

ART BELOW THE
SKIN OF REALITY

Page B1



RECORDING AN
UNRAVELING

Page B1



A BRILLIANT
BURST OF COLOR

Page B5



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 16 – NO. 9

also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

DECEMBER 14, 2017

AND SO IT BEGINS



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

A lone figure clears snow and freezing slush in a Turners Falls back-alley driveway.

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Wendell, WiredWest Sign Broadband Buildout Agreement

By JOSH HEINEMANN

After a long discussion among themselves and with the eleven broadband committee members and interested citizens, the Wendell selectboard voted unanimously Wednesday night to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with WiredWest to “undertake the steps necessary for the build-out of the [fiber-optic internet] Network.”

Board member Dan Keller said he wanted to wait until the deadline of December 15 because he was concerned that the MOU would forbid Wendell from negotiating directly with Westfield Gas and Electric (WG&E), the company overseeing the pole survey and system design.

WiredWest was meeting at the same time as the Wendell selectboard, and might be addressing that concern.

Broadband committee member Alistair MacMartin said he had a document in which WG&E said they would not sign an agreement that forbids negotiation with individual towns.

Every citizen who spoke recommended signing the MOU without delaying until December 15.

The move grants Wendell voting rights within the WiredWest cooperative.

For more in-depth coverage on Wednesday's selectboard meeting, see next week's issue.

The Week in TFHS Sports: Winter Season Preview

By MATT ROBINSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – This week, the Turners Falls winter sports season came in with a blast. The boys' basketball team played their first game of the season in a raging snowstorm. Two days later, an ice storm canceled everything, including two swim meets and both girls' basketball games.

The only game that Turners did play was a lopsided loss to the Mount Greylock boys' basketball team. On the girls' side, Tuesday's cancellation meant we'd have to

wait to see Maddy Chmyzinski hit quadruple digits.

Boys' Basketball

Last season, the Turners Falls boys' basketball team finished 12-8 in the regular season and went on to win 2 playoff games before losing to Hopkins at the Curry Hicks Cage at UMass. This season, the team returned to the cage to face the Mount Greylock Black Mounties and saw their record fall to 0-1.

The 2017/18 season will be a challenging season for the boys in see SPORTS page A4

Wastewater Pilot Study Suspended; Montague, Greenfield Consider Digester

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – “I thought we were on a good track at the end of November, a lot safer than what we had. Unfortunately, the DEP lost their patience – and deservedly so,” Bob McDonald, superintendent of Montague's water pollution control facility (WPCF), told the town selectboard on December 8. “I would have, too, by that point.”

McDonald was responding to a letter from the state Department of Environmental Protection to town

administrator Steve Ellis, effectively putting experiments involving the so-called “Montague Process” for treating wastewater on hold.

In recent years, the Montague Process, pioneered by WPCF staff under former superintendent Bob Trombley, had significantly reduced the quantity of solids the town sent for incineration elsewhere. In fact, by last winter, the department was generating revenue by processing sludge imported from other communities, including neighboring Greenfield.

But that process was not well documented, which aroused the concerns of the state. Early last summer the plant, under McDonald, began experimenting with a modified version of the Process in conjunction with several consultants, including Chul Park, professor of civil and environmental engineering at UMass-Amherst. In November, the team submitted a proposal to the state that would allow a version of the Montague Process to be run side-by-side with a conventional process.

see DIGESTER page A5

Montague's Friction with Comcast Continues

By MARK HUDYMA

Montague residents waiting for high-speed cable to reach their homes met Monday night to discuss the project's progress with Comcast representatives and the town's broadband committee. The cable company distributed construction information and installation costs to property owners, and faced sharp criticism from the committee, who accused Comcast of being “opaque and unresponsive” in its dealings with the town.

Much of the discussion focused on proposed build-out around East and West Chestnut Hill roads, where crews are conducting “make-ready” work: preparing existing electrical poles for new cable; moving existing

lines; replacing damaged poles; and digging trenches to bury conduit to reach remote residences.

Daniel Glanville, vice president of governmental affairs for Comcast's Western New England region, fielded individual homeowners' concerns about the progress of the buildout. He explained that make-ready work is carried out by the poles' owners and “takes time,” and promised the project would be completed “within 30 days of completion of make-ready work,” and before the August 2018 deadline stipulated by the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative (MBI).

MBI funds cable for small towns by subsidizing the cost of the towers, cables, and poles. Montague has see COMCAST page A8

Gill Composer to Pen GFMS Choral Piece



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Great Falls Middle School eighth grade choir.

By JOE KWIECINSKI

GILL-MONTAGUE – With the commissioning of local composer Judd Greenstein to write a new musical piece in collaboration with the Great Falls Middle

School eighth grade choir in Turners Falls, some 25 members of the school's singing group are set for a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Greenstein is a ChoralQuest composer for 2017-2018. ChoralQuest is a program of the American Composers Forum in St. Paul, Minnesota, a national resource organization that supports living composers of all genres and helps connect them with communities. In addition, ChoralQuest provides curricula for middle-level school choirs.

“The series began,” said Laura Krider of American Composers, “as a response to feedback from music educators throughout the country that there is a pressing need for new, engaging, fresh music. Our mission statement directs us ‘to enrich lives by nurturing the creative spirit of composers and communities.’” The American Composers Forum has a membership of close to 2,000,

see COMPOSER page A4

REFLECTION

Victory, and Vindication, In Alabama

By TIM BULLOCK

BIRMINGHAM, AL – “We are building up a new world / we are building up a new world / we are building up a new world / Builders must be strong.”

This song by Dr. Vincent Harding, to the tune of “We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder,” rang in my head from time to time all last weekend as I, along with five friends from Franklin County, went to Birmingham, to attempt to affect the outcome of the special senatorial election in Alabama.

The call had gone out because a poll had shown that 60 to 70% of African Americans in Alabama were unaware that the special election was about to happen. I found this difficult to believe, and an example of negative light that often shines on people of color.

I knew that my being on the scene was the only way I could repudiate this claim if false, and if true, to understand how this nationally-covered state election eluded so many people in the black community.

I was also anxious of the label “northern elites” coming to save Alabama. My anxiety was somewhat eased as we were warmly welcomed and made to feel much needed by the campaign organizers.

Old and young, men and women, hundreds of volunteers descended on the Birmingham campaign of-



JEAN HEBDEN PHOTO

Campaign volunteers in Doug Jones' Birmingham field office.

fices of Doug Jones, candidate for US Senate in the special election.

We were given an orientation that included downloading an app on our smartphone. This would enable see ALABAMA page A6

The Montague Reporter

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August 2002

Modernization Time

The town of Montague has a brand new website, courtesy of Montague WebWorks, and it was developed specifically in the hopes that town employees will find it easier to use for posting information.

We suggest the town celebrate by starting to post, on this website, when cars parked in the municipal lots in Turners Falls are subject to towing for snow removal.

We think it's reasonable to require residents to move their cars in time for the department of public works to scrape the lots clear of snow.

We also think it's reasonable to tow them if they don't comply, and to allow the tow company to charge them for the work; the state of Massachusetts regulates the rates such companies may charge.

Where it all starts to break down is in reaching a consensus understanding of *when* snow removal might be expected.

Though times of day are noted on signs in the public parking lots, and we are told (though not in the town bylaws) that removal should be expected on the first weekday morning after a snow event ends, it's unclear what amount of snow constitutes a snow event.

Anyone who lives downtown for successive years will witness that sometimes, a little more snow is not removed, while other times, a little less snow is removed. Criteria for snowfall totals aren't provided, sometimes it melts down overnight anyway, and we understand that the matter is at the discretion of the department of public works.

One answer is to move vehicles *whenever* there has been *any* snow, but we think this is excessive. Since the overnight parking ban prohibits vehicles from being parked on the street until 5 a.m., and the largest lot must be vacated by 7 a.m., a two-hour window is in effect allowed for the transfer.

Complying is easy for some of us; others might be second-shift or restaurant workers, parents juggling daycare and school transportation, sick, disabled, or out of town, or even working at that time of day.

The risk is \$120 to \$130 – a day's pay for many of the same people; even more for many.

It could be argued that the confusion, frustration, and occasional financial hit is a fair price to pay for free overnight parking. But there is such an obvious and simple solution to this hardship that we have to wonder whose interests oppose it.

A Head Buried In The Sand

A reader called our office on Wednesday to object that we were "fear-mongering" and being "one-sided" in last week's editorial when we wrote that the GOP tax bill "will create an increase in the deficit that is likely to trigger mandatory cuts in Medicare."

First of all, if you want to air your disagreement, we will gladly print all Letters to the Editor.

Second, there are not two "sides" to every *fact*. The Senate bill would increase the deficit by \$1.5 trillion in the first decade, and the pay-as-you-go law would require a 4% annual sequester in a number of federal programs, including student loans, border patrol – and Medicare, to the tune of \$25 billion a year.

Even the administration's appointee-run Office on Tax Policy acknowledges the economy would need to grow at an *average* rate of 2.9% for a decade to generate enough revenue to offset the loss.

Our reader worried that we would make older readers "afraid" their medication would be taken away. But the plan *is* to take it away, to gamble for higher growth on the market. Would they agree to make that investment in that risk?

The GOP is racing to pass this bill next week, before Alabama senator-elect Doug Jones is seated. Perhaps Sens. Flake, Corker, and Collins will all suffer a crisis of conscience in going along with this risky transfer of wealth from the poor to the rich.

Fear is rational.

A Flaming Dragon, Gone

As this edition was wrapping up on Wednesday, we received devastating news of the unexpected passing of a friend.

Danny Monster Cruz, 25 years old, was a magnetic, larger than life figure in area art and music circles. His presence, his vision, and his open, loving heart catalyzed and defined an entire scene.

What Danny did with the hand he was dealt will never be forgotten by anyone lucky enough to know him. He was defiantly weird, egalitarian, curious, funny, obsessive, political, honest, and glam, and he made everyone around him more comfortable in their own skin.

We'll have a more in-depth celebration of Danny's life and work next week – send your letters to the editors – but for now, our heart goes out to his family and closest friends. His passing is a shock, and this place will never be the same.

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LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Happy Hanukkah to our readers!

Friday, December 15, from 3 to 9 p.m. is "It's a Wonderful Night in Turners Falls" – a downtown-wide holiday event hosted by Turners Falls RiverCulture.

And from 3 to 6 p.m., "It's a Wonderful Night in Turners Falls... For the Birds!"

Meet in the Great Hall of the Discovery Center to craft bird feeders for our winter friends. Which birds will show up at your feeder? What do they eat?

Bird feeder making continues the next day, Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The workshop is for all ages, but you should be aware that the feeders are made with pine cones, peanut butter and bird seed.

Yee Haa!! Grab your dancing boots, your cowboy hat, and mosey on over to Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls on Saturday, December 16. Kick up your heels with the North County Line Dancers, who will be performing at 10 a.m. to some holiday favorites.

Learn some new moves, and have fun with the members all at the same time. You can dance right in the bank lobby! This will be a fun morning with lively music.

Montague Reporter volunteers will be setting up in the breeze-way of Food City in Turners Falls on Sunday, December 17, starting at 9 a.m. This is a great chance to buy a Reporter coffee mug for a Christmas present (\$10, sales tax included). We will also be selling gift subscriptions, and giving away pre-

Letter to the Editors

What Does ServiceNet Really Care About?

ServiceNet cares. That's their motto. And I'm sure that they *do* care – I'm just not sure who it is that they care *about*.

It's certainly not their direct care staff. The union that I belong to (UAW 2322) has been "bargaining" with them for *seven months* now. To date, they've raised their offer of a starting rate from \$12 an hour to \$12.50 an hour. They only agreed to raise their starting rate to \$12.50 – \$1 under the commonly accepted living wage – when they also *dropped* their offer of a yearly raise from \$.30 (almost the cost of living) to \$.25 (well below cost of living – so in reality their "raise" is a pay cut).

The union, on the other hand, has lowered our proposal from \$15.00 an hour, with \$.50 yearly raises, to \$13.00 an hour, with \$.30 yearly raises.

But ServiceNet insists that we're being unreasonable.

So we've been bargaining for seven months. Our contract expired on July 1, 2017. And ServiceNet is insisting that when we *finally* reach agreement on the new contract, for the first time in memory, raises will not be retroactive to when the last contract expired – even though that *is* when the new contract starts.

I suppose I should be grateful though. I've only been with ServiceNet for 10 or 11 years and I'll finally break \$15.00 an hour.

ServiceNet also doesn't want dedicated employees who've been employed there for over 12 years to be eligible for any further raises.

Ever.

So it's not dedicated people, nor the incredibly vulnerable population that we serve, that they care about.

Actually, there *is* a way that they'll continue raises after 12 years: We *all* just have to be willing to give back a bunch of vacation time.

We dispense medication. We provide transportation to outings and medical appointments. We de-escalate violent situations – and when we can't de-escalate, we become the targets for the violence. Etc.

All for less than a living wage.

These are *your* taxes, folks. (Mine too, but that's beside the point.) What's very much the point is that your taxes paid for the CEO and vice presidents of ServiceNet to make *over a million dollars* several years ago. But they claim it would be "fiscally irresponsible" to pay the people who do the actual work a living wage.

This is how *your* money is being spent. Because ServiceNet cares.

Steve Wilson
Montague
ServiceNet overnight counselor,
UAW union steward

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Town Budget Cycle Begins Anew

By KATIE NOLAN

The Erving selectboard and finance committee met jointly on December 12 at the Senior and Community Center to begin reviewing FY'19 budget requests from town departments.

Tax collector Michele Turner told the board and fin com that her request was lower than the FY'18 request. Computer purchases and archiving had been moved to other line items, and she felt that her "treasurer's expense" line could be reduced by \$1,823.

The fin com voted to recommend her request. Turner made her presentation brief, and left Center to return to the town hall. "I have work to do," she said.

Administrative coordinator Bryan Smith presented the **select-board** budget, which was "for the most part level-funded," he said. The only increase was a wage increase for longevity. The fin com voted to recommend the request.

The **fin com's** own budget was increased, to accommodate training courses for hoped-for new members, according to member Daniel Hammock. The five-member committee currently has two vacancies, although, according to Hammock, former member Shirley Holmes has agreed to re-join for budget season.

The reserve fund, which the committee uses for unexpected expenses, was also increased. Selectboard chair Jacob Smith said it was increased "because we're budgeting according to need, and we wanted to insure if we ran into poor budgeting, we would have something to fall back on."

Treasurer Julie Wonkka said that her expense line item could be decreased by \$1,500. She said she wanted to increase the wages for her assistant. According to Wonkka, the town had previously approved a staff of three, but she and the assistant

were completing the necessary work without a third person. She said her assistant "has taken on the responsibilities of that job."

Wonkka also asked for a 2% merit raise for herself, saying there had been no increase in the treasurer's pay since 2014. The fin com voted to recommend the budget she presented, with the reduced expenses.

Wonkka said she would not have firm numbers on the cost of health insurance until January. "Health insurance will go up – I don't know how much," she said.

Assistant assessor Jacqueline Boyden said that the **assessors'** FY'19 budget request was level funded, with the exception of the wage line. The board of assessors was asking for a 6% merit raise for Boyden.

Hammock, who also serves as chair of the board of assessors, recused himself from voting, but said, "I believe it is a responsible budget." Without him, the fin com did not have a quorum and was unable to take an official vote on the request.

Planning board member Boyden also presented a level-funded **planning board** budget request. The fin com voted to recommend it as well as a level-funded request from the **conservation commission**.

Boyden urged the board to consider funding a part-time or full-time **information technology** position for either FY'19 or FY'20. Selectboard chair Jacob Smith has worked as a part-time IT consultant for the town, but is stepping down in July. "Over the last four years, the town has probably saved \$100,000 with Jake," Boyden said.

We need an IT position," said town clerk Richard Newton. "It's short-sighted to look at part-time." Jacob Smith estimated the likely salary for a part-time specialist at \$30,000 to \$45,000 per year.

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache asked Bryan Smith to check

with comparable communities to find out how they handled IT staffing.

"All that money that other people gave back, I'm taking it," Newton said of the request for the **town clerk's office**. "I'm running two state elections this next year. Everything else is level funded." The fin com voted to approve his request, and the request for town **buildings and grounds maintenance**, which covers electricity, heat, telephone, postage, elevator maintenance, water testing and generator maintenance. Selectboard members suggested finding a better name for the line item.

"Thanks to the department heads that put in narratives," said Bastarache, explaining changes to the process from FY'18. "It is much appreciated."

Sidewalks and Streetlights

The selectboard continued the ongoing discussion about clearing snow and ice from sidewalks. In May, town meeting passed a bylaw requiring property owners to clear abutting sidewalks. Administrative coordinator Smith told the selectboard that he had contacted other towns to find out how they handle sidewalk snow clearing.

According to Smith, Amherst has a bylaw requiring property owners to clear sidewalks, but the town clears some sidewalks. Smith said the procedure for deciding which the town will clear is vague. He said Shelburne strictly enforces its sidewalk-clearing bylaw, and that Montague has no written policy, but the town does clear walks in the central business district and adjacent streets.

Highway foreman Glenn McCrory provided a ballpark estimate of approximately \$1,000 per 3- to 5-inch snowstorm to clear all the sidewalks in town. He recommended replacing the town's 13- year-old snowblower if the board does decide that town workers should clear all

walks. Bastarache wondered about the capacity of the highway staff to add sidewalk clearing throughout town to their road-clearing duties. McCrory remarked that, for the Saturday, December 9 storm, he had plowed roads until 4:30 a.m. Sunday, slept a while, then started snowblowing sidewalks at 8 a.m. "It's a safety issue, also," he said.

Selectboard member William Bembury suggested that the town could hire a part-time employee who would work during and after storms.

Jacob Smith said the town needed to decide whether to continue clearing walks in "main areas" or throughout town. Bastarache said that, if sidewalks in only certain areas were cleared by the town, "a logical method" was needed to decide which areas were cleared.

Bryan Smith reported on the work done to date under the Streetlight Rapid Retrofit Program, which is funded by a state grant administered by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. MAPC contractor Tanko Lighting of San Francisco has surveyed the locations, types and conditions of the streetlights in town and prepared detailed explanatory maps.

McCrory has been field-checking the Tanko information with morning and evening drive-by inspections. Once the town determines the number and types of replacement lights it wants, the old fixtures will be replaced with energy-efficient LED bulbs.

The board decided to ask the Energy Committee to help choose the type of fixtures to install.

Other Business

The board voted to renew 56 business licenses, and six liquor licenses. Bryan Smith said that eight to ten business owners had not completed the renewal process, and had received reminders that the last meeting before licenses expire is on December 18.

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week ending 12/8/2017:

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Isabella Johnson

Grade 7

Alex Bloom

Grade 8

Tessa Williams

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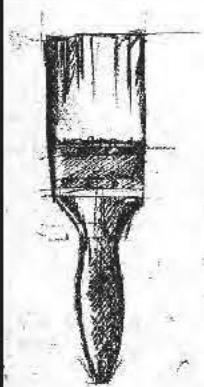


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COMPOSER from page A1

from all 50 states.

“When I had my first meeting with Judd and Kayla Roth,” said Krider, “they were bubbling with ideas. I can’t wait to hear what music comes out of the collaboration of Judd, Kayla, and the eighth-grade choir at Great Falls Middle School.”

Choir director Kayla Roth is in agreement. “We have a talented ensemble. Five of our choir members are young gentlemen, and the rest are young ladies. We did ‘Christmas on Broadway’ at our winter concert that featured a soloist, Samantha Thorpe, last week at the middle school. Judd was in the audience, and was very complimentary of the efforts of our band and choral groups.”

Roth is elated that the students will be working with Greenstein, a world-class composer. “It’s an amazing opportunity,” she said. “We’re even hoping to possibly write some lyrics with our Spanish teacher, Elliot Crowe. I’m grateful for Principal Annie Leonard’s won-

derful support of the eighth grade chorus as we start our work with Judd Greenstein.”

Greenstein, who resides in Gill, is also excited about the possibilities of teaming with the Great Falls youngsters. “It’s a joy to work with students who are at the beginning of their journey,” he said. “It’s both a privilege and a challenge. I’ll be meeting with the class a few times, getting to know them and see what they enjoy doing in the musical realm. When you’re working with students, it’s all about delight and wonder.

“At the same time, it’s important to keep in mind that we’ll be writing our piece as part of a community – to be performed before their parents and, ultimately, passed on to people in the country, and in the world. All of my compositions have the potential to become community events. Hopefully, the students and their families will enjoy a new and enriching experience.”

Greenstein has created a piece for students previously, working with students in a music school in

California. And, quite naturally, he has composed many works for ensembles over the years.

Judd and his wife, Michi Wancko, live at Antenna Cloud Farm in Gill. The two world-class musicians began a series of musical festival and artists’ retreats this past summer at their 100-acre former dairy domain.

Laura Krider of ChoralQuest believes that Greenstein is a perfect choice to work with the Great Falls eighth graders. “Judd is a composer of structurally complex, viscerally engaging creations,” said Krider, “for a wide variety of instruments. He’s a committed advocate for the independent new music community across our nation. Judd espouses the creation and promotion of music that’s an organic blend of multiple sounds, styles, and instruments.”

Sought by many leading institutions for his compositional talents, Greenstein has contributed his gifts to Carnegie Hall, the Lucerne Festival, the Minnesota Orchestra, and the North Carolina Symphony. He has also served as co-curator of the



Judd Greenstein

Apples and Orange festival in Zurich, Switzerland, and as co-director of New New Amsterdam Records.

“We’re hoping to perform our new musical piece,” said choir director Roth, “at the district-wide concert in April, and as part of the Great East Music Festival in May.” The latter is a competition that features ratings and comments from a group of judges.

SPORTS from page A1

blue. They lost six varsity players to graduation: Tionne Brown, Nick Croteau, Kyle Bergman, Ian Moriarty, Jeremy Wolfram and Ricky Craver. That leaves the team rife with holes.

To make matters worse, three players on the roster – Kyle Dodge, Tyler Lavin and Josh Obochowski – weren’t dressed for the game on opening day.

On Saturday, December 12, Turners played in the opening game of the 2017 Pioneer Valley Tip-Off against the Mount Greylock Black Mounties. The Mounties came out of the gate quickly, taking a 16-0 lead before Chase Novak sunk a 3.

But that was it for Turners, as Grey scored 10 more points in the quarter to take a 26-3 advantage. Javoni Williams and Jovanni Ruggiano scored buckets to open the second quarter to make the score 26-7, but the Mounties went on a 10-0 run before Ruggiano traded threes with Black to make the score 39-10 at halftime.

In the third, Novak hit a skyhook, Jimmy Vaughn hit a 3 and Ruggiano sunk a foul shot to make the score 58-16 going into the fourth.

Turners scored 8 points in the final quarter with Vaughn and Jaden Whiting hitting 3-pointers and Anthony Peterson adding 2 points. The final score was 61-24.

Swimming

Last season, the girls’ swim team finished 4-6 and went on to score 5 points in the Western Mass Swimming Championship meet. Also last season, the team said goodbye to Melissa Hersey, but all the other girls from last year’s team – Jade Tyler, Olivia Whittier, Lillian Poirier, Allison Wheeler, and Abi Johnson – were underclassmen.

The boys’ team also finished 4-6 last year, but they didn’t lose anyone to graduation as Cameron Bradley, Ed Reipold, Chase Blair, and Nick Taylor were all underclassmen last season.

Girls’ Basketball

The Turners Falls Girls’ basketball team went 15-5 in the regular season last year before losing to Western Mass Champions Quaboag at the cage at UMass.

Although they didn’t lose any seniors from last year, Kylie Fleming is not listed in this year’s roster.

Girls on the roster include Maddy Chmyzinski, Hailey Bogosz, Chloe Ellis, Karissa Fleming, Tabi Hamilton, Eliza Johnson, Abby Loynd, Emma Miner, Taylor Murphy, Dabney Rollins, Aliyah Sanders, and

Sarah Waldron.

The Blue Ladies come into the season ranked 15th in Western Mass, with Chmyzinski in contention for Mass Live’s Super 7. Ms. Chmyzinski enters the season with 987 ca-

reer points, just 13 from the historic millennial mark.

When she does reach that milestone, she will be the first lady to do so in Turners Falls History. Stay tuned.



Franklin Tech’s Brooke Adams steps into the key to take a shot as Hopkins’ Allison Kowai-Safron defends at the Eagle Holiday Classic hosted by Franklin Tech.



Javoni Williams drives to the hoop as Mt. Greylock’s Sam Dils defends during the Pioneer Valley Tip-Off on Saturday at Curry Hicks Cage, UMass Amherst.

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DIGESTER from page A1

The problem, according to the DEP’s letter, “is the continued non-compliance of the WPCF with the NPDES permit. The original intent of the Pilot was to allow the Town to explore process changes at the WPCF while continuing to comply with NPDS Permit limits. The Department, based on a review of discharge monitoring reports (DMRs), finds the continued noncompliance of the WPCF with its NPDES Permit limits to be the main detriment of considering any further pilots at the Montague WPCF.”

According to the DEP, levels of suspended solids in the plant’s effluent have been higher than permitted throughout 2017. The letter also expressed concerns that the plant’s solids composting process may not have been in compliance with regulations.

NPDES stands for National Pollution Discharge Elimination System, the federal criteria for monitoring treated water sent into the Connecticut and other rivers under the national Clean Water Act.

The letter called for the plant to return to “conventional” methods, and implement an “expedited schedule” for complying with the NPDES permit, “including reduction of solids in the system to a level typical of a conventional wastewater treatment plant...” After four months in compliance with the federal regulations, the state would review proposed changes in the facility for processing solids, as long as the WPCF responds to other concerns of state regulators.

Ellis explained that the state was not completely rejecting the team’s modified Montague Process, but was requiring that the facility “pull back to baseline, for at least four months.” He said the DEP “remain[s] open” to the town’s proposal.

A Shared Digester

Monday’s meeting also included a discussion of a proposal for Montague, Greenfield, and possibly additional towns to build a jointly managed “anaerobic digester” facility in Greenfield. McDonald, along with Greenfield director of public works Don Ouellette and water facilities superintendent Mark Holley, joined McDonald at the front table.

Anaerobic digestion is a process for reducing waste solids that elimi-

nates the use of oxygen, significantly reducing the byproducts generated by an aerobic waste reduction process.

Ouellette presented the rationale for a local digester to the selectboard. “We used to bring [sludge] over the General Pierce Bridge, and hope it didn’t collapse,” he explained, “but the problem is, you guys can’t do it anymore.”

Other cities and towns in the region no longer accept sludge. Greenfield exports sludge to Cranston, RI, and many incinerators are closing down, or have become more costly, due to new federal regulation. This year, Greenfield’s total spending for sludge reduction is exceeding the amount budgeted by about \$80,000, or over 40%.

“What we’re doing today is not sustainable,” he said.

Ouellette said Greenfield has been “flirting” with the idea of building an anaerobic digester for five years. He suggested that the facility be placed on the Deerfield Street bus lot now used by the Franklin Regional Transportation Authority, whose garage is slated to move to Montague, or else on the city’s landfill.

Greenfield could construct its own facility, Ouellette said, but the city is looking to collaborate with other communities in the region, such as Montague. “We’re trying to build a coalition on this, so that if we go this route, we can go after grant money.” He said having smaller towns in the mix might allow the project to qualify for a USDA grant, and that officials in various state agencies “are all excited about the concept.”

“This is a problem not just for Pioneer Valley [but] across the entire Northeast, and that’s the way we’re going to sell this – as a solution to cut down what is going to the incinerators,” Ouelette said. He targeted the end of January to produce a “solid white paper, with letters of commitment from surrounding towns.”

McDonald noted that “whether or not the Montague Process is able to get running at some capacity or not, I still have to dispose of sludge, so I still would need a facility to bring the sludge to.”

In response to a question from Montague selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz, Ouelette agreed that the digester would produce some methane for generating power, but “I

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

One Long Special Town Meeting

By JEFF SINGLETON

A substantial portion of the Montague selectboard’s December 11 meeting was dedicated to “challenges and opportunities” at the town’s water pollution control facility (see story, page A1).

The selectboard also discussed the possibility of dividing the projected winter special town meeting into two meetings. Town administrator Steve Ellis said that a preliminary agenda included 13 articles, including a proposal for a new highway garage. He suggested that the garage proposal, which is being finalized by a specially appointed committee, could take up nearly all of one meeting.

Board members, however, expressed a preference for one meeting on a Saturday, rather than two weekday evening meetings. Ellis said he would investigate that option, and report back to the board.

Ellis told the board that the process of boarding up the vacant, town-owned Strathmore Mill complex had received a “setback.” Vandals have apparently broken in to the complex, smashed windows, and torn up some plastic sheeting.

Ellis said building inspector David Jensen and Turners Falls fire chief John Zellmann would be touring the building to monitor the winterization process. Ellis also said that Zellman had proposed taking the complex’s sprinkler system “off line” for the winter.

On another matter, Ellis requested that the board execute a request for an \$18,000 grant to review the town’s “personnel policy infrastructure.” This will insure, according to Ellis, that the personnel policies are “coherent and modern.” The board approved the request.

Town planner Walter Ramsey requested that the town adopt a new planning policy being promoted by the state called “Complete Streets.” Ramsey said the policy evaluates the town’s street network, including sidewalks, crosswalks, and traffic controls, “as a whole system.”

Tom Bergeron of the DPW said that the policy might help him apply for grants for sidewalk renovation. The board approved the request, as well as a \$38,000 grant application to conduct a “complete streets prioritization plan.”

John Dobosz of the parks and recreation department reviewed the

don’t want to overstate the electricity in it. We’re hoping it’s enough to run the digester, [and] put a little heat in the building... I don’t think we’re going to get out into the [electrical] grid with it.”

Steve Ellis stressed that “including a section on governance [in the white paper] is going to be important... A distinct district feels like an important element of that.”

“That would truly make it a cooperative effort,” said Kuklewicz.

The board voted unanimously to authorize McDonald to “continue to work with the city of Greenfield to look into the possibility of creating a district-wide digester, to be used by Montague.”

Budget Woes

After Ouellette and Holley left the meeting, McDonald reviewed

the current condition of his department’s budget. He said the combined impact of the loss of revenue from the Montague Process, the high cost of exporting sludge to Lowell, and revenue loss from the closing of the Southworth paper plant had created a budget shortfall.

McDonald said he, Ellis, and town accountant Carolyn Olsen had reallocated funds in the current budget to cover some of that shortfall, including the cost of transporting solids. As far as next year’s budget is concerned, he suggested that the facility could employ a smaller staff, because the town was now running “a conventional sewer plant.”

However, McDonald said, “I don’t think we can set sewer rates high enough to cover the [FY’19] deficit that we have, so I’m trying to think of alternative ways to

shrink down the budget... I don’t know what the answer is, to be honest with you.”

McDonald reported on the progress of a proposed solar array at his plant. He said he has sent in an application for a \$150,000 grant to the DEP. “We had a really good feasibility study,” he said, noting that the projected payoff period for the array would be under six years.

He also discussed a \$54,000 boiler replacement, which would also be mostly funded by the state grant.

Finally, McDonald discussed improving controls at the pump stations located around town, as well as the possibility of constructing a new system to connect the WPCF with Millers Falls. Sewage from Millers Falls is currently pumped into the town of Erving.



NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill May Request Hydro Intervenor Status

By GEORGE BRACE

Conservation committee chair Phil Gilfeather-Girton appeared before the Gill selectboard at its meeting Monday night to discuss the town filing for intervenor status with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in First Light Hydro Generating Company’s upcoming relicensing hearings on the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage and Turners Falls Hydroelectric projects.

The decision was made to have town administrative assistant Ray Purington provide a draft of a motion to Gilfeather-Girton for editing, and then present a finished motion to the board for consideration.

Highway Department

Highway superintendent Mickey LaClaire appeared before the board to present a request for the highway department to be on vacation from December 26 to 28. The

request was granted.

LaClaire also inquired about the status of a couple of requests the department has for the machinery committee. Selectboard member John Ward replied that the machinery committee is in need of a third member, and he will increase efforts to fill the position and move forward with LaClaire’s requests.

LaClaire went on to report that the new guard rails on River Road are done and he has received “very, very good feedback” from those most impacted by them. He also reported the highway department received an application for a supplemental snow plow driver which looks promising.

Fire and Police

Fire chief Gene Beaubien reported on some repair work that needs to be done on Engine 2, which will take about a week and is estimated at \$4,100. He also said several minor repairs to Engines 1 and 2 were go-

ing to be made in house.

Police Chief Chris Redmond presented a request for \$15,094 for three new mobile data terminal tablets for the town’s patrol cars, which he said will be a “tremendous upgrade” to communications and record keeping. The new tablets would allow the department to take advantage of a state offer of free software which would integrate with other departments and state agencies.

After a lengthy discussion of the benefits of the system and related matters, the request was approved.

Redmond also inquired about a revolving financial account to speed up payments for extra-duty police details. Payments can currently take six months or more. The board was in agreement that creating the account is a good idea, and promised to make sure it is on the agenda of the annual town meeting, where such approvals need to be made.

Other Business

Ray Purington reported that the town had received further communication from the state on minor modifications to the Gill Elementary School drinking water treatment project, and work was proceeding to incorporate them.

A request for a new alarm panel at the school was sent back for additional information. The board decided not to renew an energy services agreement for the school with Siemens.

The board approved the formation of an official 225th anniversary planning committee, and the appointment of a list of members to that committee. They also noted that more people are welcome to join.

The timing of the acceptance of the donation from the Franklin Land Trust of land on Hoe Shop Road was discussed, with the board seeing no concerns with accepting it as of January 1, 2018.

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ALABAMA from page A1

each of us to access a listing of Democratic voters in a community area with questions. The answers were automatically downloaded onto a central database, giving the campaign insight on the pulse of the electorate. We were then sent out into the field.

I was paired with my friend George, from Shelburne Falls, and we were sent to the Woodlawn Community, an urban neighborhood in Birmingham. That afternoon we canvassed Pleasant Grove, a suburban area outside Birmingham.

Almost immediately, the notion that there were many people who were unaware of the upcoming election was repudiated. Not only did it seem that everyone knew of the election, but nearly everyone planned to vote, and many had posters and in their yards were signs with "Vote Dec. 12," "Vote Doug Jones."

As we canvassed, walked, and talked to those who were on our list of registered voters and those whom we met in the streets, quite a few spoke of politicians ignoring the black community and they had hopeful expectations that Jones would address the issues affecting them like education, poverty and health care.

Some residents, in comparing the nominees, said they thought of Jones as the least worst of the two. Many said Roy Moore is a racist, far-right leaning, and accused child molester. Many saw their votes as anti-Moore.

As the sun set that day and we brought our collected data back to the campaign offices, I wondered if our efforts were enough – enough to turn the tide in a state that had not elected a Democrat to the Senate in 25 years.

The next day, Sunday, found our group at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. Reverend Arthur Price, Jr. spoke of the Senate race during his sermon. He reminded everyone of the efforts to gain the right to vote.

Rev. Price charged the congregation with the responsibility to vote, and alluded to the history of those who had been beaten by

baton-wielding police, bitten by dogs, and drenched with fire hoses during the civil rights struggles of the 1960s. The pastor made it seem that voting would be a way of honoring the efforts of the heroes and heroines of the past.

After church and briefly attending two political rallies, we loaded into our cars and headed back to western Massachusetts. We felt good to have met so many of the wonderful people of Alabama. We enjoyed the feeling of solidarity with out-of-state volunteers, that there were many like ourselves who had left their homes and families to come a long ways to take a stand for a better way to be for the country.

But there was worry... a sense that maybe we had not done enough, that Roy Moore, Trumpism, and the Far Right would be too formidable. Would it be enough to stop Roy Moore?

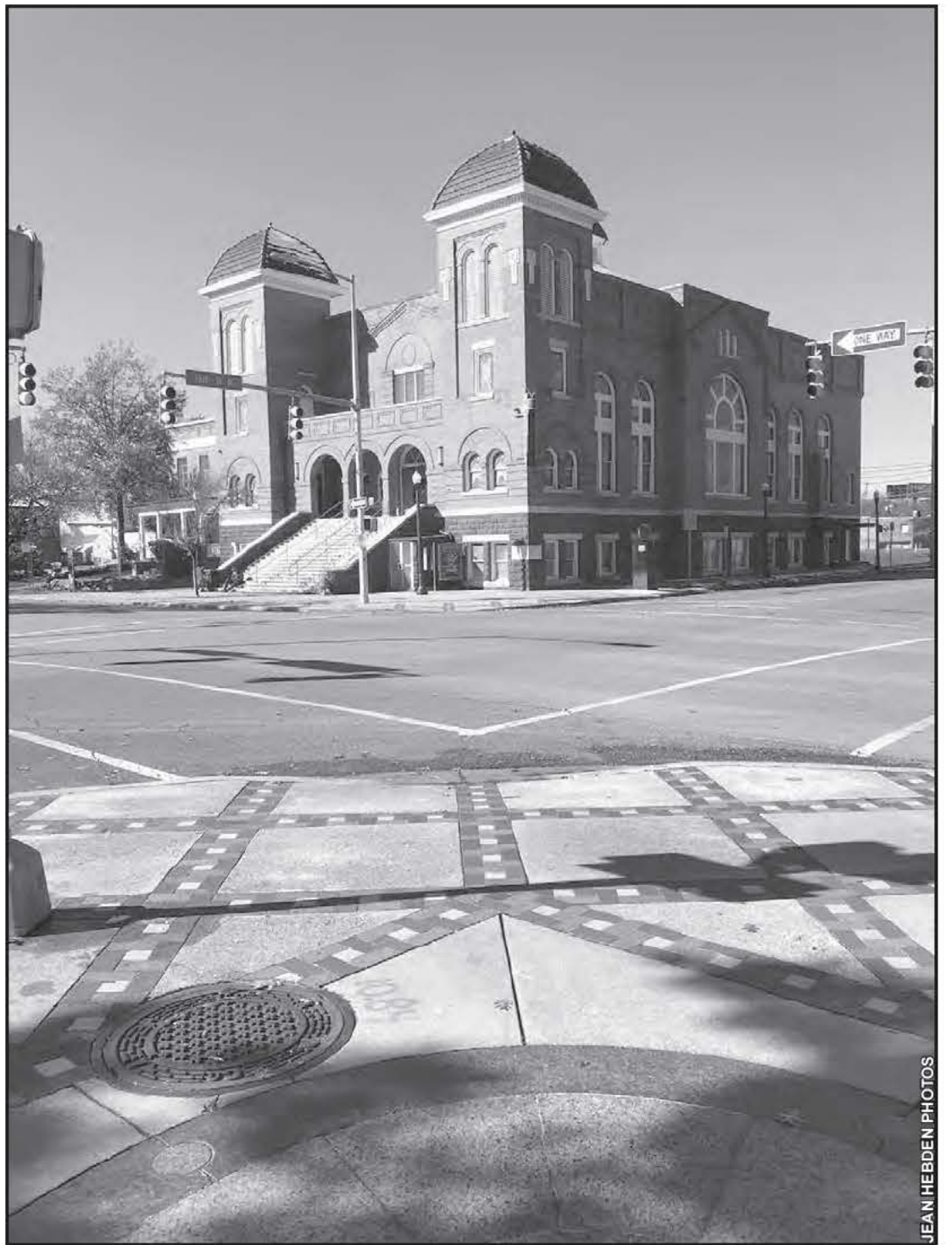
"Courage, sisters, don't get weary / Courage, brothers, don't get weary / Courage, people, don't get weary / Though the day be long."

On Tuesday night, we learned that Doug Jones had won the election, and for that I am very happy. The outcome justified the long ride to Alabama and back, and the time away from home.

This victory also feels like a vindication. It's a sense that the USA has not totally lost its bearings, and that we can right this ship of state and sail into a calm and productive future. I believe that we as citizens of this country can come together to make it work for all equally and fairly.

But how do we do this with everyone on-board? We can't depend on one Community to be the catalyst for a victory. We must find a way to get all communities working together for the common good.

It is the responsibility of us all to come together in a way that values each and every person, the animals and the planet, if we are to build a new world.

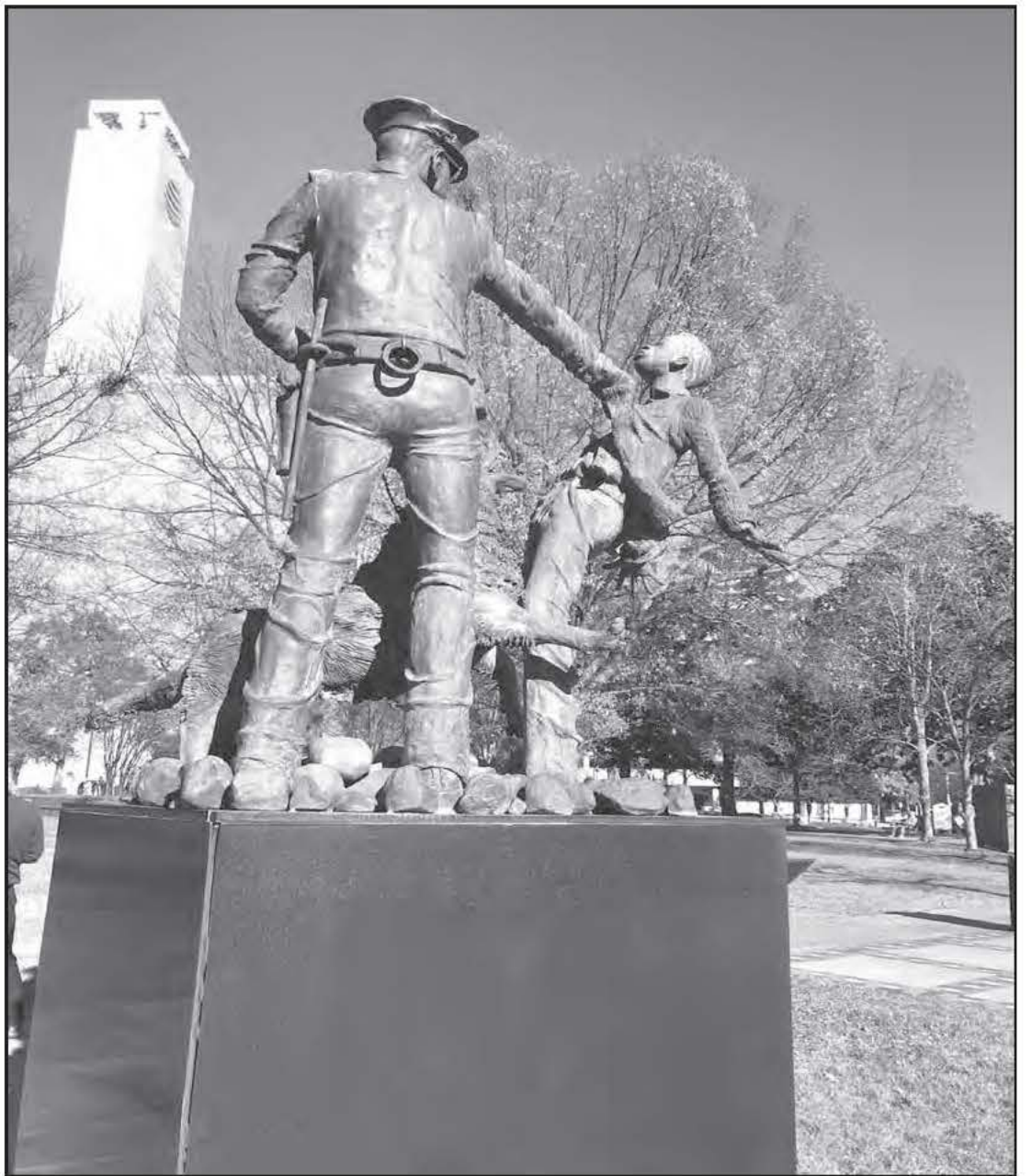


JEAN HEBDEN PHOTOS



Above, right: Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church, the site of a 1963 bombing by the Ku Klux Klan that claimed the lives of four girls, and on Sunday, the site of a get-out-the-vote sermon.

Below, right: One of several civil rights-related sculptures in the Kelly Ingram Park in Birmingham, where the Southern Christian Leadership Conference staged 1963 protests against segregation that were attacked by police with firehoses and dogs.



Franklin County's contingent of Jones campaign volunteers (left to right): Jean Hebden and David Detmold of Turners Falls; Wesley Blixt of Greenfield; Jim Thornley of Wendell; George Esworthy of Shelburne Falls; and our correspondent, Tim Bullock of Leverett; with an unidentified Florida man.

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NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Foundation Awards G-M District \$200,000 Grant To “Redesign High School Experience”

By MIKE JACKSON

The Gill-Montague Regional School Committee met on Monday this week, rather than their regular Tuesday night, in recognition of the beginning of Hanukkah.

“We have a crammed agenda for today,” began chair Timmie Smith, and indeed, the meeting ran for nearly three hours.

District treasurer Cynthia Caporaso gave the committee an update on her work. “From my corner of Gill-Montague, everything seems to be running smoothly,” she said. The district has about \$4.6 million in the bank, about \$4.1 million of which is its cash on hand for operating; the rest is comprised of scholarship funds and student activity accounts.

Caporaso said that the district is undergoing an internal audit of its nearly 70 student activity accounts, and is looking into refinancing debt it took on to fund the 2006 renovation of the high school, in order to save the towns money.

A Shift From Credits

Turners Falls High School principal Annie Leonard came to discuss a planning grant the district was awarded from the Barr Foundation, aimed at developing a “wider learning ecosystem” that would allow high school students to develop individualized learning plans including internships and early college coursework.

Among other collaborators, Greenfield Community College and the Franklin-Hampshire Regional Employment Board partnered with the district on the grant, and the Collaborative for Educational Services will serve as fiscal agent. The initial award had passed over the GMRSD, but the foundation asked the district to resubmit with a scaled-back plan, and awarded \$200,000 for an 18-month planning process.

“It may sound like there’s a plan here, but what this is is a planning process,” she explained. “It’s going to enable us to look at some models of exemplary practice.”

At its heart, the concept would shift the Turners Falls High School experience away from “accrual of credit” toward “demonstrations of competency.”

Leonard said the TFHS school council would be involved with the planning. “It’s not somebody coming in from the outside,” she said of the study.

“It sounds like we’re talking about paradigm change, which is awesome,” Montague member Mike Langknecht said. “Doing something like this is a great way to improve our graduation rate, and retention rate in other ways, too.”

“I hope it would be something that would also help us draw students in,” Leonard agreed.

The topic of accrual of credit continued after the committee turned its attention to district policy updates, in particular one concerning high school graduation requirements.

Jane Oakes presented a proposed update to the existing policy, and the committee looked at how the requirements fall short of the state

Core Curriculum recommendations, namely in not requiring two years’ study of a foreign language.

Leonard suggested that the committee let the Barr-funded study process influence the district’s ultimate approach to such requirements.

Cassie Damkoehler asked why two years of language shouldn’t be a requirement.

“We have some concern that we have students for whom adding a foreign language requirement might pose an obstacle for progress towards graduation,” Leonard answered her, though she added that during the last three years, more than half of TFHS graduates have completed two years of foreign language, and that the school offers three options, “which is a large number of languages for a school of our size.”

“I want the school, and a diploma from the school, to be their ticket to whatever their post-high school aspirations are,” she said.

The committee approved the proposed updates to the policy, and anticipated revisiting it soon anyway.

Planning Upgrades

Tina Mahaney, the district’s director of information technology, checked in about the district’s progress on its plans to upgrade its hardware. Sixth-graders currently use personal Chromebooks in a “1 to 1” computing model and over the next years the program will extend to seventh- and eighth-graders.

“The eighth-graders will carry them on to ninth grade, and we will continue to equip the incoming sixth graders,” Mahaney said. “So, after four years, we would be able to have a whole secondary-level 1 to 1 initiative.”

Mahaney explained that it is better to make the Chromebook rollout gradual, because it takes time for students and teachers to acclimate to using them.

The district spends \$32,000 a year leasing copiers. “The copiers are expensive, huh?” asked Gill member Shawn Hubert.

“Well, there’s a lot of them,” said business manager Joanne Blier.

“It’s incredible how it’s actually saved up even more,” Mahaney added.

Blier also reviewed the district’s overall capital plan, which it must present soon to member towns so that projects at the schools, which the towns own, may be taken into consideration during budget season.

The plan Gill submitted to the state Department of Environmental Protection for its drinking water treatment system was not approved, and must be revised and re-submitted this month. “It just wasn’t sized appropriately,” she said.

The exterior elevator on Montague’s town hall is an example of the elevator the district needs to put on the administration building, and it cost the town around \$750,000. The FY’19 plan includes \$100,000 to draw up a plan for the project so the district could apply for grants to cover construction costs, and FY’20 about \$800,000.

The committee ranked, by order of priority, the capital projects hoped

for FY’19 in each town.

For Gill, the committee prioritized first resubmitting the elementary school roof (\$600,000, to be reimbursed by the MSBA); second, a 10% contribution to ventilation system controllers at Turners Falls High School (\$8,000); and secure double-door system (\$12,000) last.

For Montague, the ventilation system (\$72,000) first; replacement intercoms at Hillcrest and Sheffield (\$55,000) second; and double doors at Hillcrest (\$5,000) third.

Blizzard Bags

The district is trying to devise a way to meet state requirement for education hours by establishing formal homework for snow days in the form of “blizzard bags.” Mahar started a similar program two years ago.

“DESE refers to this topic as ‘alternative structured learning day programs,’ and they do allow them,” district superintendent Michael Sullivan explained. But any program must overcome “widely varying circumstances in students’ homes.” Furthermore, teachers need to be able to directly participate in the activities.

Other challenges to the school would be quantifying student “attendance” on these special days, and figuring out how to fairly pay staff, including non-teachers.

Mahar’s students all have Chromebooks. “We’re not in that position technology-wise,” Sullivan acknowledged, “so we would have to decide if this is all paper, pencil, textbook, or novels, reading, or what it’s going to be – or would we try to draw on internet access for those students that dependably have it?”

Christina Postera expressed concern for special education students. “This seems like an administrative, and a negotiation, nightmare,” she said. “I’d like to hear what staff and administrators have to say on this topic.”

“I’m not pooh-poohing it; I’m just seeing a lot of complications,” she added.

“It’s not a terrible idea to teach kids how to work from home,” said Shawn Hubert.

Oakes suggested punting the question to staff. “I think the idea of it counting as time, and the idea of it counting as the best education, might be two different things,” she said. “A lot of thought needs to be put into it.”

“When it snows, everyone’s excited,” Hubert said. “You’d have to change that whole mindset.”

“The parents don’t have snow days just because the kids have them,” Postera pointed out. “It seems like it could backfire.”

The board took no action.

Other Business

The town of Montague is building a new solar farm at Sandy Lane, which is expected to generate about \$155,000 a year for the town. The finance committee has told the school district it intends to pass about half of those revenues to the school district, and has asked for input as to whether it should go into the general budget or toward capital improvements.

The schools are holding a season-



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FY 2018 CDBG Public Informational Meeting TOWN OF MONTAGUE

The Town of Montague will hold a public informational meeting on December 18, 2017 at 7:15 p.m. in the Selectmen’s Meeting Room at the Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA in order to solicit public response to the activities that the town should apply for in the **FY 2018 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** application to the Department of Housing and Community Development.

The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the application process and activities that the town should apply for. Representatives from the Town, Social Service Agencies and the Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA) will be present at the hearing to discuss potential activities. Any other activities that the town should consider for the FY 2018 CDBG application will be discussed.

The Town of Montague will contract with the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) to administer the FY 2018 Community Development Block Grant Program. The Town of Montague encourages residents to attend the meeting where any person or organization wishing to be heard will be afforded the opportunity.

The Town of Montague is an equal opportunity provider.

Board of Selectmen – Town of Montague

al district-wide food drive, to benefit Montague Catholic Social Ministries. Lesley Cogswell reported that food can be dropped off at any of the schools, and that 1,131 items had been collected so far. “We’ve already surpassed last year,” she said.

The committee approved an updated domestic violence policy.

Sullivan and the committee reviewed a bill from Bulkley Richardson, the law firm the district has retained on the matter of Medicaid over-reimbursements from the state. The firm is negotiating with MassHealth on the district’s behalf over terms of a repayment plan, and has sent a letter to New England Medical Billing, the firm that for years had handled the Medicaid claims before the state discovered the systematic error.

The bill, which covered a period from October 10 to November 20, came to \$5,301.72. The committee approved the expense.

The Gill Montague Education Fund funded a number of projects: after-school craft and book clubs at the Great Falls Middle School; special cushions for fidgety children; funds for Gill’s fifth grade class to visit the New England Aquarium in Boston; a team-building course for the middle school student council; and educational picture books for Hillcrest families, particularly those who don’t speak English at home.

The taskforce to select a new high school team name and logo has placed a suggestion box inside the Sheffield School, and another one at the Scotty’s On The Hill convenience store.

The school committee’s next regular meeting is scheduled for January 9 at the high school.

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MONTAGUE REPORTER



Montague's Wisniewski family brought us along with them to Athens, Greece. Here we see them at the Parthenon. "It has been bombed three times," Francia said, when we asked about the scaffolding. "Last restoration, they used iron, and it rusted."

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

ON THE ROAD

Mark the Solstice at the Sunwheel

AMHERST – The public is invited to witness sunrise and sunset associated with the winter solstice among the standing stones of the UMass-Amherst Sunwheel on Thursday, Dec. 21, at 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Sunwheel events mark the astronomical change of seasons. The winter solstice occurs when nights are longest and days are shortest in the Northern Hemisphere and the sun rises and sets at its most southerly spot along the horizon, over the southeasterly and southwesterly stones in the Sunwheel, respectively.

At the hour-long gatherings, UMass Amherst astronomer Stephen Schneider will discuss the astronom-

ical cause of the solstice. He will explain the seasonal positions of Earth, the sun and moon, and the design of the Sunwheel and other calendar sites such as the Temple of Karnak in Egypt and Chankillo in Peru.

He will also answer other questions, such as why the earliest sunset occurs about two weeks before the solstice and the latest sunrise about two weeks later, or why the longest day of the year is actually Dec. 22. If it is clear for the evening session, telescopes will be set up to observe the crescent moon and safely observe the surface of the sun.

Even though the instant when the sun reaches its southernmost posi-

tion occurs at 11:28 a.m. local time on Dec. 21, Sunwheel visitors who stop in on their own will be able to see the sun rising and setting over the winter solstice stones from roughly Dec. 16–26. Around the time of the solstice, the sun appears to rise at a fixed spot on the southeast horizon and to set in a fixed southwest direction for more than a week.

The Sunwheel is located south of McGuirk Alumni Stadium, just off Rocky Hill Road about one-quarter mile south of University Drive. Visitors should be prepared for freezing temperatures and wet footing.

Rain or blizzard conditions cancel the events. Donations are welcome.

COMCAST from page A1

access to its funding through the "Broadband Extension Program for Partially Served Cable Towns." In order to be eligible for the program, towns must have less than 96% coverage. Costs to individual properties are reduced by up to \$1,400, but some residents with long driveways can expect further costs.

According to a contract finalized last February, Comcast will expand coverage in Montague by 150 homes, leaving only 32 without service.

Many who came to Monday's meeting were seeking answers about "long drops" – service to buildings more than 250 feet from the closest utility pole, which owners are financially responsible for connecting. Some properties will require trenches be dug for underground cable, while others are close enough to connect to poles.

"If you think you might be a long drop, now is the time to talk," said Glanville, who explained that it is easier and cheaper for both parties if the long drops are completed while Comcast constructs its main lines along the road.

Residents are permitted to dig their own trenches, or seek quotes from private contractors, but the trenches must meet certain building guidelines, and confusion over these details has caused prior friction between the broadband committee and Comcast.

"There should be a fluid, open conduit of information, rather than what we get. It isn't working," said committee member Kevin Hart.

"I understand," replied Glanville. "Our contract is with Mass Broadband, but these customer relation events, we think are important."

Glanville explained that Comcast would not be able to provide residents with general criteria for the trenches, but would send engineers to look at each property.

"For individuals looking to trench, those are individual questions," he said. "We will not provide a general spec sheet, because the specifics vary location to location."

"I have a question: Who's the

project manager?" asked broadband committee chair Robert Steinberg, who lives on East Chestnut Hill Road. "Who's the single point person that we can talk to if we have questions, if we have concerns, or thoughts about what's going on?"

"We have a project manager out of Westfield, but really all questions should go through Eileen Leahy," Glanville told him.

"It's opaque and unresponsive to give us Eileen again," Steinberg replied.

"I respectfully disagree, sir," Glanville said.

"I'm saying, where do I go for information, and don't tell me Eileen," Steinberg shot back.

"She is a member of my team," Glanville said, "and your emails on a regular basis, sir, are very disrespectful to her."

"It's well-earned," said Steinberg.

"No," the company representative answered, and took a long pause. "If you have a particular question about a particular long-drop, there is information in the hallway."

Meeting attendees filed out of the room and lined up in the hallway, where a second Comcast official distributed printouts with individual quotes for installation and service. She also offered them Comcast-branded bottle openers, screen cleaners, and pens.

As the meeting came back to order, several members shared the installation estimates they had received, ranging from \$50 to \$185.

A participant who declined to be named said her son planned to use his own backhoe to dig the trench, and added that another resident already had done so. She was unclear if there would be additional charges for installation, but noted her son had spoken with Comcast.

"I'm underground for maybe 500 feet," said Dave Dickinson of West Chestnut Hill Road, "and it's 1,600 bucks."

Comcast had prepared no information for Steinberg's property.



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Art Worth a Look



Afternoon on the Beach, by Honoré Sharrer (American, 1920–2009). Oil on canvas, 30" × 32". Collection of Adam Zagorin and the late Perez Zagorin.

By D. K. KNAUER

NORTHAMPTON – The current exhibit at the Smith College Museum of Art, “A Dangerous Woman: Subversion and Surrealism in the Art of Honoré Sharrer” is well worth a visit. Sharrer, an American painter, first came to the notice of the art world in 1946 when her painting, “Workers and Paintings” was in the “Fourteen Americans” show at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

Although a painter during the height of the abstract expressionism movement in the US, Sharrer did not explore that avenue and continued to paint in a more traditional, figurative style. She was a pioneer in a different manner, choosing to use her work to portray the everyday work-

ing person and to comment on the role of women in our society. Her work also often juxtaposes religious figures in non-traditional situations, whether it be a priest on an altar with a supine naked female before him, or a naked St. Jerome calmly sitting with a lion while wearing a bright orange hat.

Ms. Sharrer’s work is exceptional in her use of contrasting tones and the precision of the depiction of her figures, which is all the more notable in pieces such as “Workers and Paintings.” The detail of the figuring and skin tones in this work take it to another level, and are reminiscent of the art of the Renaissance period in how faces and other details stand out in contrast to a darker background.

see ART page B3



WEST ALONG THE RIVER

A MIND OF WINTER

By DAVID BRULE

ALONG THE MILLERS RIVER – December 1. Is it possible that December has come around again, and already? We’ll have to settle in once again for a long stretch of darkening days and frosty mornings.

Orion is rising out of the north in the twilight, the nighttime stars are much sharper than last month. This morning, catching us by surprise at 7 a.m., the full Cold Moon peered into the west-facing window, just over the lower shoulder of Mineral Mountain, above the rushing river. It lit up the still sleeping house with a silvery winter light.

My early seasonal guests are few



Bubo virginianus – Great Horned Owl

at the feeders: the first tree sparrow from way up north appeared just this morning outside the frosty kitchen window. He’s likely here to stay for the next few months, with a steady supply of seeds and good company in this relatively balmy winter haven, as compared to the already frigid high plains of the tundra and taiga where he spends the summers.

A female redwinged blackbird has also set up quarters in the yard for the time being, lingering here where the pickin’s are easy. Her species can still muster up flocks of 10,000 birds elsewhere, and yet here she is with us, all alone.

Our winter blue jay flock has discovered the corn tossed out starting today the first of December. Cracked corn in the far reach of the yard is spread out and meant to lure squirrels and jays away from our main feeder where the smaller winter birds can breakfast, away from those more aggressive creatures.

Some of us are taking over the Breakfast Club reporting from Fran Hemond, who recently left us (and our Montague Reporter columns) after a long and full life. May we all be so lucky as Fran.

Soon one of the visitors at the feeder will give us a knowing and fleeting glance; we’ll know whose spirit that’ll be, winking and passing through. She’ll be sending a feathered being back, pausing at our window, just to say hello.

see WEST ALONG page B5

BOOK REVIEW

Buying the Farm: Peace and War on a Sixties Commune, by Tom Fels (University of Massachusetts Press, 2012)

By ROB SKELTON

On a southwest hill in southeast Montague, two brothers on adjacent farms, estranged, communicate by hand-scrawled note via the willing mailman.

The elder brother Lucian occupies the “home-lot” farm, with its eighty-foot barn containing an ingenious stone stairwell designed for cattle. His younger sibling Rob, born 1900, was assistant superintendent of streets, according to the 1961 Montague town report; he lived the next farm over until his 93rd year, when he collapsed on the pulpit of the Moore’s Corner Baptist church while reading the sermon on his birthday.

Lucian died in the dooryard of his place in the mid-1960s, witnessed by passerby/neighbor Denny Pinardi. The estate was purchased by a Farrick, who flipped it in 1968 for \$25K to troubled visionary Mar-

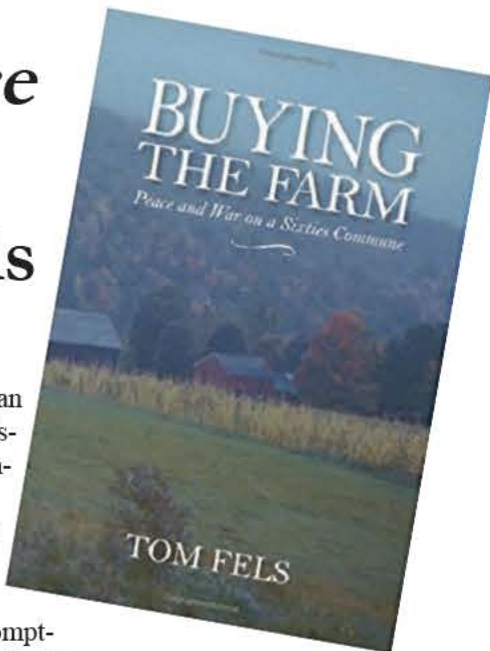
shall Bloom, whose bank loan was co-signed by an administrator of his alma mater, Amherst College.

A factional dispute within the Liberation News Service, which Bloom had founded with Ray Mungo in 1967, prompted a Montague migration as disaffected student journalists decamped to the country with the LNS’s printing press. One of Marshall’s followers, Stevie Diamond, published *What the Trees Said* (*Life on a New Age Farm*), a fascinating account of the schism and relocation, in 1971. It, along with Mungo’s *Famous Long Ago* and *Total Loss Farm*, became required reading for students of countercultural history.

Long story short: Bloom offed himself on November 1, 1969, and willed the farm to seven trustees, all of whom moved away, leaving the property to its remaining residents’ devices and demises.



Montague Farm, November 1970. Courtesy of the Special Collections and University Archives, W.E.B. Du Bois Library, UMass-Amherst.



Buying The Farm, c. 2012 by Tom Fels tells the story of the farm’s final disbursement, 35 years later. So *Buying The Farm* is actually the story of selling the farm and, tangentially, of selling out.

The trustees, removed, are reduced in this story to a sidelined Greek chorus, reflective, yet impotent in their own dispersal, overshadowed as two antagonists spar for control of the former commune.

The pugilists are trustee Harvey Wasserman, aligned with a new generation of interloper “farmers,” and anti-nuclear activist Sam Lovejoy, consort to Janice Frye, the farm’s longest serving and hardest working resident. Sam earned his bones by vandalizing a weather tower on the Montague sandplain and stopping a twin nuclear facility in its tracks. “Sluggo” Wasserman carried water for the corporate Left (writer for *The Nation*; “consultant” to Greenpeace) when he wasn’t attending to his family’s uniform factory in Columbus, Ohio.

Both had law chops – Sam a J.D., and Sluggo married to one. Both were in the Clamshell Alliance, and both worked with Musicians United for Safe Energy (MUSE), who produced a Madison Square Garden rock concert, a soundtrack, and a movie.

see FARM page B2

Vaccines for Meningitis B: Why It Took So Long

By EMILY MONOSSON

MONTAGUE – Recently I read of a meningitis B outbreak at Oregon State University, followed by one at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. MenB is a potentially lethal and easily spread infection, particularly in settings where young adults gather together.

As the university raced to vaccinate tens of thousands of students, my thoughts turned to our daughter, a senior in college. A few years ago after writing a book chapter that included the history of meningitis B and the recent development of a vaccine, I had asked my daughter’s pediatrician – ironically, in Amherst – if she could receive the vaccination as she headed off for her sophomore year. They would not, stating that it was available only for those who had other health indications. Perhaps if it were more easily available, colleges would not have to react, and students would already be protected.

Below is an excerpt from that chapter of *Natural Defense* (Island Press, 2017) about meningitis and the vaccine.

My father had just returned from the Navy, an apple-cheeked, mis-

chievous twenty-year-old looking forward to his junior year in college, when meningitis struck. It was 1946, and the last thing he recalled was brushing his teeth at home in the bathroom. For the next ten days he lay unconscious in a hospital bed, his body fighting off an invisible army of bacterial invaders.

Aided by the new miracle drug, penicillin, he survived, but not entirely unscathed. Shortly after recovery my father was jolted by brain seizures – his brain permanently damaged by the infection. For the remainder of his life he managed the condition with a combination of powerful anti-epileptic drugs (while baffling his doctors by referring to the electronic brainstorms as a “free high”).

Meningitis is a catch-all term for swelling of the tissues surrounding the brain and spinal cord. Specific viruses, fungi, and injury can all cause the potentially fatal condition, but one of the most frightening and lethal causes is bacterial infection.

Bacterial meningitis, caused by a handful of bacteria – *Haemophilus influenza* type b (Hib) or *Streptococcus pneumonia* and *Neisseria meningitidis* – can kill within a day, is often incurable, and may leave sur-

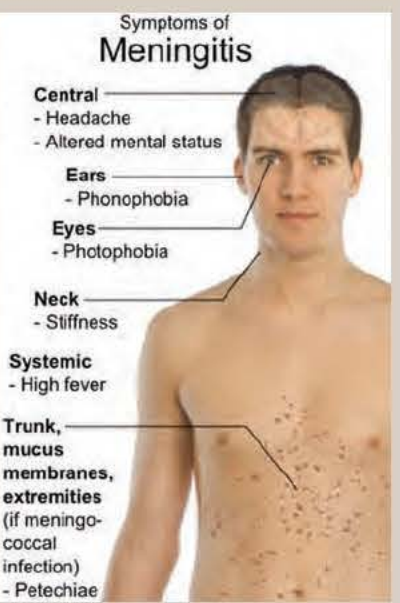


Illustration by Mikael Häggström. Public domain image via Wikimedia Commons.

vivors with amputated limbs, hearing loss or brain seizures.

My father was relatively lucky. One of the more intractable causes of meningitis is *Neisseria*, a bacterium adept at spreading through populations gathering together for the first time: freshmen dorms, summer camps, day care, the military barracks. Some five to twenty percent of us carry *Neisseria* in our nose and throat and unwittingly spread it around to those with whom we share a meal, or a drink or a kiss.

Most of us won’t get sick. A few of us may die from the infection, even today.

My kids were born in the 1990s.

see MENINGITIS page B8

Pet of the Week

This three-year-old female guinea pig has lived with a dog and cat. She is very curious and sometimes silly, loves carrots (but not too many!).

Always happy to see her people.

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



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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: 12/18
8 a.m. Foot Clinic appts.
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday: 12/19
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
Wednesday: 12/20
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday: 12/21
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Cards & Games
Friday: 12/22
1 p.m. Writing Group

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

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

ERVING

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

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

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

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

Monday: 12/18
9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones Balance
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi
NO Lunch
Tuesday: 12/19
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
Holiday Lunch & Gift Exchange
Wednesday: 12/20
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
12:15 p.m. Bingo, Snacks, Laughs
Thursday: 12/21
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
Movie & Popcorn
Friday: CLOSED

WENDELL

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

OUT OF THE PARK: December

By JON DOBOSZ

UNITY PARK – Hello and Happy Holidays, everyone! It’s that wonderful time of year to spend with family and friends, and to reflect on what’s most important in our lives.

One thing that should most definitely be at the top of the list, is participating in activities that keep us healthy and active. As we enter the winter season, it’s very easy for many of us to hibernate in the warm confines of our homes and not venture outside. Instead of giving in to this impulse, give yourself the gift of staying active.

We’re all hearty New Englanders, so we know what winter is like and are certainly capable of meeting it head-on. Let’s do so with an equally hearty attitude of staying active. Your mind, body, and spirit will thank you.

Speaking of staying active, we start off the New Year with our annual **Sawmill River 10k Run**. The Sawmill Run will be held on New Year’s Day in Montague Center, where we typically host approximately 200 runners who embark on a wonderful route that brings them through the sleepy back roads of this beautifully picturesque village.

When the runners are finished, they are treated to our famous baked potatoes with all the fixings. If you are a runner, or know of one, what better way to start off your running year! Pre-registration is available online at RunReg.com/sawmill-river-10k-run, or you can



download a registration form on our webpage at montague.net/p/26/Parks--Recreation.

If swimming is more your thing, then take note that our **Open Swim** at the Turners Falls High School Pool will be starting up soon after the New Year. Open Swim is held on Tuesday and Friday evenings starting January 5, and will go to March 9. Family Swim is held from 6:30 until 7:30 p.m., with Adult Lap Swim 7:30 until 8:30 p.m. Call for rates.

We’re also partnering with our friends from the Knights of Columbus to bring you their **Annual Free Throw Contest**. This event will be held on Saturday, January 6 at 2 p.m. at the Sheffield Elementary School Gym. Boys and girls ages 10 to 14 compete separately, and by age category, and the goal is to make as many free throws as possible. Winners advance to regional competition, and participation is free! Registrations are accepted the day of event.

We’ll be having our **American Red Cross Babysitting Course** on Tuesday, February 6 and Wednesday,

February 7. Those participating will obtain the knowledge and resources to become a great babysitter! This is a fun, interactive course that teaches students first aid and safety skills, as well as helpful tips on how to prevent and respond to emergencies. The course is open to youths ages 11 to 15, and fees are \$40 for Montague residents and \$45 for non-residents.

New Program Alert: This winter, we’re coordinating group tickets for the **Springfield Thunderbirds Ice Hockey Game** on Saturday, March 10 when they go up against The Utica Comets. The game will be held at the MassMutual Center in Springfield. The puck drops at 7:05 p.m. and it is also their annual “Pink in the Rink Game” that recognizes the fight against Breast Cancer. Discounted tickets are available for \$17, with a portion of the proceeds going to MPRD. This would be a great holiday gift, so contact us now!

That’s about it from here. For additional information on all of our programs (and more), check out our new webpage on montague.net or call us at (413) 863-3216. Our office at the Unity Park Fieldhouse is open Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. And for continual updates on everything “Parks & Rec,” check out our Montague Parks & Recreation Facebook page.

Enjoy your holiday season, and we’ll talk to you in the New Year!

Jon Dobosz is director of parks and recreation for the town of Montague.

FARM from page B1

While these guys were hobnobbing in New York and elsewhere, various characters did the dirty work on the farm. One of these was twenty-year resident Peter Natti, a wheelchair-bound woodworker from Gloucester, who Fels quotes as saying:

“Well, Sam, you know, likes to be the center of attention.... He’s a great storyteller, I loved to hear him. But people would come to visit and he would go down memory lane, the tower and all that. He would do that all the time. And Janice and I would be thinking, ‘The corn needs to be brought in and he’s holding court.’ At some point you just have to stop talking about what you did and do something.”

Here’s Natti on Sluggo:

“We’d all sit around, there would be ten people at the dinner table, and everybody would have their meal, and everybody else would have a little bit of seconds, and then Harvey would sit there and every evening he would say, ‘Does anybody want any more?’ And whatever else was left on the table he would consume. I know he has an incredible metabolism, and likes to work into the early morning hours, but sometimes that caused a little resentment. If there was enough for a second evening, the cooks all of a sudden are saying to themselves, ‘Well, I could put this away and I won’t have to cook tomorrow night, or I can leave it on the table and Harvey will eat it all.’”

Who is Fels who tells these tales, some of which are discomfiting?

Well, he spent four years at the farm, 1969 to 1973. He gets a shout-out as the “eccentric gentleman” in Diamond’s *What The Trees Said*.

He documents many former “farmers”’ ongoing lives in his 2005 book *Farm Friends*.

Buying The Farm is a distillative work with a taut narrative and colorful outrageous craven characters. Best of all, it’s true.

The actions are undercutting and byzantine. Fels pulls no punches and lets the players tangle and dangle by their own words and actions.

The actions are undercutting and byzantine. Fels pulls no punches and lets the players tangle and dangle by their own words and actions. “Sluggo” takes a well-deserved pounding, as does Lise Coppinger, paymaster of the imposter “farmers” mistakenly invited in by Janice Frye.

It is a great read, punchy, not paunchy like the withering and diffuse cohort of trustees, jarringly confronted with an unresolvable vestige of their shared idealistic history.

In the end, the farm gets sold to a do-gooder group the “Peacemakers,” who spent a million of Jeff Bridges’ dollars to rehab the barn before going belly-up.

Later the bank sold it to hedge fund guy Bill Jacobs, who now runs the “Montague Retreat Center” and rents it for weddings. He has kindly allowed the farm family to use the facility for next summer’s fiftieth anniversary of this New Age experiment.

The run-up to the sale depicts

as tawdry, as the coterie of former non-materialists angle with their hands out. If you ever sought a parable of idealistic tribalism tempered by time into hard-nosed self-dealing, Tom Fels has helpfully gathered the facts and lined them up in this vivid book.

The 2005 death of Stevie Diamond, coinciding with the end of Bloom’s legacy and the sale of the farm, made me cry on both readings. *What The Trees Said* is notable Diamond’s transcription of tripping on acid, as well as his personal insights about Bloom, the LNS, and going “back to the land.”

Farm Friends by Fels is good background reading, but could be construed as navel-gazing.

Another related book from 2005, Amy Stevens’ *Daniel Shays’ Legacy?*, tries and fails to conflate Bloom with the western Mass tax resisters of two centuries back.

Stevens does, however, win the prize for best overall historic accounting of Marshall Bloom’s life, and she is the only writer to really take on his homosexuality, although she takes it too far and links his demise to a crush on Daniel Keller, fellow Amherst grad and leader of the neighboring “Wendell Farm.”

“Marshall had the unenviable position of being the leader of a leaderless group,” Fels said in a recent interview.

When the thrust shifted from politics to the more mundane practice of living off the land, Bloom didn’t know what to do. Cosseted, privileged, urbane, intellectual, sexually confused, Marshall Bloom, lost in Montague, lasted one year here.

I’ll buy that.



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ART from page B1

The seminal piece in the exhibit is “Tribute to the American Working People.” This five-panel piece is striking in its detail and color. She worked on the panels for five years and, as the related text next to the piece explains, wore out more than two hundred brushes doing it. This was the work that won her early recognition and great praise.

There is much whimsy throughout Sharrer’s work, as well as comments on the political and social climate in our country at that time. The painting, “Reception” is a wonderful conglomeration of topical leaders of the late 1950’s, including Senator Joseph McCarthy, Herbert Hoover, and Cardinal Spellman. In “Good Friday” she takes a religious theme and puts a modern twist on it: showing Saint John in a business suit smoking a cigarette, with Mary Magdalene and the Virgin Mary, as though off on an outing. The nonchalance and disregard for the copulating dogs is thought to be a commentary on the lack of emotional response in the US to the suffering in the rest of the world during the Viet Nam war.

The painting, “Leda and the Folks” depicts Elvis Presley as a naked Leda, with his parents behind him. Sharrer leaves no doubt as to who was the driving force in

that family. Another work, “Before the Divorce” is an interesting social commentary and an insight into Sharrer’s view of what she senses lies below the “skin” of reality. In much of her work the commentary can be as obvious as it is subtle, and requires a careful look to appreciate the message.

In that vein, be sure to read the comments next to many of the paintings. They are very well done and help us understand the artist’s intentions and applicability to the times she worked in.

Also in this exhibit are drawings that Sharrer did in her later years, when she was living through her decline into dementia. There is something quite powerful and touching in these simple drawings.

The exhibit will run until January 7. The Smith College Museum of Art hours are: Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sundays from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., and on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. General admission is \$5; seniors \$4; college students and youth under 18 are free.

One parking tip is that if you go during the day and can’t find parking on the street, there is metered parking behind the Forbes Library, around the corner



The Christmas Spectacular: Radio City Rockettes



By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

When I was a kid, I went to New York City on a bus tour with my mother that we learned about through a former dance teacher of mine. We enjoyed one of their restaurants. We went to FAO Schwarz, which was very crowded, and ended up getting my grandmother a bear in a box from them for a Christmas present that year.

We also saw the Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall. The whole thing wasn’t a bad experience to have.

The spectacular that featured the Rockettes has been going on since 1933. They have done many different types of performances. According to Wikipedia, two were called “Paradise of Wooden Soldiers” and “The Living Nativity.” They performed the Christmas show once in Branson, Missouri at the Grand Palace Theatre in 1994.

One interesting fact is that Radio City Music Hall was in terrible disrepair at one point, and they wanted to tear it down. New York City stepped in and saved the hall. If that hadn’t happened, the Radio City Christmas Spectacular that is the Rockettes would be gone.

New York City also expanded the Rockettes from just a short show and movie to what it is today by

1979. That’s how it became what it is now. I learned this from a special Christmas Though the Decades episode spotlighting the ‘70s.

A tour company of buses called First Choice Tours in South Deerfield offers trips to New York to see the Rockettes, and has been offering “every year,” according to Maria Baker, who has been the owner of the place for 10 years.

This year, she said, “About 250 have signed up to see the Radio City Rockettes,” when it comes to people who are traveling to see them with First Choice. She also added that the number is “about the same for previous years.”

Baker herself has been there to see the Rockettes. “It’s truly spectacular,” she said about the show. “It puts you right into the holiday spirit.”

The Rockettes have appeared in the TV special for Rockefeller Center’s tree lighting since it began in 2004, and the years after that, including this year’s special. The Rockettes being in that special backs up the tour company owner’s statement that they “put you right into the holiday spirit,” at least when it comes to Christmas in New York. They are a major part of the season there, and continue to be, even after they almost weren’t. I believe people just still enjoy the show.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Canal Road Bridge Worsens; Vehicle Break-Ins Continue

Monday, 12/4

8:26 a.m. Caller from Second Street reports that her daughter’s car was egged overnight. Upon advising her daughter’s school (a charter school in Greenfield) that she would be late due to the incident, caller was advised that the school had also been egged overnight. Advised of options.

4:56 p.m. Walk-in party states that her young daughter and her friend were followed on Turners Falls Road by a white male with a black hoodie driving a beat-up white pickup truck. They started running to get away and made it home safely. Investigated.

Tuesday, 12/5

12:50 a.m. Caller reporting suspicious vehicle on Avenue A across from Between the Uprights; silver hatchback has been running with lights on since at least 9:30 this evening. Officer clear; spoke with operator of vehicle; same advised on hard times and out for a drive.

1:38 a.m. First of series of reports of burglar alarms at Food City, Greenfield Cooperative Bank, and Town Hall; all appeared unfounded.

6:40 a.m. First of two calls from Grove Street reporting that vehicles were entered and gone through overnight. Loose change reported missing from one vehicle. Report taken.

6:47 a.m. 911 caller from Greenfield reporting disturbance in his apartment on Fifth Street. Caller warns that one of the involved parties is dangerous. Officers en route; peace restored.

7:28 a.m. First of four calls reporting vehicle break-ins on Park Street overnight. Items reported stolen include a dog’s thyroid medication, some loose change, a pair of iPod headphones, a woman’s coat, and a sweatshirt. Reports taken.

8:23 a.m. First of two calls reporting vehicle break-ins on Central Street overnight. Fifty dollars and two bottles of medication reported stolen from one vehicle; nothing missing from the other. Reports taken.

2:35 p.m. Caller states that there is a hypodermic needle near the sidewalk on Fifth Street. Item retrieved.

3:02 p.m. Caller from Second Street states that a black male in a hoodie is soliciting without a permit. Both involved parties advised of process; parties now in lobby filling out canvassing per-

mits. Advised parties they would be contacted once permits were signed.

5:55 p.m. Caller with the company that works in the Strathmore/Indeck building reports hearing parties talking inside as they were clearing. Call placed to DPW, who will meet PD down at the building.

Wednesday, 12/6

7:58 a.m. Caller from Third Street states that yesterday, a man with an expired solicitor’s permit came to her papa’s house and was asking to see his electric bill. Solicitor is scheduled to come back to the house today around 4 p.m. Caller advised to contact MPD if he shows up so that they can check his permits.

9:03 a.m. [REDACTED] was arrested on a straight warrant.

11:51 a.m. Party from Chestnut Street states that somebody broke into his vehicle over the weekend. Nothing appears to be missing.

11:56 a.m. Walk-in party reporting that the sidewalk in front of Aubuchon Hardware is blocking pedestrians and emergency responders to this area; requesting to speak with fire department.

12:19 p.m. Caller states that there is an intoxicated male bothering him at the bus stop on Bridge Street. Unable to locate.

2:17 p.m. Report of female driving into oncoming traffic on both Montague City Road and Turnpike Road. Female has pulled into cemetery off of Turnpike Road. Driver located; no impairment.

2:32 p.m. Caller advising that several vehicles have been speeding westbound on Millers Falls Road between 2:30 and 2:45 p.m.

9:52 p.m. Caller stating she is on her way to the station because a male kicked the door to her vehicle, causing damage. Report taken.

Thursday, 12/7

10:13 p.m. Caller reports seeing suspicious person

taking pictures of several houses along Crescent Street. Referred to an officer.

3:29 p.m. Report of hunter set up less than 150 feet from the road with his firearm pointed in the direction of Millers Falls Road/travel lanes. Officer off with subject. Verified valid firearms ID. Subject was more than 150 feet from the roadway but his firearm was aimed in the direction of the road. Subject advised.

Friday, 12/8

12:25 a.m. Caller from Second Street reporting that she was chased into her car by German Shepherds from a neighboring residence. Officer requesting day shift to attempt to make contact with male party who lives at described home and advise him of incident, complaint, and leash law. Copy of call left for animal control officer.

8:42 a.m. Report of strong odor of sewage in area of Rod Shop Road. Odor has been present since yesterday. TFFD detected moderate odor but did not locate a source on Rod Shop Road. Area checked; odor determined to be coming from wastewater treatment plant.

11:18 a.m. Caller reports that the resident at the corner of Fourth and J streets has put painted decorative rocks on the side of the road on town property in front of the house. Caller concerned that with snow forecast for this weekend, the rocks may create a hazard and get pushed into her driveway, where they could break her snowblower. Rocks moved out of public way onto tree belt.

2:30 p.m. Walk-in party reporting that he drove over the bump on the Canal Road bridge and his vehicle bottomed out. No known damage, but party is concerned that the bump is getting worse. Caller

advised of options and given contact information for MassHighway.

3:12 p.m. Report of solicitor going door to door on G Street claiming to be with “Spark Energy.” Subject asked to see caller’s electric bill. Officer off with party. Subject was warned previously re: soliciting without a permit; BOP shows related charges out of Lowell from February. Subject advised and warned for last time about correct process.

4:55 p.m. Caller reporting that an old friend who lived with him, against whom caller now has a protective order, has a cat that is still in the apartment and that the cat “attacked his son.” Officer familiar with whole situation is returning call. Investigated.

10:02 p.m. Report from F.L. Roberts worker that there was a highly intoxicated male walking in the alley between Third and Fourth streets with no shirt on. Unable to locate.

10:35 p.m. 911 caller from Coolidge Avenue reporting that he witnessed a male party gain entry to his vehicle. When caller began to bang on the window, subject took off on foot down Coolidge toward George Avenue. All units responding to area. Caller states that nothing is missing. Investigated.

Saturday, 12/9

1:42 p.m. First of several calls reporting slippery conditions and vehicles off road. DPW, PD, and FD responding.

8:57 p.m. Caller arrived home a few minutes ago and realized that she had left the front door unlocked. She believes that a man may have come into the apartment because she found the toilet seat in the “up” position. She also found her cat in the drawer of a dresser that is on her front porch. Apartment cleared by officers on scene; no one found inside.

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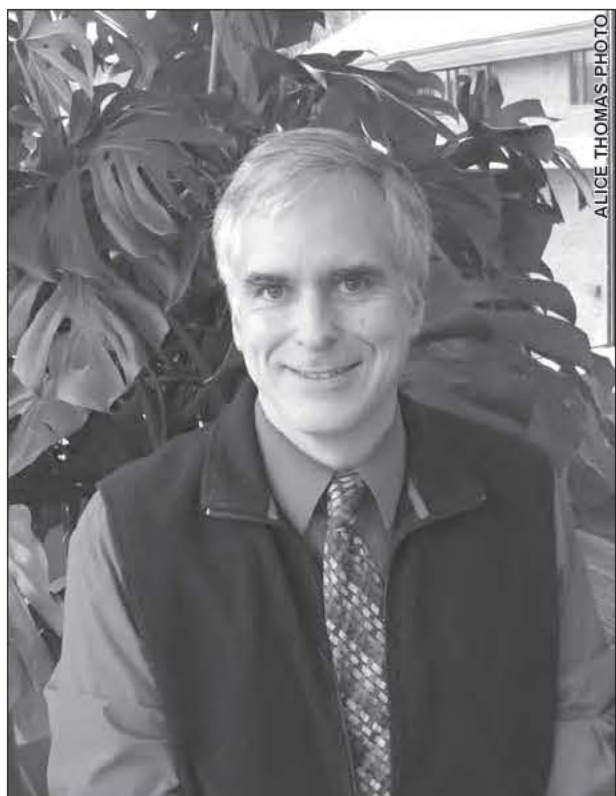
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Steve Damon: A Very Busy Man!



Damon is the founder, director, and lead educator of *A Natural Music School* in Gill.

By ALICE THOMAS

GILL – Steve Damon is a musician whose work includes being a music teacher, band leader and conductor, as well as performer-instructor with children and adults. He works closely with local and regional cultural councils providing musical programs over the years, having a busy work schedule in the tri-state region (MA-VT-NH) and from his business address: A Natural Music School in Gill.

The first musical instrument he learned as a 5th-grader at the Newton School in Greenfield was the tenor sax, and it has remained his favorite instrument over all throughout his years of learning, teaching and playing. But this is just one of his many instruments. His list includes: flute, clarinet, oboe, saxophone, trombone, trumpet, baritone horn, and percussion.

Now, his days are filled playing, organizing, planning, scheduling, teaching, conducting, and engaging people of all ages and abilities in music. Having lived in Greenfield until he married, Steve and his wife, Joyana, purchased their home in Gill in 2002 where they live and raise their son Isaac, who attends Pioneer as an 8th grader. An integral member of his community, Steve also engages in local maple sugaring and serves as vice president of education for the Massachusetts Association of Agricultural Commissions.

Steve once had a full-time position teaching in a public school district. When the job was altered, Steve took stock of his skills and soon decided that he was too qualified and overly educated to continue what he was doing. Therefore, he hired himself. From that time on, he began his instructional business, named it “A Natural Music School” – and off he went as founder, director, and lead educator of his business.

Today, he teaches three and a half days as a per-diem teacher of music in local schools, and a voice, instrument, and chorus teacher at Gill and Whately schools in Massachusetts and in Guilford, Vermont.

His wife Joyana also teaches at the public school in Vernon and Brattleboro, VT as well as schools in Charlemont and Northfield. Steve privately teaches instruments at the A Natural Music School in an after-school format for some students.

The most important aspect of Steve’s skills is that he understands how music is an underlying part of literature, history, movement, math, social sciences, recreation, academics, culture, and life-skills for all. He’s also educated and practiced in Responsive Classroom techniques. Aside from all that, he’s one of those people who understands people and how to enjoy them.

An avid reader, Steve visits and teaches at regional libraries and engages children in “musical story time” that includes games, dances and sometimes offers music in association with story-making as he plays an instrument. Library visit programs include folk songs, dances, and music history.

He visits senior centers in various towns on the first and third Mondays. His current territory includes all senior centers located in the counties of Franklin, Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire, Berkshire, Middlesex, and Suffolk in Massachusetts, as well as Windham County, VT and New London and Hartford counties, CT. This is a time he describes as potpourri; one in which he offers sing-a-longs, name that tune, seated folk dances, and opportunities for wheel-chair dancing. He sometimes engages children along with seniors for cross-generational opportunities, as well as prescribed physical therapy movements (with therapist instruction).

Along with this busy schedule, Steve and his school lead a concert band of professional musicians and educators. This affords him the opportunity to organize and conduct a bit more.

Steve says he loves to do this, and has only two requirements for new members: 1) they must have a very high level of musicianship, and 2) they must be happy and friendly. The band has a tentative 2018 concert schedule for three performances in the Winchester, NH Concert Gazebo, the Gill Town Common, and the Ellen E. James School in Williamsburg, MA.

Steve recommends that audience members consult his website to verify the final schedule at anaturalmusicschool.org as well as the school’s Facebook page. This schedule includes a celebratory A Natural Concert Band 2018 for the 100th birthday of Leonard Bernstein.

Because music is so integral to who Steve is, he teams with other music groups and invites special visitors to Gill, such as a New York City jazz trio as well as world music entities. He is in contact with other musicians in Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts to make referrals in case someone lives too far from him but still want lessons.

A professional for over 29 years, Steve has many memories. When I asked him his favorite memory, he referred to the jazz performers from New York City as an “over the top” collaboration. When I asked about his favorite age of child to teach, he immediately responded “4-year-olds; third-graders... because they have enough skills for all sorts of things and want to learn everything.”

Steve spoke extensively about Igor Stravinsky, his favorite composer, not just because his music is exceptional (he noted *The Firebird*, 1910), but because his life was energy-driven, in the face of being considered “unmusical” at times and having difficult financial situations. Stravinsky remained motivated and worked in several countries under several composers to achieve his goals, and this is the model Steve sometimes puts forward to children who become anxious about their progress.

Keep a look-out for his Old Fashioned Sing-A-Long at the Gill Town Hall, and other programs such as a Groundhog Day contra-dance, and his summer Common People Concert series in Gill and Franklin County’s Annual Crop Walk.

To reach Steve, call A Natural Music School at (413) 863-2850 or email anaturalmusicschool@yahoo.com.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was December 13, 2007: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

GMRSD Votes To Close Montague Center School

On Tuesday, the Gill-Montague School committee voted 8-1 to close the Montague Center School, and move the first and second grades out of Hillcrest, bringing a long and passionate debate on reconfiguring the Montague elementary schools to a close.

For now.

The proposal that eventually passed would allow a period of three months for a community group to form to support a different governing structure to keep either Montague Center or Hillcrest open as a charter school, magnet school, or pilot school within the district.

The motion to consolidate schools had failed by one vote just two weeks ago, and it seemed like the board might once again get bogged down in the wording of the motion, until chair Mary Kociela spoke up.

“I’m going to step out of my role as chairperson,” Kociela said. “I really feel like we have a good motion in front of us that we can vote on tonight. There are endless questions. We could sit here another five years,” and fine tune this.

“Nothing we come up with is going to be a done deal. We need very badly to move forward. I feel like we are putting the district at risk if we don’t, and I feel very strongly about this.”

Kociela’s comments seemed to galvanize the rest of the board. Earlier, interim G-M superintendent Ken Rocke had voiced similar feelings: “Resolving the elementary school configuration is the biggest step to a turnaround, and it’s in the best interest of all if we make a decision on that tonight.”

Gill Financial Woes Deepen

The town of Gill has been running for the last five months on borrowed time, and with borrowed money.

“What really concerns me is, we don’t have a budget. We’re borrowing our budget... part of it anyway,” lamented selectboard member Nancy Griswold. Griswold pinned the town’s financial

plight on the delay by the state Department of Revenue in certifying Gill’s property values, which has held up the town’s ability to set a tax rate and mail out 2008 tax bills. “The town has done everything it can do to resolve the issue,” Griswold said.

Consequently, Gill has had to take out a three-month, \$650,000 loan to keep the town’s bills paid on time.

Also waiting in the wings is a \$93,000 Proposition 2½ override vote – now delayed until February, to coincide with the new date for Massachusetts’ presidential primary – to fully fund town departmental budgets and the Gill-Montague school assessment for the current fiscal year. The board has repeatedly put off the date for the override until a tax rate can be set, believing that residents would be unwilling to approve the measure until they can ascertain what its actual impact on their taxes will be.

New Owner At The Book Mill

Most of Susan Shilliday’s friends reacted as if she were out of her mind when she announced she was taking off to take the helm of a fantastic place in far off Montague! Moving away from L.A.? Whoever heard of such thing? How to breathe normally away from the sweet-center air of the City of Angels? What about the terribly cold winter of New England? And how to convince them you were serious, taking on your first retail endeavor in a former hydro-powered machine shop miles from the nearest highway, selling *Books You Don’t Need in a Place You Can’t Find!*

Some people travel life’s tight-rope without a safety net. Others plod through melting slush in waterlogged snowshoes. Still others live to dream, until their dreams become reality, and take wing. Such a one is she, the new owner of the Montague Book Mill.

In the past, Shilliday would sit quietly at the Book Mill and work at her screenplays, her *métier*, when visiting Lizzi, her older daughter, attending Hampshire College.

Shilliday is the first woman to succeed seven gallant men who ran the Book Mill for the past 15 passionate years.

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WEST ALONG from page B1

One must have a mind of winter
To regard the frost and the boughs
Of the pine trees
crusted with snow...

When I was younger I used to call this the Magic Month, perhaps owing to the different spiritual and cultural feel of this season, the snowy landscape. It still is for me the time to give myself permission to step outside of real time, and beyond the real world. So bear with me.

December 4. Last night I heard the owl call my name.

I borrow that title from a wonderful book. If you were to hear this owl, you'd know what I'm getting at.

It started when I stepped out the front door in the winter twilight, with the prospect of a brisk night walk following behind the white plume of the snowdog's tail, straight up, billowing like a flag, and full of dog's business. The leash is taut, and he's following the black truffle of his husky nose twitching and decoding the night air.

Then, from my own tall sentinel white pines in the old pasture along the river, but close by, the great horned owl boomed. There's no other voice like his. It comes from somewhere deep in his chest, as if someone trying to imitate his voice were hidden deep in a distant hollow tree, calling out ever so faint and yet ever so loud.

I stopped dead in my tracks, dog straining at the leash, wanting to keep moving forward up the street. So many smells to investigate, he wasn't paying attention to me, transfixed, at the other end of the leash. This primitive voice of the owl was echoing out over this valley as it has for the last ten thousand years. Only this time, in the last month of 2017, I'm here to listen and witness, once again in this early December.

December 9. The morning before the first snow, if snow there will be. It can come down now if it wants, as far as I'm concerned. The check list of chores mostly done: feeders are up and full, most leaves raked, wood split and stacked, Christmas tree brought in and set up for decorating tonight.

Ornaments brought down from the closet in the north bedroom where generations of artifacts find a home, to sit and wait until needed. The garden is still full of autumn weed stalks and old kale. The 1912 Glenwood C cookstove is cleaned, blackened, its chrome borders and shelves all shining.

Down at the edge of the river island, the beavers have amassed reserves of branches and brush anchored in the mud for munching when ice and snow cover cove and river banks.

The woodpeckers have located the suet, windows have been washed, mainly on the outside, the wreath is hung by the front door, Christmas cards are ready for writing one of these nights at the kitchen table.

Piles of Orvis and LL Bean magazines are stacking up near the easy chair by the stove – they just keep coming! The mailman is burdened by the advertising flood, day after

day I feel like I'm bailing out a boat filling up and in danger of sinking under the shiny, colored ephemeral temptation in the form of Christmas catalogs. Remember when the Sears and Roebuck catalog was the only one that made it to our door, and was the only one that mattered?

Out of doors the familiar swirl of the blue jay flock drops from the sky. Faint monosyllables from the quiet white throated sparrow accompany the muted tree sparrow, both intent on filling up before the long night.

Will it snow tonight? Let it snow. It's time.

One must have a mind of winter...
To have been cold a long time
To behold the trees shagged with ice
The spruces rough
in the distant glitter...

December 10. Well, snow it has. The first flakes drifted down on Saturday noon, noticeable outside the nursing home windows on the second floor. The elderly residents barely paid attention, most staring off into space, nodding or watching absently "It's a Wonderful Life" on TMC, the sound turned way down.

I ended my Saturday visit there with the arrival of the first flakes, and by the time I had dropped by to see *mon oncle Albert* nearby, the ground was already white.

A few hours later, home from grocery shopping and Christmas shopping, the car put away. We decorate the tree, with the snow drifting down, what could be more typical? Pine branch kindling crackling in the fireplace, the snow swirls down under the streetlight.

Of course the dog will want his snow walk under the first flakes of the season, so off we go up the snowy street, beyond the old canal and factory, and into the upper village. We walk the back streets, empty, and bright with the season's decorations. They're sweeping the floor and putting the chairs up at the Element Brewery, no chance to pop in for a nightcap, besides the dog is too excited to sit still in there for long.

We chat with strangers down a side street before crossing back over the bridge and the rushing, noisy river below. Down to the neighborhood we go, back to our own familiar street where the sidewalk ends and the dark woods begin. The creatures who watch us from those dark woods know who we are, I wonder what names they give us?

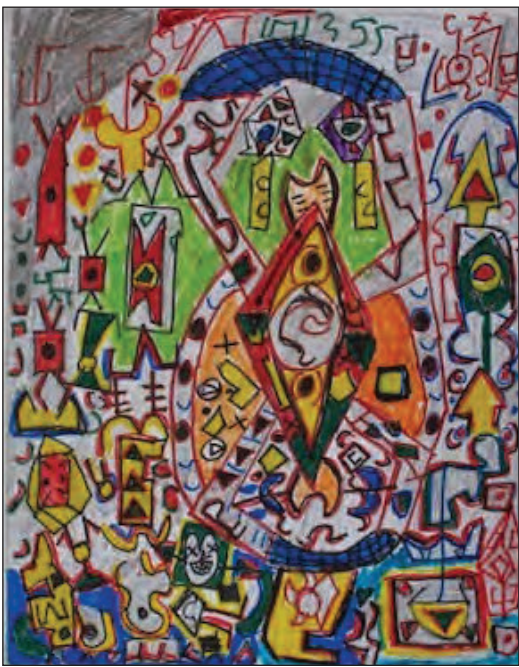
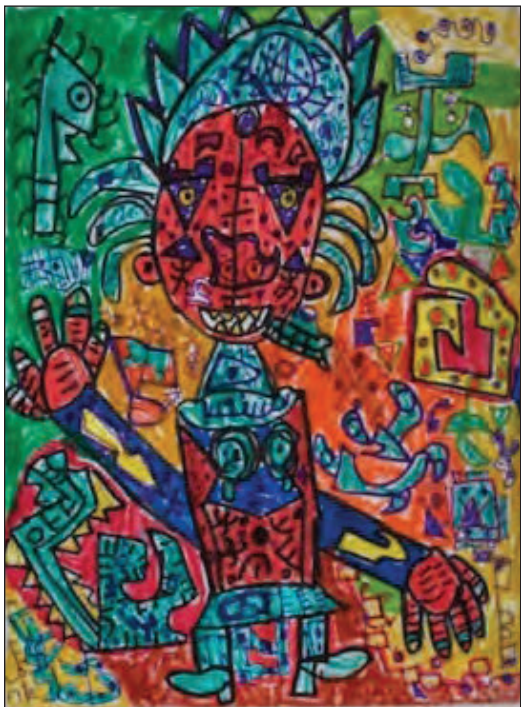
In the morning the skies will be gray, briefly a salmon pink sunrise in the east, from under the cloud cover. We'll be out early to see where the fox and opossum have visited, their secret night wanderings now revealed as writing in the fresh snow.

... The sound of the land –
For the listener who listens
in the snow,
And, nothing himself, beholds
Nothing that is not there and the nothing
that is.

– Wallace Stevens



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MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

We hope you like the snow, because winter's just begun!

Join us for our new video which brings a representative from 4-H to Greenfield Savings Bank, to tell us about what's happening in our area for youth activities. 4-H clubs, developed by a community of over 100 public universities across the country, bring all kinds of activities to youth in every county across the US.

Youth between ages 5-18 engage in activities ranging from animal care clubs, to theater, to games, and even a kindness club recently started at Whately Elementary. The possibilities for 4-H clubs are endless. Because of its

basis in research universities, 4-H represents the best practices in youth development today, with a great emphasis on civics and engaged citizenship.

To learn more about these possibilities for your children, check out our video on montaguenv.org, watch for it in our TV schedule, or call 1 (800) 374-4446 and visit www.mass4h.org.

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, or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We'd love to work with you!

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Aquí se habla español

Esta es la página en español del periódico *The Montague Reporter*. Aquí podrán encontrar cuestiones acerca de la comunidad hispana, eventos de interés, curiosidades, y noticias en español. Si quiere colaborar o compartir alguna sugerencia, envíenos un correo electrónico a: spanish@montaguereporter.org. Esperamos su participación.



El presidente no tiene quien le ría.

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO

WASHINGTON, DC – A finales del mes pasado el presidente Trump invitó a la Casa Blanca a representantes de la nación navaja que habían luchado en la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

Su ayuda a la hora de descifrar los mensajes secretos de los japoneses fue incommensurable. Durante el conflicto los japoneses no tuvieron ninguna dificultad con los mensajes militares ya que muchos de ellos habían estudiado en universidades estadounidenses y podían hablar inglés perfectamente. La armada estadounidense ya había sufrido el desastre de Pearl Harbor y no podía permitirse otro descalabro. Un veterano estadounidense de la Primera Guerra Mundial tuvo una idea: ¿Y si usamos la lengua de los navajos como código secreto?

Y dicho y hecho, los navajos crearon un código secreto basado en su lengua que contribuyó a la victoria de los aliados en el Pacífico. La historia dice que sin ellos los marines jamás habrían podido conquistar Iwo Jima.

Fueron recibidos por el presidente Trump el 27 de noviembre pasado en la Casa Blanca con el fin de agradecer los servicios prestados. Donald Trump los recibió en la sala oval de la Casa Blanca bajo un retrato del presidente Andrew Jackson. Para los que no lo sepan, el presidente Jackson fue el responsable de la Ley de traslado forzoso de los indígenas, conocida en inglés como *Indian Removal Act*.

La ley promovía y, en algunos casos, obligaba a las tribus nativo-americanas que tenían sus territorios al este del Mississippi a trasladarse al oeste de dicho río. Esta decisión provocó no solamente la desunión entre diferentes tribus debido a su actitud hacia la ley, sino también la muerte de unos 4.000 *Cherokees* en el llamado Sendero de las lágrimas (Trail of tears). La muerte de los indígenas fue provocada por las condiciones meteorológicas, la ausencia de alimentos y el acoso de las autoridades estadounidenses.

El presidente Trump ha manifestado en diferentes ocasiones ser un gran admirador del presidente Jackson.

Trump empezó su discurso ante los miembros de la nación navaja con halagos, reconociendo su presencia en este país antes de los blancos, y acto seguido, cargó contra uno de sus rivales políticos, la senadora por Massachusetts, Elizabeth Warren, a la que trató de ridiculizar utilizando la figura de Pocahontas. Los héroes navajos pusieron cara de circunstancias ante el comentario y solamente el presidente se sonrió ante su propio chiste. El comentario fue reportado por medios nacionales e internacionales como una calumnia racista.

Pocahontas, para muchos el personaje asociado con Disney, fue



Señal en conmemoración del Sendero de las lágrimas.

en realidad Matoaka, una joven indígena hija del jefe de la nación Powhatan. Pocahontas era su mote que significa traviesa o mimada. Su historia no es la leyenda edulcorada que nos presentaron en la película de dibujos animados, sino muy al contrario, una historia triste de violencia y colonización. Pocahontas fue raptada por los ingleses cuando tenía unos 17 años y retenida en cautividad.

Uno de los ingleses, John Rolfe quedó prendado de ella y le ofreció la libertad a cambio de casarse con él. Así pues Matoaka se convirtió en Rebeca Rolfe, y tuvo un hijo con el comerciante de tabaco. Fue llevada a Inglaterra y exhibida

como algo exótico. Años después volvió a Virginia, donde murió a la edad de 21 años.

Después del momento vivido durante la ceremonia en la Casa Blanca, los representantes de la nación navaja se apresuraron a dar un comunicado agradeciendo educadamente haber sido recibidos por el presidente, pero lamentando el uso del nombre de Pocahontas para burlarse de Warren y de la desafortunada coincidencia de la foto debajo del retrato de Jackson, añadiendo también la falta de sensibilidad cultural mostrada por Trump.

Trump empezó a usar el mote de Pocahontas para referirse a Warren durante la pasada campaña electo-

OPINIÓN

#MeToo ... #YoTambién.

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO

Si ustedes disponen de redes sociales, se habrán dado cuenta de que muchas mujeres han escrito en ellas *#YoTambién*, o *#MeToo* en inglés. Esta campaña en Facebook o Twitter fue popularizada por la actriz Alissa Milano en el contexto de las acusaciones realizadas contra el famoso productor de Hollywood, Harvey Weinstein.

Lo cierto es que la primera mujer que empezó a usarla fue la activista por los derechos de las mujeres de color, Tarana Burke, como respuesta a una carta de una menor que confesaba haber sido violada. Milano escribió en su red social sobre su propia historia de acoso e invitó a otras mujeres a responder con el hashtag diciendo *#MeToo* si habían sufrido la misma experiencia. La

respuesta se hizo viral.

Las entradas en las redes sociales llegaron a ser más de un millón en todo el mundo, incluyendo 85 países, entre ellos: Pakistán, Guatemala o Filipinas. Algunas mujeres contaron por primera vez la experiencia vivida. Había mujeres de todo tipo, con profesiones comunes y también muchas famosas, como América Ferrera que contó que había sido acosada cuando solamente tenía nueve años por un hombre adulto.

Así se inició la campaña más importante en los últimos años que ha sacado a la luz el acoso sufrido por las mujeres en todos los campos profesionales, y en diferentes momentos de nuestra vida. Tarana Burke al principio criticó la campaña al considerar que no había dado su sitio a las mujeres pertenecientes a minorías.

Tablón de anuncios

Clases de español con Lucio

¿Estás buscando un lugar acogedor para practicar tu español? ¿Tomaste español en la escuela secundaria, pero descubres que estás un poco fuera de práctica? ¿O te gustaría comenzar a aprender español desde el principio?

Lucio, el inmigrante refugiado en la iglesia en Amherst, está organizando sesiones de conversación en español. Estas sesiones informales de conversación serán una oportunidad para que las personas de diferentes niveles de español desarrollen su vocabulario y confianza en el idioma. Ambas sesiones individuales y grupales están disponibles.

Si está interesado/interesada, escriba un correo electrónico a pwwc-spanishclasses@gmail.com.



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Si quieren saber más acerca de estas necesidades y cómo pueden ayudar no duden en ponerse en contacto con asociaciones comunitarias y sin ánimo de lucro de nuestra comunidad. ¡Gracias de antemano por su solidaridad!

ral en 2016. Todo empezó cuando Scott Brown, rival político de Warren en Massachusetts, acusó a esta de mentir acerca de su ascendencia indígena. Warren siempre dijo que no tenía pruebas y que se basaba simplemente en historias recogidas por su familia. Warren nunca ha utilizado su procedencia para conseguir becas, empleo u otro tipo de ayudas.

La secretaria de prensa de la Casa Blanca, Sarah Sanders, en una rueda de prensa al día siguiente, desmintió que las intenciones del presidente fueran ofensivas y pasó a la carga contra la senadora Warren, llamándola mentirosa.

A principios de este mes de diciembre, Trump una vez más entró en conflicto con la nación navaja al firmar la mayor reducción de terrenos federales llevada a cabo por un presidente, el 85% de la Reserva Nacional de Bear Ears y la mitad de Grand Staircase- Escalante. A partir de ahora estas tierras podrán ser explotadas para actividades privadas como minería, gas, petróleo o la tala de árboles.

Las protestas ante esta decisión no se hicieron esperar y tanto grupos ecologistas como cinco tribus nativo-americanas, entre ellas la de los navajos, ya han adelantado su decisión de demandar al presidente.



Una imagen de la campaña #MeToo

Otras voces dicen que algunas mujeres quizás ni siquiera se hayan atrevido a denunciarlo, no quieran hacerlo o quizás tengan miedo y no se sientan protegidas ni siquiera bajo el paraguas de una campaña viral como esta. Otras críticas han surgido diciendo que el hashtag podría hacer sufrir a mujeres que habían sufrido experiencias traumáticas.

Recientemente la revista Time ha querido reconocer el movimiento dándole el título de Persona del Año, que fue otorgado el año pasa-

do a Donald Trump.

No estoy en desacuerdo con la campaña, pero como todo en esta vida, no se pueden medir los diferentes casos con el mismo rasero. No es lo mismo una víctima de una violación, que alguien que ha recibido piropos subidos de tono en la calle, o ha sentido la mano de su jefe en el lugar donde la espalda pierde su nombre, ni siquiera es igual que la mujer que ha sido víctima de grave acoso laboral en su trabajo. No es lo mismo.

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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 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. 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.

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:

Artspace Art Center, Greenfield: *Sensorium*. Local artists affiliated with GCC. Reception Friday, December 1, 5 p.m. Through December 20.

DVAA Center for the Arts, Northfield: *Gifts for the Holidays Show*. Over fifty member artists and

herst: Are you a printmaker creating work with a social message? Hope & Feathers invites you to *Give a Sh*t* - a printmaking show co-curated by B.Z. Reily. Politically-leaning 2D prints (any type of print - including: intaglio, relief, serigraphy, photopolymer, letterpress, monotype, collagraph, mixed media). Artists may submit up to 3 works. More info on the website hopeandfeathers.com.



Virginia Murphy, occupational therapist, in the former occupational therapy room of the Northampton State Hospital, in this 1992 photograph by Stan Sherer. Part of the "Vanished" exhibit at Historic Northampton. "Vanished" tells the story of the Northampton State Hospital through the words of the employees, Stan Sherer's photographs, commentary by J. Michael Moore, and historical photographs from the collection of Historic Northampton. Ends December 22.

crafters are participating in a first holiday art show and sale at the new DVAA location in Northfield. Through December 25.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Paintings by Paul Hoffman*. Whimsical worlds, intricate geometries. Through December.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Rossi Round-Up!* Gallery owner Nina Rossi presents her favorite works: Chard, Railroad Salvage, and Turners Falls are some of the subjects of her art. Through December.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Andrew Quient: An Intersection of Pottery & Architecture*: Ceramics & Drawing. Inspired by history, drawings on ceramic vessels. Through December 31.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Bob Compton, "Drawing in Steel"*. Fine art of forged steel. Through December 31.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *"Illumination"* brings light to a time of darkness. Paintings, prints, photographs, sculpture, fiber art, and glass relate to the theme of illumination in its many symbolic, metaphorical, and literal aspects. Through January.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Paintings by Janet Palin*. Through December.

CALL FOR ART

Hope and Feathers Gallery, Am-

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Jeff Holmes with Dawning Holmes Vocals*. Jeff Holmes plays piano and trumpet, and is a composer and arranger. He is the Director of Jazz Studies at UMass. Dawning Holmes is a vocalist and composer/lyricist. Together they perform jazz, soul, gospel, blues, contemporary, and more. 7 p.m. \$

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *LightenUp Trio*. Folk, rock, jazz and more from the 1950s to today. 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *New Vaudeville Holiday Spectacular*. Creative artists working on the theme of Communion create song, story, and other skits. 7:30 p.m.\$

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Curtis Rich and Friends*. Guitar and what else-? Come find out. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Butterfly Swing Band*. Fun, danceable, joyous music with a classic swing groove. Dance lessons from 7 to 8 p.m. with music until 10:30 p.m. \$

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Awesome Art in Motion* perfor-

mance and family dance party, 1 p.m. Screening of holiday classic *It's a Wonderful Life* at 3 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *The DeepC Divers* and opening by *The Wendell Warriors* (drumming group) and *The 2 Elements* (pop rock and reggae). Pub will be open from 6:30 p.m. Cover charge after 9 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Hamp Getdown*. a diverse showcase of arts and music from western Mass. An evening of great music, arts and merchandise from local vendors. 7 p.m. \$

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *New Vaudeville Holiday Spectacular*. Creative artists working on the theme of Communion create song, story, and other skits. 7:30 p.m.\$

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Werewolf of London*. The juice of a rare Tibetan flower is the only thing that keeps Dr. Glendon from turning into a werewolf during a full moon in this movie. Preceded by an episode of "Radar Men From the Moon": number 12: "Death of the Moon Man". 7:30 p.m.

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Caban, Harris and Rodriguez*. Acoustic trio with Evelyn Harris. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Cannibal Boom, Tundra Toddler, Loone*. Indie rock bands. 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne Falls: *Yani Bateau Americana*. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Light the Night Chanukah Celebration*. Chanukah is a Jewish holiday, an annual celebration of resistance and religious freedom. Chanukah always falls during the coldest, darkest time of year, a time when we all need warmth, light and hope. Music, dancing, candlemaking, games, crafts, activities for families. Bring your menorah! 4 p.m. \$

Wesley Methodist Church, Hadley: *Greenfield Harmony Community Chorus Holiday Concert*. Specializing in Eastern European music, the 65 member choral group is directed by Mary Cay Brass and sings "thrilling, soulful songs." 5 p.m. \$

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Tribute to Leonard Cohen Night* with Kevin Keady and friends singing and playing Leonard Cohen songs. 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Shad Ladder Radio Hour*. Musical guest: *Wild Bill and the Flying Sparks*. Locally-sourced, live-recorded community radio,

from our cast and crew to your listening ear. 7:30 p.m. \$

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

Baystate Franklin Medical Center, Greenfield: *Celebrate the Season*, a Choral Concert with the Clinical Notes, the medical center's women's a cappella chorus. 5:30 p.m. Donations encouraged.

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