra-marathon," meaning any race longer than the standard measure of 26.2 miles, which dates back to ancient Grecian times.

Sunday's first New Salem ultra offers a unique chance for participants to run or walk for the whole ten-hour period or a shorter six-hour stint. In fact, entrants can even "drop in" for as much or as little time as they'd like.

"For the past four years," said Carla, "I've directed a 10k trail-race

in New Salem, known as the 'Rabbit Run'. Often, Jean and her oldest son, Clay, have volunteered at that event. In Sunday's race, participants may choose to run or walk on the original Rabbit Run course – a mostly hilly trail – or simply make a shorter jaunt around the New Salem town common for a quarter of a mile on mostly flat pavement. Every contribution counts toward the day's important goals."

Halpern, who is a lawyer in Franklin County and Worcester, says that the organizers hope to encourage a wide variety of people to join them: "ultra-runners, marathoners, hikers, and families with small children who just want a pretty autumn stroll."

"We aren't giving out awards or prizes or even t-shirts for the fastest finishers. But every participant who completes a minimum of a quarter mile loop of the common will receive a finisher's medallion, customized with their own mileage completed that day. We'll even cheer them on."

**A Persistent Illness**

Every effort has been made to keep costs low, so that the fundraising aspect of the day remains paramount. The focus of the event's benevolent intention is Burl Derderian.

Despite his illness, he remains a friendly, fun-loving early teenager. He writes rap songs, loves the outdoors, and is devoted to his black Labrador.

Burl experienced a typical first three years of life. But then tragedy struck. He was bitten by an insect that carried Lyme disease, an acute inflammatory ailment. Unknown to anyone at the time, the Lyme spirochete was blending with two undetected co-infections: Babesia and Bartonella.

At age 10, the Derderian boy was diagnosed with PANS. During five years of treatment, his co-infections were cured, but the Lyme disease persisted. His mother and father trav-

eled recently with their son to Germany for hyperthermia treatment.

Today, with his Lyme disease a thing of the past, Burl's thyroid "is back to normal," say his parents. "It appears," said Jean Derderian, "that immunomodulatory therapies and psychotherapy will be effective in restoring our son's health."

The Van Iderstine-Derderian family needs help in paying for Burl's past and present medical care. The gritty 14-year-old's care requires a lot of daily assistance and accommodation. "For over 12 years now," said Jean, "our family has braved the unknown and grown so much, enabling us to learn about true compassion, patience, and overcoming obstacles. Our family has forged an ongoing commitment to the well-being of each other."

David and Jean married in 1988 and have five children, ranging in age from 10 to 23. Van Iderstine works as an engineer at Bose Corporation, farms, and is an active volunteer for radio station WMUA at UMass-Amherst, along with the 1794 Meetinghouse.

His wife is a lawyer. "One of the hardest aspects of caring for a child with PANS," said Jean, "is that it can be a very isolating experience. Seeing the Village Ultra come into being has helped our entire family feel supported by our community."

"Carla Halpern has done so much for our family, and the public," she continued. "When Carla told me her idea for a race, she pointed out that she was doing this because Burl matters. Her dedication is universal – everyone matters to Carla Halpern.

"Both of us are already looking forward to helping other individuals and families at the second Village Ultra in 2018."

If you're interested in running or walking in this year's event, registration is available at [runreg.com](http://runreg.com) or throughout the race day in New Salem, beginning at 6 a.m.



## COMMUNITY Action!

### PROGRAM SUPERVISOR

Seeking compassionate, hard-working professional for full-time **Healthy Families Supervisor** position. Healthy Families is an intensive parenting support program that provides in-home coaching/support to pregnant and parenting teens and their babies. The primary role of the Supervisor is to provide individualized weekly supervision to home-visiting staff utilizing a reflective practice and providing clinical and administrative support. The Supervisor also coordinates referral/intake systems and plans/implements group services in cooperation with the home-visiting team. This position receives intensive orientation and training in the HF model and ongoing supervision.

Bachelor's degree in Human Services or field related to working with children and families. Minimum of 3 years of relevant experience required including at least 2 years of experience providing clinical support and 1 year of supervision and leadership experience. Knowledge of infant/toddler development and parent-child mental health required. Must have understanding of prevention service delivery based on promoting protective factors of families. Position is based in Orange, MA. Program covers all of Franklin Co. and the North Quabbin region. Excellent training and generous employee benefits.

Send Letter of Interest and Resume to [caad310@communityaction.us](mailto:caad310@communityaction.us). No phone calls please. Screenings begin immediately and continue until position is filled.

Visit [www.communityaction.us](http://www.communityaction.us) to view full job description. AA/EOE/ADA

### TOWN OF MONTAGUE NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL MEETING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CDS)

The Town of Montague will hold an informational meeting on **November 28, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Planning Board meeting in the Montague Town Hall, Meeting Room, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA.

The purpose of this meeting is to solicit public comment to the town's draft CDS. The CDS will identify community development goals and objectives over a 3- to 5-year period; how they intend to address these goals and objectives utilizing CDBG and non-CDBG funds; and provide a priority list of activities/projects that it intends to carry out to achieve these goals and objectives. Draft CDS is available at [www.montague-ma.gov](http://www.montague-ma.gov) or at the Planning Department at Town Hall. 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.

Montague Planning and Conservation Department

### MONTAGUE PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ZONING BYLAWS: RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA MORATORIUM

**Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at 7 p.m.**  
Town Hall – Second Floor

The Montague Planning Board will hold a public hearing to consider an amendment to the Montague Zoning Bylaws petitioned by the Board of Selectmen pertaining to a **Temporary Moratorium of Recreational Marijuana Establishments** at 7 p.m. on Tuesday November 28, 2017 at Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA: The proposed amendment would add a new Section 7.11 to establish a moratorium through 12/31/2018 for the purpose of allowing the Town to study and consider the regulation of recreational marijuana establishments, to address the potential impact of the State regulations on local zoning, and to undertake a planning process to consider amending the Zoning Bylaw regarding regulation of such establishments.

Full text of the proposed moratorium is available for review at [montague-ma.gov](http://montague-ma.gov), and at Town Hall during office hours M-Th.

Ron Sicard, Planning Board Chairman

### TOWN OF MONTAGUE NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL MEETING AVENUE A PHASE III STREETScape AND LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS

The Town of Montague will hold an informational meeting on **November 30, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.** in the Montague Town Hall, Lower Meeting Room, Turners Falls, MA.

The purpose of this meeting is to present and solicit public comment to the Avenue A Phase III Streetscape and Lighting Improvements 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 Avenue A Streetscape and Lighting Improvement Plans and take comments. The streetscape project design is between 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> streets on both sides of Ave A, and the lighting improvements are from 7<sup>th</sup> Street to the War Memorial. 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.

Board of Selectmen, Town of Montague

### TOWN OF MONTAGUE NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL MEETING RUTTER'S PARK DESIGN

The Town of Montague will hold an informational meeting on **November 30, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Montague Safety Complex Meeting Room, Tumpike Road, Turners Falls, MA.

The purpose of this meeting is to present and solicit public comment to the Rutter's Park Design Project which is a component of the Town of Montague's FY 2017 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant award from the Department of Housing and Community Development. A landscape architect from GZA GeoEnvironmental will make a presentation of the Rutter's Park Design Concept 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.

Board of Selectmen, Town of Montague

## All Welcome: Unity Park Community Gardens "Put the Garden to Bed" Work Party

**TURNERS FALLS** – Volunteers and community members are invited to the "Put the Garden to Bed Party" this Saturday, November 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Unity Park Community Gardens.

There are 30 raised beds and eight wheelchair-accessible beds, surrounded by pathways and a small lawn. Organizers and volunteers will be pulling weeds, mulching beds and pathways, and performing general garden maintenance. Our goal is to put the garden to sleep for the winter and create the best possible start next spring for the community gardeners.

Only about half of the beds are in use, so if you are interested in having a small garden plot next year, please stop by or send an email. The Gardens are located in the Unity Park complex next to the skate park.

Volunteers are reminded to wear appropriate layers for the weather, and if you have them, bring work gloves, shovels and rakes. All are welcome, regardless of tool ownership. Hot tea, apple cider, and light snack will be provided.

Please contact [greatfallsapplecorps@gmail.com](mailto:greatfallsapplecorps@gmail.com) with any questions.

## Rotarians Host Shimmering Raffle Trees At Candle Village Annex

**SOUTH DEERFIELD** – The Franklin County Rotary Club, together with the Greenfield Kiwanis Club, are making preparations for their annual Festival of Trees, set to kick off on Thursday, November 30 at the Yankee Candle Village Annex at 25 Greenfield Road in South Deerfield.

The Festival of Trees will run from Thursday, November 30 through Saturday, December 16 on Thursdays and Fridays from 5 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visitors are welcomed to walk through the shimmering forest of trees sponsored by local business-

es, civic and social organizations, schools, individuals and families.

Trees will be raffled off at the conclusion of the event. All proceeds will benefit Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Franklin County, and the Franklin County Sheriff's Regional Dog Shelter and Adoption Center.

"We are really excited to partner with these two wonderful organizations this year," said Rotarian and event coordinator April Healey. "The Festival was really well-received last year in our community. Our hope this year is to triple the number of visitors by offering entertainment on

Thursday and Friday evenings, and Saturday afternoons."

Everyone is welcome, and for those looking to participate by sponsoring a tree, there is still space available; contact [ahaleay@bankgcb.com](mailto:ahaleay@bankgcb.com).

"Sixty-five trees were raffled at last year's event," Healey said. "It's wonderful to partner with other organizations this time of year for an amazing, 'pay it forward' community event."

Visit the Franklin County Rotary FB page for more information about how you can participate, or to plan a visit.

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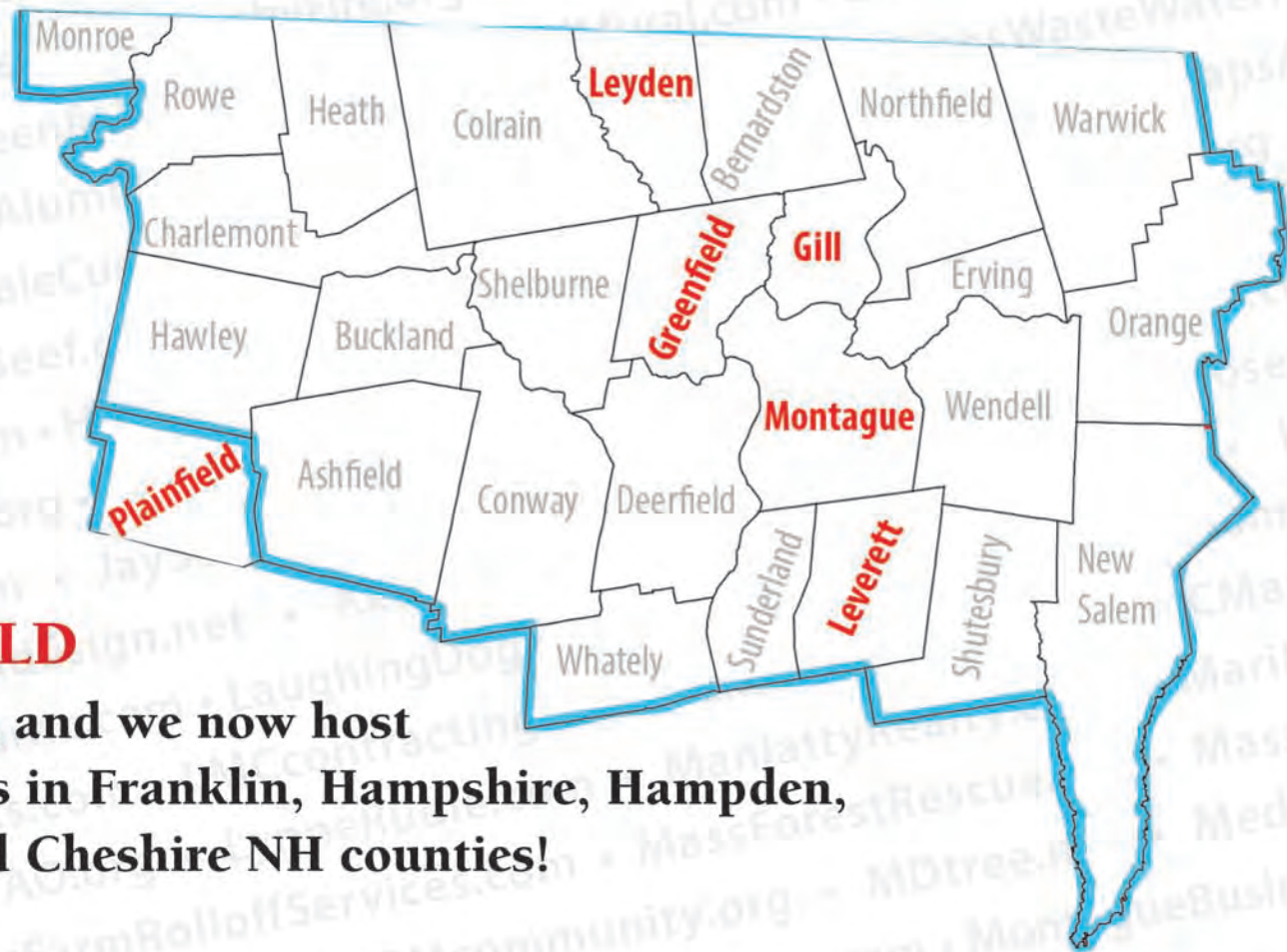
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**MONTAGUE** from page A1

both transparent and to effectively and proactively communicate..."

Muller stated that any "deputized" staff member could go to the website and post content, "so if you want to deputize eighty people, that's your headache."

The new website also places greater emphasis on content related to specific villages, as well as links to upcoming events. "The idea is to drive tourism, and to allow people to scratch any itch they may have," explained Ellis.

**Wastewater**

Bob McDonald, superintendent of the Water Pollution Control Facility, came before the board to discuss the latest developments in the "Montague Process" for reducing solids generated by the sewer system. Processing sludge from other towns – and the income this generated – has been put on hold while the WPCF refines and documents its operation under orders from the state.

McDonald said there had been a 50% reduction in the amount of sludge generated in September but the system continued to have problems with the "effluent quality" – pollutants discharged into the Connecticut River. The department is shipping out three loads of sludge a week by truck, and "composting more aggressively."

"We're getting a lot of help," he said. "From engineering groups, the University, different groups that want to make sure this works."

McDonald told the board he had been in conversations with officials in Greenfield and Deerfield about the possibility of constructing a cooperatively owned "anaerobic digester" to process solids. He estimated this would cost five to nine million dollars, split four ways, "with a payback period of seven to nine years."

"[But] I'm not giving up on the

Montague Process," he told the board.

McDonald said the town might want to consider constructing a sewer line from Millers Falls to the town sewer plant when the current contract with the town of Erving, which processes that village's sewage, ends in six years. He also reported that the feasibility study for a solar array at the WPCF is almost complete, at which point the town should apply for a construction grant.

**School Hole**

Michael Sullivan, superintendent of the Gill-Montague Regional School District, came before the board to report on the regional school budget shortfall of \$900,000, after the discovery of seven years of overpayment from the state in the form of Medicaid reimbursements.

"I have a series of talking points," he said, "[because] it's a pretty sensitive time right now. We're in the middle of negotiating a repayment plan, and we're also legally pursuing having the medical billing company pick up this cost fully, as opposed to the district needing to do it..."

Sullivan reviewed the history of the issue. The federal government allows states to use Medicaid funding to reimburse school districts for certain medical services to qualified recipients during the school day. The rules changed "rather significantly" in 2009, around the same time the district started contracting with a company called New England Medical Billing (NEMB) to manage its Medicaid claims with MassHealth. He said the district "followed their lead."

Reimbursements included payments to "virtually all the paraprofessionals" who work with Medicaid-eligible students, but the district found out last April that "many of those paraprofessionals

were not performing services eligible for reimbursement. "We said 'we are not doing anything different now than we were several years ago,'" Sullivan said.

At the advice of the district's lawyer, the GMRSD informed MassHealth that it had been receiving non-qualified reimbursements going back in time. Working with the state, the district determined that it had been overcompensated since 2009, "to the tune of \$930,000."

Sullivan said the state has given an "oral commitment" about a payback period, which he cannot reveal, "but it's a pretty long payback period." At the same time, the school district's lawyer has contacted NEMB and said, in Sullivan's words, "we think you are responsible for this situation."

Sullivan also noted that as of July 1, the district has returned to the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative for its Medicaid billing services.


In response to a question from disabilities advocate Betty Tegel, he said that Medicaid services to eligible students would not be impacted by the controversy.

**Other Business**

Steve Ellis reported on the latest developments at the town-owned Strathmore Mill complex. He said the boarding of the buildings for the winter months, to prevent access, is "ongoing." The plywood is being painted medium-gray with red X's to warn firefighters not to enter.

The board approved a request from Bruce Hunter of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority to sign a professional services contract with GZA Environmental for the design of Rutters Park.

Ellis also reported that the committee overseeing a plan to construct a new Department of Public



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Works Facility has voted to recommend an \$11.1 million project to the next town meeting, likely to be scheduled for February.

Disabilities advocate Betty Tegel recommended the town establish an ADA Commission to evaluate issues involving people with disabilities. She said Greenfield has such a commission.

Tom Sullivan was appointed to the tree committee.

The next scheduled meeting of the selectboard will be on November 20.



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**GMRSD** from page A1

following the elimination of the longstanding "Indians" name, said she had been told that group would be meeting twice a month. They planned to meet November 16, "reviewing the submissions they already have, and talking about how to increase their social media presence."

Shawn Hubert was absent on Tuesday, but the eight other members of the committee made a great number of unanimous votes.

They approved, one by one, an extensive packet of updates and adjustments to official district policies, after the bulk of work had been done by the policy subcommittee.

They approved a senior class field trip to Hershey, Pennsylvania in the spring, involving crystal caves and ziplines.

They approved a new contract with Unit C employees, and set the rate for long-term substitute teachers lacking teaching certification at \$150 per day. (Certified teachers who sub for over two weeks will be paid as if they are at the lowest rung of the teacher's union.)

They also approved all of the "school improvement plans" presented by principals at earlier meetings, and directed superintendent Sullivan to write to the principals thanking them for their work.

**State of the State**

And they approved a letter to the state Department of Elementary and

Secondary Education (DESE), urging it not to allow the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School to double its enrollment cap.

Last year, Gill and Montague families sent 78 students to charter schools, including 23 to PVCICS. The district paid \$1,115,173 for charter tuition and was only reimbursed \$209,109 of that.

The superintendent and committee expressed their hopes that this two-page letter would receive coverage in two local newspapers.

"We are quite concerned about the negative impact such an expansion would have on area school districts," the letter read. "Over the last five years we have lost literacy and math coaches, a director of curriculum and instruction, a principal, teachers of special education, math, ELA, and social studies, as well as counselors, administrative assistants, custodians, technology support staff, and para-professionals..."

"[I]t becomes increasingly challenging to prevent these service reductions from not resulting in a cycle of increased flight followed by yet more reductions in service."

On the other hand, Sullivan told the committee that the district's official enrollment has risen for the second year in a row: from 947, to 951, to 978 this year. "We haven't had a two-year-in-a-row increase since... before 2005. Maybe even earlier than that," he said.

Jane Oakes and Katsoulis reported back from the Massachusetts

Association of School Committees conference earlier in the month.

Oakes said she had been at a workshop on "the state of the economy, and how to improve it" ("it's nothing we're going to do anything about," she noted), and one on "small rural districts."

"There is a huge push in DESE to encourage" regionalization, Oakes said. She predicted the department would shift to be more pro-charter school, and added that acting DESE commissioner Jeffrey Wulfson gave a speech that included a statement indicating that "there's way too many small districts" in the western part of the state.

"He was clear he was just the interim," Oakes noted of Wulfson. "Which is okay."

Katsoulis reported back about a workshop on technology. "We're preparing our kids for outdated work," she summarized of its speaker's argument. "We're now entering the 'fourth industrial age' – the third was the 'information age,' but now we're into really pulling meaning out of blocks of data."

She also said she had been to a workshop on mental health, particularly how anxiety affects student learning, and another on charter schools, which became "heated."

**Partial Compliance**

Once every six years, DESE gives a "coordinated program review" of each district, and on Tuesday night, Gill Elementary principal Conor

Driscoll and Nancy Parlakulas, the district's director of pupil services, gave a presentation on the state's recently published findings on Gill-Montague's compliance with state legal standards.

The report was broken down into three sections: special education, civil rights, and English learner education.

Parlakulas presented on the special education report. Of 59 criteria, the district had implemented 55 and "partially implemented" four. She outlined corrective plans for the latter, such as including language about gender identity discrimination in contracts for out-of-district special ed placements.

"These are really exceptional results," Sullivan said. "It really speaks well to the caliber of your work."

Driscoll ran through the civil rights section, in which 10 out of the 28 criteria were deemed only partially implemented. In many cases, Driscoll said that written policies, including language in student handbooks, simply needed to catch up with existing procedures.

Policies need to spell out that staff members may be identified as "aggressors" or "perpetrators" in bullying reports, he said, and the district needs to better implement policies ensuring the legal rights of prospective dropouts and their families.

The English language learners section of the review included the one legal criterion the state said was "not implemented": the district does

not appear to be properly documenting its ELL programs so their effectiveness can be measured.

Sullivan pointed out that Rebecca Wright, who moved away last year, had been the district's full-time English Language Learner Coordinator, and that her work had since fallen on Parlakulas. "There's been a bit of an understandable transition time for Nancy to get new systems going," he said.

As an additional wrinkle, it appeared that only three of the 18 surveys the state had sent to parents of English language learners had been returned, and the school committee wondered how the district might in the future support local parents in this task, without being seen as interfering in the survey.

Parlakulas praised the district's "dedicated, creative, smart" ELL teachers and outlined a plan for the district to get in compliance with the state.

Montague member Christina Postera asked whether the district's English-learning population was growing, and Parlakulas and Sullivan both emphasized that it was.

"I'm surprised it hasn't happened yet, but I anticipate students from Puerto Rico coming, because there's so many displaced people," Parlakulas said.

"We've only had one student enroll from Puerto Rico, but I think at some point during the school year we may see more."



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**DRY HILL** from page A1

public cemetery, and the source of the controversy, is the fact that a longtime local farming family called the Senns has, for many years, blocked the portion of Dry Hill Road that runs from Wendell Road up the hill between parcels they own. The road itself has virtually disappeared, so much so that, according to a 2007 study, it might cost the town over \$200,000 to restore it.

The agreement with Eversource has been hailed by town officials as a form of progress: a temporary solution that will allow maintenance of the cemetery, and access for veterans groups and family members. Veterans groups are allowed to mark graves on specific holidays, and other residents may visit the cemetery on two days during the summer, if accompanied by town officials.

On Monday, this reporter, along with photographer Mark Hudyma, cemetery commissioner Judith Lorei, and department of public works superintendent Tom Bergeron made the trip to the cemetery via the Eversource road. Bergeron drove a town truck, and the other three took Lorei's car, a mode of travel she called an "experiment."

All of us involved in the experiment came to the conclusion that it was not wise to travel this access route in your basic family car. Lorei's Toyota Matrix struggled to get up the two-inch traprock which covered the Eversource road.

Dry Hill Cross Road, which leads east from the power lines to Dry Hill Road, was slow going but drivable. However, according to Lorei, the portion of the Cross Road which connects to East Chestnut Hill Road, another potential access route, has been a challenge even for Bergeron's truck due to exposed "ledge."

Lorei had to avoid numerous mud ruts on the portion of Dry Hill Road which leads down to the cemetery. On the return trip up Dry Hill, a large tree branch became stuck between the exhaust and the main body of her car. Although the



*Above: An experimental foray onto Eversource's rocky access road.  
Top right: Dry Hill Road, heading northeast toward the cemetery.  
Middle right: Dry Hill Road, looking southwest from Wendell Road.  
Bottom right: Our reporter fixes the flag on the grave of Joel L. Benjamin, who records indicate was paid as a soldier in 1779, and died in 1839.*

branch was eventually removed, it may have dislodged other parts attached to the underside of the car, which made ominous sounds all the way back to Millers Falls.

"I never would have done that had Tom Bergeron not been there in his truck," Lorei told this reporter. In fact, according to the Eversource agreement, vehicles are limited to "light or medium duty pick-up trucks or SUVs with small trailer access."

At the cemetery itself, one first encounters a line of four graves approximately fifteen feet from the road. Then there is a gap of nearly 60 yards up a hill to where the rest of the graves are bunched. The space in between, as well as the rest of the graveyard, has recently been cleared of brush.

Several markers have been placed in the large gap between the stones next to the road and the main group of graves. This suggests that a significant number of burials may exist whose stones have disappeared.

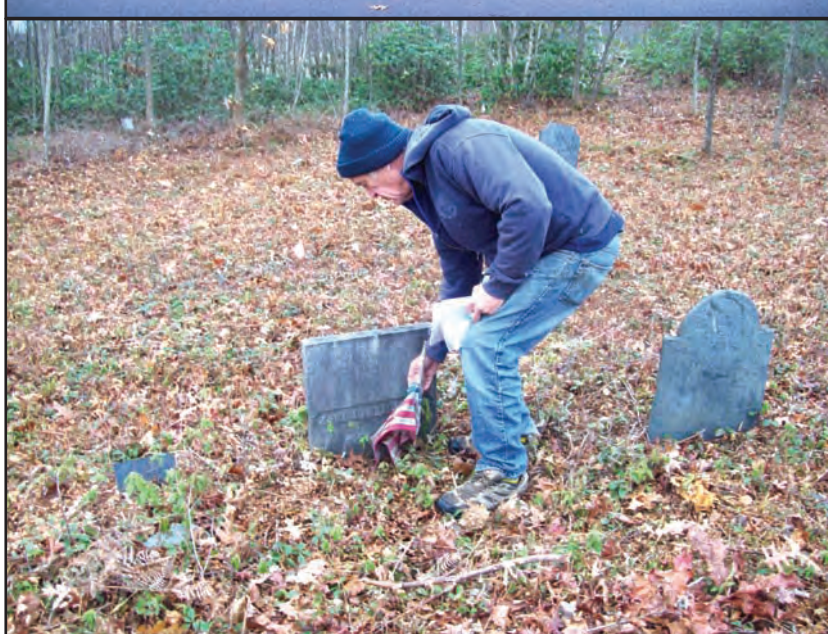
All of the remaining gravestones sit at the top of the hill. Three were marked with old, tattered American flags. Lorei identified at least one as probably indicating a veteran of the

Revolutionary War. Another of the veterans' graves, which indicated the wife of a soldier from the Spanish-American War (1898), was dated 1940. It was by far the most recent grave, most of which are dated to the nineteenth century.

From the top of the hill, one gets a view across the cow pasture where the extension of Dry Hill Road runs through the Senn property, where excavating equipment is stored. Bergeron says the road lies next to a line of trees which marks the west side of the field. From this distance, the cow pasture appears to have obliterated any evidence of the town road.

A fence with two warning signs blocks access to the section of Dry Hill Road that passes the cemetery. One says "Posted Private Property" and the other "Posted No Trespassing Keep Out." At the other end, where Dry Hill Road meets Wendell Road, there is an electrified wire that blocks public access.

Bergeron confirmed that neither the upper fence, nor the lower electric wire, had been placed across the road by the town of Montague.



MARK HUDYMA PHOTOS

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# MoRe

## Montague's Many Odors: A Police Log Retrospective

Compiled by EMILY ALLING Illustrations by NINA ROSSI

**Friday, 6/14/13**  
6:28 p.m. Caller from K Street reported a burning smell. Turners Falls Fire Department responded and detected an odor in the building which may have come from a neighbor burning trash.

**Friday, 7/12/13**  
11:00 a.m. Complaint regarding diesel odor coming from trains in Millers Falls.

**Monday, 7/29/13**  
8:24 a.m. Complaint of a strong odor, "as if something died," over the past three days in the area of Montague Street in Lake Pleasant. Officer located source of odor as a Dumpster on 9th Avenue and confirmed that "it is really bad." 9:30 a.m. Second call regarding odor in Lake Pleasant. Caller's mother heard it was coming from a dumpster. Confirmed.

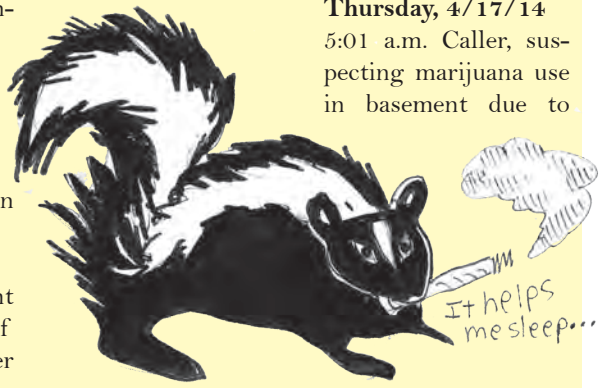
**Monday, 9/2/13**  
12:50 p.m. Noise and diesel odor reported coming from train idling near Ferry Street since 5 a.m.

**Tuesday, 9/17/13**  
10:22 p.m. Odor in-

vestigation on Church Street.

**Saturday, 10/12/13**  
10:50 a.m. Complaint of odor coming from wall in house on Turners Falls Road.

**Friday, 10/25/13**



12:58 p.m. Odor of gas reported on K Street. Determined to be sewer gas.

7:27 p.m. Report of an odor near the Shea Theater. TFFD responded; believed it to be paint from bridge.

**Saturday, 11/9/13**  
6:16 p.m. Heavy odor of marijuana in hallway of Powertown Apartments.

**Wednesday, 11/13/13**  
8:20 a.m. TFFD conducted an odor investigation on Avenue A.

**Thursday, 1/16/14**  
2:17 p.m. Complaint of odor in the vicinity of Cumberland

Farms. Board of Health advised.

**Sunday, 2/2/14**  
6:46 p.m. Burning odor at Highland School Apartments. Referred to TFFD. Burned popcorn.

**Thursday, 4/17/14**  
5:01 a.m. Caller, suspecting marijuana use in basement due to

"dead skunk" smell, requesting officer respond to residence.

**Tuesday, 7/15/14**  
12:30 p.m. Strong odor of gas detected in several areas of Turners Falls, Montague City, Gill, Greenfield, and Erving.

**Wednesday, 10/1/14**  
6:39 a.m. Caller from Avenue A reported an odor that she initially likened to mayonnaise coming from her bedroom; later said she believed she could smell something burning.

**Monday, 11/24/14**  
10:44 a.m. Officer and TFFD deputy chief investigating odor that has been detected on Avenue A and all the way to the top of the Seventh Street hill. Determined to be Simon's Stamps. Ongoing issue.

**Thursday, 12/4/14**  
10:32 a.m. Caller from Fifth Street reports that neighbors are piling up their garbage see **ODORS** p. B5



### THEATER PREVIEW

## Sammy and the Grand Buffet Brings Clowning to the Shea

From COMBINED SOURCES

**TURNERS FALLS** – Jonathan Mirin and the international touring ensemble Piti Theater Company will bring a fun and exciting production for the whole family, including a physical comedy performance and workshops, to the Shea Theater this weekend.

*Sammy and the Grand Buffet*, which starts at 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 18, features an American clown, Sammy, in Paris. Sammy needs to prepare his boss's restau-

rant for that evening's grand buffet. He does his best with the to-do list, but it's not easy being Sammy.

With laughter, magic, music and pratfalls, and many happy-accident-filled moments later, the grand buffet will be served by our hero to an unusually adventurous group of local children traveling abroad.

*Sammy* is inspired by Chaplin, Keaton, Calvin and Hobbes, and the 1947 film *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*. Performed by two-time Independent Reviewer of see **MIRIN** page B2



Jonathan Mirin performs *Sammy and the Grand Buffet* last March at Memorial Hall in Shelburne Falls. As he prepares to serve a meal, he goes through his list of tasks, but struggles to get them right, as demonstrated through his wonderful physicality.

## The Week in TFHS Sports



Turners John Driscoll breaks through the Panthers' defensive line as Powertown prevails 18-16 at PVRS in Northfield.

By MATT ROBINSON

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – It's November 15, 2017, and alas, the fall sports season is over. Except of course for Thee Game.

So as I prepare myself for all the holiday stress, I want to reflect on the season.

**Field Hockey:** The '17 Turners Falls Stickers fell one goal shy of making the playoffs. They had three unsatisfying ties, which pushed the Blue Ladies out of con-

tenation by a half game.

But with only a couple of seniors leaving the team, the future is wide open.

"This was a rebuilding year," explained coach Becky Dame after the Smith Academy tie. "We have a young team. Hopefully, next year, we can do even better."

**Golf:** The Turners Falls Golf team is also young, with only Kyle Kucienski graduating. If Turners can field six golfers next year, they wouldn't have to sacrifice forfeits.



Turners takes an early lead in set 1 during the WMass D-III Volleyball Semifinal at Frontier Regional, but the Red Hawks held on for a 3-0 victory.

And my advice to the kids on the team: Tell your parents that you have to practice for school. That way, you can golf as much as you want.

**Volleyball:** The Turners Blue Spikers had a 16-3 regular season record, and beat two teams in the playoffs before losing to eventual Western Mass Champs, the Frontier Red Hawks.

The 2017 Turners Falls Volleyball team is not an anomaly – not some flash in the pan. At the Frontier game, I sat next to former coach Debby Loomer. She reminded me that volleyball is a Turners Falls Tradition.

Ms. Loomer spoke about past players like Joanne Flagg, Sandra Wong, and Marcia Norwood. And although the team will lose several key players to graduation, that tradition will continue.

### Football

TFHS 18 – Pioneer 16

"I won't put this in print, but I'm amazed at what you've done."

That was said to coach Chris LaPointe by one of my fellow journalists. The reporter was marveling how LaPointe was able to pull together 17 kids to make a successful football team.

In his six-year tenure, LaPointe has made it to the playoffs five

see **TFHS SPORTS** page B4

### THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

## The Dark and the Cold

By LESLIE BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** – After an extended summer season of bright heat, we adapt only slowly to the cold and the dark.

Not so the cat, who has slipped into hibernation mode with great ease. True, after waking her people and eating breakfast, she steps out eagerly each morning to test the air, and then returns with alacrity to the rug near the woodstove for the first nap of the day. Soon she moves upstairs, taking over the bed as the sunlight streams in.

Around midday she moves to a chair in the sunroom (provided it is sunny and hot). She'll venture out again as long as it's not raining and windy. She may last out in the yard for half an hour or so before begging to come in for a snack and the second nap of the day.

So it goes: a nibble, a little stretch around, another nap.

We mere mortals hustle around to accomplish in and outdoor tasks before the darkness falls around four thirty. But we, too, seem to feel an ancient genetic call to eat heartier, carb-rich meals in advance of the coming winter.

The garden season came to an official halt with an unusually late hard freeze on November 9, about a month or more later than usual, even here beside the river where the water often provides a wrapper of fog, keeping the ground a bit warmer than in the hillier spots.

The potted flowering annuals are gone, and so also the magnificent morning glory vine which wrapped the telephone pole, reaching ever skyward like Jack's beanstalk. Luckily, we have already tucked in the cloves of garlic and shallot for



next year's season.

Now the rest of the garden needs to be bedded down for a long rest. We'll be cutting back the asparagus, weeding the bed and fertilizing. We'd like to leave all of the beds weed-free; it will take a sharp tool to remove the base of the corn stalks which are well anchored with long, thick root systems.

We will also spread composted manure and rich garden compost from last year on top of the beds. These organic nutrients will wash in over the dormant season like nourishing, healthful tea, feeding see **GARDENER'S** page B3

# Pet of the Week

Are you looking for a kitten with boundless energy, who loves to romp around the house and pounce on toys? Who doesn't let no heart murmur get in the way of his daily life?

If so, you've met your match! Jubilee here has been waiting for quite some time for his new home to walk through those doors.

This handsome, lovable little boy is looking for a home to match

his energy.

He does great with other cats, although he could be a bit much for the older kitties. If you would like to learn more about this amazing little guy, talk to an adoption counselor for more information!

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



CHRISTOPHER CARMODY COLLAGE

## "JUBILEE"

### Senior Center Activities NOVEMBER 20 to 24

#### GILL and MONTAGUE

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

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

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

**Tues-Thurs Noon Lunch**  
**M, W, F 10:10 a.m. Aerobics**  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

**Monday: 11/20**  
8 a.m. Foot Clinic Appts.  
Noon Pot Luck & Bingo

**Tuesday: 11/21**  
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga  
1 p.m. A Matter of Balance

**Wednesday: 11/22**  
12:30 p.m. Bingo

**Thursday: 11/23 CLOSED**

**Friday: 11/24 NO Writing Group**

#### LEVERETT

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

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

Senior Lunch – Fridays at

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

#### ERVING

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

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 2 days in advance. Call (413)-423-3649 for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Paula Better, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

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

**Monday: 11/20**  
9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones Balance  
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi

**Tuesday: 11/21**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
Noon Thanksgiving Dinner

**Wednesday: 11/22**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga

**Thursday: 11/23 CLOSED**

**Friday: 11/24**  
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop  
9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling  
10 a.m. Food City Shopping  
11:15 Music, Magic, Movement

#### 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.

## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

*Here's the way it was November 15, 2007: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.*

### Land Conservation Discussed in Gill

Tony Mathews, chair of the Gill conservation commission, got together with the selectboard on Tuesday to discuss the possibility of the town conserving the development rights on an 8.8-acre parcel of surplus land at the southwestern end of Barney Hale Road.

Town treasurer Ronnie LaChance said the town acquired the acreage, which contains an area of swampland, for back taxes in 2003. She said no taxes had been paid on the parcel since 1971. The land is currently valued at \$51,600.

Town administrative assistant Tracy Rogers estimated the annual taxes on the property, if it were returned to the tax rolls, would amount to about \$700.

But Mathews said the conservation commission has a mandate to preserve key parcels of land from

development. "That's our job: not just to enforce wetlands protection, but also to preserve natural resources," Mathews said. "There is nothing more biologically diverse than a swamp."

### Memorial Dedication In Turners Falls

At the end of his speech, Art Gilmore said he would step down from his position as chair of the Montague Soldiers Memorial Trustees when his term runs out next year.

But as he received the applause of hundreds of onlookers at Sunday's Veterans Day dedication of the new veterans' memorial on Avenue A, which he worked so tirelessly to build, Gilmore had reason to be proud.

And though he thanked everyone from town hall workers to electrician Bernie Sadoski – who "dug a trench to the Carnegie Library, drilled through the wall, and ran electrical cord through three rooms of the library" to bring power to the

new memorial – the entire edifice is, to a great degree, a tribute to Gilmore's own tenacity, diplomacy, and powers of persuasion.

### Congratulations To Our 700th Subscriber!

Doris Farnum became the 700th subscriber to the *Montague Reporter* last week, and has chosen to receive a \$70 gift certificate to Foster's Market as her prize.

A Greenfield native, Farnum has lived in Lake Pleasant for 54 years, and been married to her husband Eugene Farnum for 61 years.

"We bought our house in Lake Pleasant. I like this village because it's small, because we know everybody. I would never want to live in a city. I like living in Montague. I think it's a growing town, and it's a nice town," said Farnum, who said she appreciates seeing the new businesses opening along Avenue A in Turners, and visiting the Great Falls Discovery Center there.

### MIRIN from page B1

New England (IRNE) Award nominated actor Jonathan Mirin, the play is written and directed by Mirin and Godeliève Richard in collaboration with Avner Eisenberg (a.k.a. Avner the Eccentric), considered one of the leading clowns in the US.

Mirin and Richard are the co-founders of the Piti Theatre Company, based in Shelburne Falls and Switzerland, where the troupe stages French versions of their productions. Mirin has taught and directed theater in the US and abroad since 1998.

### Workshops

Mirin is also offering clowning workshops prior to Saturday's performance, and children participating in the workshops will have the opportunity to take part

in the performance itself. These workshops begin at 10:30 a.m. for adults, and 1 p.m. for children.

A clowning and theater workshop for adults and older teens, "Clown is a Four Letter Word," will take place from 10:30 to noon. It is designed to help participants be more present and have more fun onstage, and in life, as well as start making clown characters and scenarios for amusement at home, in the office and onstage. No previous theater experience is necessary, and participants will be asked to pay what they think it was worth.


Younger folks, ages 8 to 14, are invited to participate in a one-hour acting workshop before the show, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. It will prepare them to become guests at the grand buffet. Actors will create new characters using costumes,

props and their imaginations.

This youth workshop is limited to 10 participants, and an \$8 fee includes a ticket to the show so they can make their entrance.

To register for either workshop, email [workshop@sammythehuman.com](mailto:workshop@sammythehuman.com) or call (413) 339-4569.

Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. A "special family ticket" deal is being offered: for groups of four and more, one person gets in free. Tickets are available at [sheatheater.org](http://sheatheater.org) or by calling 1 (800) 838-3006.

*Sammy and the Grand Buffet* was made possible in part through an award from the Children's Theater Foundation of America. The program is also supported in part by a grant from the Montague Cultural Council. More information is available at [sammythehuman.com](http://sammythehuman.com). 


## FACES & PLACES

*Montague DPW employee Kyle Bessette (left) feeds a string of festive lighting to his coworker Joe Dodge (right, on ladder), who wraps it around a pole in front of the Shea Theater Wednesday.*



MARK HUDNIA PHOTO

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**GARDENER'S** from page B1

the earth through the rain and the snow. Next season, we'll loosen the soil with our favorite new tool, the broad fork, and then we'll be ready to plant.

For now the earth will rest. We want to do the same. The November skies are heavy, a sullen grey. The weather does not entice. Yet every now and then, out of nowhere comes a bright, sunny day calling us outside to finish up the garden chores and stack our growing piles of cordwood.

It is a somber time. We speak with a neighbor who has spent two weeks in Texas volunteering to help with the massive cleanup necessary. He will not forget a woman, a single parent of two who lost everything and is living in a pop-up tent. He has hoped to go to Puerto Rico, but learned that this poor nation is not yet ready for cleanup. What they need are people able to use chainsaws, trucks, and muscles to clear the roads, and people trained to take care of medical needs. Then the true work of moving supplies and helping with cleanup will be able to begin.

Veterans' Day comes and we honor those who served, as well as

those other victims who lost their lives. But it lacks any feeling of uplift of spirit. We have not learned much, and continue to be a part of a world constantly poised on the edge of war or a participant in battle.

The task of pulling nations together to tackle the ongoing world threats of disease, drought, famine, and climate change grows, as our leadership pulls us further away from international involvement. We engage in a war of words, but lack the courage for intentioned connection for good.

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, we gather around the fire, light candles and are intensely grateful for the love of friends and partners and family, however far spread they may be. There is, after all, much to be thankful for. We are warm, well fed, and have the means to be of help to those in need. There are books to read, music for the soul, folks of good work to join with in making whatever small changes we can.

*When you drink water,  
Remember its source.*  
Chinese proverb



**MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS**

**This Week on MCTV**

By **ABIGAIL TATARIAN**

We hope you had a good long weekend and that you're looking forward to Thanksgiving coming up soon. Here's the latest programming available at [montaguenv.org](http://montaguenv.org):

- Veterans Day Ceremony, 11/11/17
- Greenfield Road Pedestrian Bridge Ribbon Cutting, 11/7/17
- Greenfield Savings Bank: Fire House Safety Tips with the Turners Falls Fire Department, 11/4/17

Looking for something to do in your community? Come to Open

Mic at the Brick House this Thursday from 6 to 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served. The Brick House is located at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls.

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, [infomontaguenv@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguenv@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!

**New2U Dog Rescue**

By **MELISSA WLOSTOSKI**

**GREENFIELD** - Dawn Marie Conway started the New2U Dog Rescue two years ago. When it comes to how this place began, we have a woman who has always loved animals.

While at her job at Denny's in Greenfield, Conway had one customer, a senior citizen, who had lost his dog. He wanted another, but his family didn't want the burden of taking on a pet. "So I said, 'I'd take the dog,'" she recalls.

Apparently, things took off from there. It wasn't the first time this kind of encounter had happened to her. "I started a rescue for senior citizens who no longer could care for their dogs," Conway explained.

Besides taking the dog, New2U, which she mentions is a non-profit, "evaluates the dog - and they usually need medical care - and then we rehome the dog." She stated that in terms of ages, the group has rescued dogs "four months to 12 years," and that they come "from all over Western Mass."

"Between last year and this year, we had 15 dogs," Conway said - examples being "one mini pit, and a cat."

The adoption fee for all dogs is \$450. Conway spoke of giving back to the community by bringing the dogs to visit veterans at the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke, as well as residents at the GVNA health center and Charlene Manor. A handful of volunteers from rescue help out with these endeavors, including volunteers named Leah and Dave.

"We have donation boxes around western Mass," Conway said. "Sometimes we also ask local businesses for donations." New2U accepts donations of bleach, laundry detergent, stamps, dog chews, and dog toys for little dogs. Previous donors include the Greenfield Farmers Exchange, Animal Crackers, a man named Kevin Conway, and a couple named Betty and Terry Norwood. Also - ironically to me - she has gotten a donation from Denny's, the place where she basically began this.

With this rescue having started two years ago, and from what I have learned about it, it seems like it is probably still going at full steam thanks to all of the donations this woman has gotten from businesses and people. Look for more information about the place at their website: [www.new2udogrescue.com](http://www.new2udogrescue.com).

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG**

**Third Street Windshield-Smashing Spree Enters Its Third Month. Can The Town Guarantee Safe Municipal Parking By Winter?**

**Monday, 11/6**

5:42 a.m. Caller from Fairway Avenue reports finding dead deer in yard this morning. No obvious signs of trauma. Animal is deceased. Caller will properly dispose of same.

9:44 a.m. 911 caller from Old Sunderland Road reporting that an SUV pulled into her driveway and an older white male got out, walked around to the back door of her home, and started knocking on the back glass doors. Officers checking area as well as various other neighborhoods in Montague; nothing found.

**10:12 a.m. Caller states that the back window of her van was smashed out overnight in the Third Street parking lot.**

5:08 p.m. Caller states that there are two young girls on skateboards with blankets covering their heads and faces at the corner of Fifth and T streets. Caller is worried for their well-being due to high traffic volume. Unable to locate.

**Tuesday, 11/7**

12:32 p.m. Report of a male party loitering in Cumberland Farms parking lot; party then came inside the store and was overheard trying to sell pills to another patron. Subject located. Second unit responding. Subject spoken to and sent on his way.

1:22 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street reports that the third floor tenant is stomping/jumping in his apartment, creating a disturbance. Officer spoke with tenant, who advised he was dancing. Tenant advised of complaint. After clearing; officer was flagged down by the caller advising that tenant is now outside on porch screaming. Officer observed tenant on porch smoking a cigarette, not screaming or stomping.

7:44 p.m. 911 caller states that there is a physical altercation between two male parties on Avenue A. Unknown weapons; unknown injuries. Officers and MedCare en route. Incident not as reported; all involved advised of options; all units clear.

**Wednesday, 11/8**

7:08 a.m. Report of large brown horse in road, believed to belong to house on Meadow Road. Officer confirmed that horse had been contained; fence fixed. Owner advised.

10:37 a.m. Caller requesting to speak with an officer re: ongoing harassment. Caller does not want an officer calling him at this number and refused to say where he was calling from, but agreed to meet

an officer in front of Carnegie Library. Caller called back at 10:53 claiming to have been waiting in front of the library for a half hour. Caller was calling from landline he had used during his first call sixteen minutes ago and was not in front of library. Advised caller that an officer was in the area; attempted to inquire about caller's location, but he disconnected the line. Officer advised of call; states that he is in front of the library and does not see the caller. Caller called back some time later to speak with an officer. Advised caller that an officer responded to library, but caller was not there; offered to have officer call him back. Caller declined, stating it is too nice outside to sit inside waiting for a phone call.

**Thursday, 11/9**

12:23 a.m. Officers checking on a suspicious vehicle in Farren Care Center parking lot. Unsecured rifle is in plain view in vehicle. Request Greenfield PD stop at registered owner's residence and find out why her vehicle is parked there. No license to carry/firearms ID registered to this party. GPD checked listed address; female no longer resides there.

10:39 a.m. Walk-in reports that her heating company came to her home and when she looked out the window due to hearing the truck, she noticed the worker urinating. Advised caller that this would be logged; however, she still wished to speak to an officer. Officer advised caller of civil and criminal options; also spoke to manager at propane company, who expressed that he has been in contact with

the party and offered 25% off service for that day. Manager also said that involved employee does have medical issues and that there was no criminal intent; all parties extremely apologetic.

12:14 p.m. Caller states that a couch was dumped on the side of Route 63, partially blocking his driveway; just wants this logged; he will attempt to call DPW to have it removed.

9:17 p.m. Caller from Highland Circle states that a suspicious car is parked near her home. Officer requesting Rau's to tow vehicle. Officer providing courtesy transport to two parties. Summons issued.

11:14 p.m. Caller from Oakman Street states that his friend's vehicle had rocks thrown at it. Investigated.

**Friday, 11/10**

5:34 a.m. Report of vehicle break-in overnight on Dell Street.

8:23 a.m. Report of suspicious vehicle on West Mineral Road. Officer checked area; gone on arrival. Other officer advises subject may have been bow hunting.

**Saturday, 11/11**

8:32 a.m. Walk-in party from Park Street reports that she was bitten by a dog yesterday. Bite did not break skin. Animal control officer advised.

10:50 a.m. Caller advises that when pulling out onto Avenue A from the side streets downtown, it is difficult to see around parked vehicles; inquiring if some of the end spaces can be eliminated for safety reasons. Advised of options.

12:23 p.m. Caller from Family Dollar reports that within the past five to ten minutes, someone filled their cardboard dumpster. Investigated.

10:37 p.m. Taxi driver requesting assistance with intoxicated customer who is giving him a hard time about the taxi fare. Involved male detained, then released; party picked up by another person.

11:03 a.m. Report of bur-

glary/breaking and entering into a vehicle on Central Street overnight. Report taken.

11:24 a.m. Report of burglary/breaking and entering into a vehicle on Park Street overnight. Report taken.

12:16 p.m. Caller from Cumberland Farms states that a male is smoking something from a glass pipe on the side of the store. Male is also asking people for rides to Greenfield. Unable to locate.

7:05 p.m. Caller states that his girlfriend's ex-boyfriend slashed one of her tires while they were in the Elks; ongoing issue. Report taken.

7:24 p.m. Multiple 911 calls reporting a fight between two male parties on J Street. Erving PD assisting; MedCare staging. One party transported to station; other parties advised of consequences should any further issues arise.

**Sunday, 11/12**

1:47 a.m. Caller from Elm Street states that two or three kids on ATVs are riding behind her house and yelling. Officers checking area. Moped located in woods behind Park Villa; moped taken in as abandoned property.

4:07 p.m. Caller from Millers Falls Road reports a suspicious vehicle in area; same states that a male party is walking in people's yards. Officer en route. Involved has a permit and is doing a case study for Harvard.

4:51 p.m. Caller states that her mom left at 11:30 this morning to go to Yankee Candle with a friend; was supposed to be back by 4. Caller is worried because her mom is not answering her cell phone and is not home yet. Officer advised caller to call back if her mother was not home by 6 p.m. No callback received.

6:08 p.m. Caller states that his vehicle was broken into in front of the liquor store and items taken. Investigated.

**MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!**

**H. YPEZ GQOBW WQMG**

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**E. POSSUM, POSSUM, POSSUM!**

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**TFHS SPORTS** from page B1 times, won two Western Mass Championships, and has yet to lose on Thanksgiving. On Thursday, November 23, LaPointe will try to extend his Turkey Day streak when he pits his boys against Greenfield in front of the home crowd.

Last Friday, the Turners Falls Football Team overcame two monster plays by the Pioneer Panthers to take the final game of the season, 18-16. The victory gives Powertown a record of 6 and 4.

The temperatures in Northfield hovered around freezing Friday afternoon, but the wind chill made it feel more like 10 degrees. The wind also hampered Powertown's passing game, but Kyle Dodge still managed to complete five passes for 85 yards and a touchdown.

In the first quarter of Friday's game, Powertown drove deep into Pioneer territory twice, but came up empty.

The Pioneers, however, used one big play to put them up 8-0. Late in the first, Pioneer were on their own 24. The Panther running back took the ball, broke loose, and beat everybody for a 76-yard score.

In the second quarter, Blue answered. With the ball on the Cats' 31, Dodge completed a pass to Ryan Campbell for the 6-pointer. The 2-PAT failed, and at the half, the Panthers held a 2-point lead, 8-6.

Neither team scored in the third period, but in the fourth, Turners finally took the lead. Jaden Whiting ran the ball into the end zone to put the Blue Tribe up 12-8.

Turners then added insurance points. On the next play, John Driscoll made a pickoff to give Turners the ball. Then he banged into the end zone to give Blue a 10-point lead, 18-8.

Pioneer answered with another big play. The kickoff was fielded on the 10. The returner found a slot and ran the kick back 90 yards to again



make it a 2-point game at 18-16.

But there wasn't much time left in the game, and Turners held on for the win.

John Driscoll led the Turners Falls ground attack with 126 rushing yards, and Whiting also hit triple digits with 103. John Torres (36 yards), Campbell (22) and Andy Craver (3) also carried the ball for Blue.

Dodge completed five passes for 85 yards. Campbell (3-43), Jon Fritz (30), and Craver (12) were his targets.

Defensively, J. Driscoll was the hot hitter, with seven solo tackles and nine assists. Campbell and Dodge also had productive afternoons, with eight and seven tackles, while Jack Putala (five), Liam Driscoll, Hadyn Patenaude, and Fritz (three each), Dom Carne and Jake Wilson (two apiece), Jaden Whiting, Tyler Lavin, and Craver also made stops for Turners.

Turners has one more game on their 2017 dance card. On Thanksgiving Day, Powertown welcomes the Green Wave in a bid to extend their Turkey Day winning streak.



Turners' Jaden Whiting fights for yardage as Pioneer's Wyatt Keith moves in for a tackle. Powertown prevailed, 18-16.

## This Saturday: "The Light Behind Our Eyes: Abenaki Perspectives on Personhood" Two PVS Concerts This Weekend



Melody Walker Brook

**TURNERS FALLS** – Identity is the heart of the human experience. Indigenous people occupy a unique cultural space and view the world through a different lens. Put on your Abenaki glasses and see a world full of people, human and non-human. Explore concepts of personhood and identity with Melody Walker Brook, Saturday, November 18, 1 p.m., Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

Melody Walker Brook is an educator, activist and artist, currently an adjunct professor at Champlain College. She was previously an adjunct professor at Johnson State College, where she taught "Native American Worldview and Spirituality"; "Native American History and Culture"; and "Abenakis and Their Neighbors". She lectures on a variety of topics including Abenaki political history and women's issues. She has done groundbreaking research on Abenaki spirituality, and is heavily involved in the Abenaki cultural revitalization movement. She works with museums, and lectures in kindergarten through collegiate level classrooms on topics relating to the Eastern Woodlands and indigenous history.

There will be refreshments, and a raffle drawing. Co-sponsored by the Nolumbeka Project and DCR.

**GREENFIELD** – On Saturday, November 18, the Pioneer Valley Symphony Youth Orchestra presents a free concert at 4 p.m. at Greenfield High School. The concert will be conducted by Steven Bathory-Peeler in his new role as Director of the Youth Orchestra. Repertoire includes Strauss's Thunder and Lightning Polka and Vaughan Williams' Rhosymedre, among other pieces.

On Sunday, November 19, join the Pioneer Valley Symphony Chorus and guitarist Michael Nix for a very special concert celebrating choral music from the Spanish-speaking world at 3 p.m. at the Second Congregational Church in Greenfield. The concert, led by PVS Chorus Director Jonathan Harvey, will present works by Emani Aguiar, Javier Busto, Lalo Schifrin, Pablo Casals, and others.

As a vital part of the Pioneer Valley, PVS is committed to supporting those in need within our community. A portion of the proceeds from the November 19 choral concert will benefit Nueva Esperanza, a Holyoke-based nonprofit organization which exists to be a catalyst and partner for a vibrant, sustainable, and powerful local Puerto Rican/Afro-Caribbean community. The funds received from this concert will help Nueva Esperanza in their significant relief efforts for those living in Puerto Rico, and in their support of the large Puerto Rican and Afro-Caribbean community living and working in the Pioneer Valley.

Advance tickets are \$25, \$20 for seniors and \$5 for students and children. Tickets may be purchased online at [pvsoc.org](http://pvsoc.org), over the phone at (413) 773-3664, or in person at the Magical Child in Greenfield, Broadside Bookshop in Northampton, and Amherst Books.

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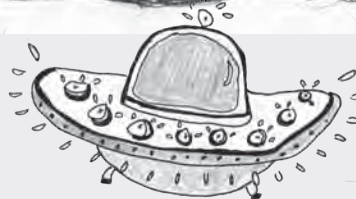
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# The Children's Page

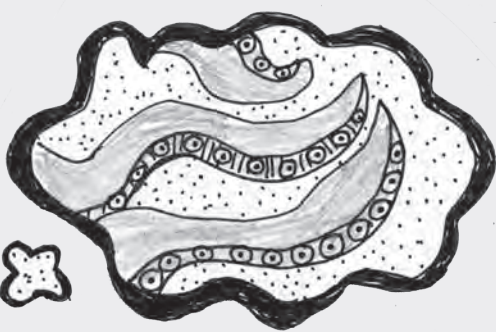
continued from last month...



Chella walked toward the small flying saucer watching it flash and sparkle. Its twinkling forcefield went down and Chella boldly lifted the baby out.



Words by BEVERLY KETCH  
Illustrations by HANNAH BROOKMAN



Whoa there,

said Mr. Harbinger,

That baby may look sweet, but it's from outer space! It may have poison breath or mind control powers! Hidden tentacles could strangle you at any moment!



"Well," said Chella, as she kissed the smiling baby, "it's too late now. I've taken my life in my hands." The baby's head rested on Chella's shoulder.

Chella turned her full attention to the baby.

Isn't it fortunate that you happened to land in the yard of a house with so many toys!



Viola, who was usually in constant motion, had been standing frozen with amazement. Suddenly she seemed to enter a trance, and, speaking in a strange monotone, said, "I must go to the store and buy coconut water catnip and yogurt, warm to 90 degrees." She turned, proceeding robotically in the direction of the store.

Mr. Harbinger had the same blank look come over his face. "I will return home now," he said, tilting his head to one side.



She walked through the back door and sat down on the rug, bringing out an overflowing toy basket.

"What is your name?" she mused aloud.

"Zenith! How strange, I suddenly feel sure of it!"

What are the infanterons doing in this part of the galaxy? They should know we Catropians already rule humankind!



to be continued next month...

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**Millers Falls Community Improvement Association**


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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 [mcb Brass@vermontel.net](mailto:mcb Brass@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. Ends December 1.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Paintings by Paul Hoffman*. Whimsical worlds, intricate ge-



*Born and bred in Tennessee, Louise Mosrie writes songs about the South — what she knew and where she grew up. Her album, "Home" (2008) is a mix of bluegrass, country and folk, in which she weaves lush stories and songs about southern life. At Leverett's Mount Toby Meetinghouse Saturday, November 18, 7:30 p.m.*

ometries. Through December.

Leverett Crafts and Arts, Leverett: *"Oh Beautiful Glass"*. An eclectic and exciting group show. William Rathbun exhibits in hallway gallery as well. 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 Quiet: 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: *Paintings by Janet Palin*. Through December. Reception on November 18, 3 p.m.

#### EVENTS:

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Accidentals and Jake Allen*, "genre-melding indie-folk." 8 p.m. \$

#### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Signature Sounds Presents: *Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas* 7 p.m.\$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Yarn with Eric Lee & Co.* 7 p.m. \$

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Katherine First and the Kitchen Party*, 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Jesus Christ Superstar Singalong* with Ted Neeley and Bob Bingham, Kurt Yaghjian. Screening of remastered 1973 hit with original stars. 7 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Vimana*. Extraterrestrial psychedelic groove. 9 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Jacqueline Odess-Gillett* with Billy Arnold. 2 p.m. \$

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Janet Palin Opening Reception*. Painting exhibit artist reception from 3 to 5 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: GCC Dance Ensemble presents *Imagine*. 7 p.m.\$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *2 The Moon*. Pub will be open at 6:30 p.m. Full bar, pizza by the slice, music at 7.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Jesus Christ Superstar Singalong* with Ted Neeley and Bingham, Screening of remastered 1973 hit with original stars. 7 p.m. \$

Mount Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Louise Mosrie*. Mix of bluegrass, country and folk, in woven with lush stories and songs about southern life. 7:30 p.m.\$

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Christmas on Mars*. Wacked Sci-fi movie. 7:30 p.m.

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Warner Hill*, cowboy style electric guitar. 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne Falls: *Kala Farnham* and special guest

*The Town Hall*. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Rod Cummings and the Vibrators* followed by Comedy Night, 8 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Sinkane and Shokazoba* 8:30 p.m. \$

#### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Second Congregational Church, Greenfield: *Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra with Michael Nix*. Choral music from the Spanish Speaking world. To benefit benefit *Nueva Esperanza*, a Holyoke-based nonprofit organization which exists to be a catalyst and partner for a vibrant, sustainable, and powerful local Puerto Rican/Afro-Caribbean community. The funds received from this concert will help *Nueva Esperanza* in their significant relief efforts for those living in Puerto Rico, and in their support of the large Puerto Rican and Afro-Caribbean community living and working in the Pioneer Valley. 3 p.m.\$

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *The Artful Codgers*. David Fersh and Friends. 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Resilient, Tundrastomper, Walmart Romeo, Burned Out Still Glowing*. 8 p.m. \$

#### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Lush Honey*. Funk. 8 p.m.\$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Yellowman with Rhythm, Inc.* 8:30 p.m. \$

#### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Patty & The Cakes* 7:30 p.m.\$

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *The Joe Belmont Experience*. Jazz and Blues. 7:30 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Glass House* with *Raspberry Jam*. 8 p.m. \$

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Greenfield High School, Greenfield: *Pioneer Valley Youth Orchestra*. Free concert conducted by Steven Bathory-Peeler in his new role as Director of the Youth Orchestra. 4 p.m.

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Karaoke with MC Dee*. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Roger Saloom and Zoe Darrow*, 8 p.m.\$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Pistoleros*. Back room dance party at 8:30 p.m., pub opens 6:30 p.m.. Cover after 9 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Your Voice, Poet*. Play by Jean Dany Joachim, winner of Silver-

thorne's Playwrights of Color. 3 p.m.\$

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Miro Sprague Quartet*, 7:30 p.m. \$

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Kimaya Digs*, originals and covers with local singer. 7:30 p.m.

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# MONTAGUE REPORTER



Maggie Sadonay (R) of Turners Falls checks the news with Pat Williams of Edinburgh, Scotland, at the elementary school where they met as 8 year-olds in 1951.

# ON THE ROAD

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

# At the Wendell Free Library: Magical Moments in Pastels

By HEATHER WILLEY

**WENDELL** – A series of Janet Palin's landscape pastels will be on display at the Wendell Free Library in the Herrick Room Gallery through December 31, with an opening reception this Saturday, November 18, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Janet Palin lives in Petersham. Twenty-five years an oil painter, Palin was inspired during a trip to Iceland to begin using pastels, and she has been working with this medium for the last 20 years.

There are nine works on paper included in the exhibit ranging from small to large. The work reflects her annual travels out west, seeking and capturing inspiration in such places as New Mexico, Utah, and Montana.

"Storm Chasing" is one of Palin's large scale New Mexico landscapes. A central horizontal band dotted with vibrant earthen color spans the composition, and sits valleyed between the vantage point of a shadowed foreground and the silhouette rise of mountains in the distance.

The sky above is heavy with storm clouds and dense with dark moisture. A small opening of sky pierces through the moment offering pause



"Storm Chasing," one of the pastel landscapes in the current exhibit by Janet Palin of Petersham, at the Wendell Library now through December 31.

while illuminating the vast view of rains and sun sprays gracing the land.

One can sense a devotion to the spirit of place in this work as something that feels deeply layered and ephemeral at the same time.

Janet Palin's lifetime dedication to the arts is apparent in each of these majestic and masterful compositions. Each landscape is an environment vastly raw and open, draped in lush layers of light and shadow.

They are magical moments transformed through pastels into moving images that are true to nature. The show vibrates as it speaks of the conception of that magical moment one finds through the meditation of observation.

For library hours and other information, call (978) 544-3559.

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