



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

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\$1

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 1, 2018

THE BIG PICTURE

The Man of Possibility: Joseph A. Parzych



Above: One of the trucks in the J. A. Parzych entourage. Top right: Joseph A. Parzych, today.

By LAURA RODLEY

GILL – You might know Joseph A. Parzych through *Jep's Place*, his autobiography of growing up on his family's farm, or *Reader's Digest*, or as journalist and photographer for *Hard Hat News* or *The Montague Reporter*. Retired twice from the *Reporter*, he always springs back.

The Early Years

Born at home, the Gill native son entered the army at 17, serving in Japan with the Army of Occupation in the 127th Parachute-glider Division, Infantry Regiment. While on base, he graduated from Pittsburg, California evening high school. Discharged November 1947, he attended Turners Falls High School, graduated with honors, then

attended and graduated from the Mount Hermon School for Boys in Gill, fulfilling a lifelong ambition.

He is one of 13 children. His father and his mother each brought three children to their marriage, and had seven more together. His parents were Polish, and they spoke only Polish at their home in Gill.

Entering kindergarten Parzych, too, only spoke Polish, learned English as a second language, and helped interpret for his parents – a skill for which his father was not grateful.

Not understanding his son's inquisitive mechanical genius ensued in a daily tug-of-war, as explored in *Jep's Place*.

Indomitability is in his blood: his grandfather, Joseph Parzych, survived almost three years in a prison camp in Siberia; to "return

see PARZYCH page A5

The Week in TFHS Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

The Turners Falls cheerleaders, who have stalwartly attended and loudly supported Powertown's sports teams, have been performing with one piece of the pyramid missing.

Journey Smalls, who braved all sorts of weather to cheer on her classmates, is out with an injury. She still goes to games, but now leads cheers from the stands.

According to *Forbes*, "Cheerleading is actually the most injury-prone sport for women," and Smalls' injury is a good reminder of this. We're rooting for her recovery.

This week, the Turners Falls swim teams ended their regular season, said goodbye to their departing seniors, and prepared for one

last meet.

The girls' basketball team suffered two lopsided losses before reversing their fortunes against McCann Tech, leaving them with an 8-5 record with seven games to play. In the Franklin South Conference, they're tied with Ware for second place at 3-1 with 4 conference games left.

The boys' basketball team also played three games this week, splitting the first two and losing the third by a point after nearly pulling off an amazing comeback. They are at 4-10, with a 0-5 record in the Hampshire South Conference.

Girls Swimming

Renaissance 47 – TFHS 40

On Senior Night, Friday January 26, the Turners Falls swim teams hosted the Phoenix of Renaissance School. Before the meet began, Turners said goodbye to their graduating seniors, Peyton Emery and Nick Taylor.

Turners and Phoenix both have small squads; in some events, teams fielded only one contestant each, and in others only one student swam, ensuring first place. This led to a relatively quick meet. Neither Emery nor Jade Tyler dressed for the girls' meet, but they were present to give emotional support.

The Girls swept the relays, bolstering their score by 18 points. In the 200-yard medley relay Allison Wheeler, Olivia Whittier, Jordan Muniz, and Lillian Poirier finished in 2:34.91. The 200-yard freestyle quartet, Wheeler, Abigail Johnson, Catie Reynolds, and Whittier, won in 2:15.40, while Muniz, Reynolds, Poirier, and Johnson took the 400-yard freestyle in 5:39.43.

In individual events, Wheeler won the see TFHS SPORTS page A4



Turners' Aliyah Sanders works the ball past Frontier's Ariana Walker as Powertown falls prey to the Red Hawks, 43-19.

GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

School Committee Votes 8-1 To Extend Sullivan's Contract

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – The Gill-Montague school committee voted Tuesday night to grant district superintendent Michael Sullivan a two-year extension on his contract and a 5.6% raise.

Though Sullivan, who has held the position since 2013, is two years into a three-year contract, committee members said they wanted to "tie him up" in the face of competi-

tion from other districts.

"Since I've been on the committee, this is the first superintendent – this is eight years, for me – who has really been dedicated to this district," said Gill member Jane Oakes. "And that makes a huge difference, in terms of continuity."

"If I thought there were other candidates out there who were likely to be an improvement, I wouldn't necessarily be in a big hurry to

make this move," said Montague's Mike Langknecht. "I don't believe that's the case. I think the fact that others are looking at our superintendent backs that up."

The agreement, which extends Sullivan's existing contract through June 2021, was approved by an 8-1 roll call vote, with Shawn Hubert of Gill alone in opposition.

"I don't know that it was in the best interest of the district, see GMRSD page A6



Tuesday's meeting was attended by the school committee, Sullivan (at right), one reporter, and one activist.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Officials "Hope" For Closure In Talks With Suspended Chief

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz and Christopher Boutwell both expressed hope, when approached after the board's Monday night meeting in Montague Center, that the status of suspended police chief Chip Dodge will be resolved at a closed executive session provisionally scheduled for February 5. "But", said Kuklewicz, "I've learned that hoping something happens is not the same as it happening."

Over the past year and a half, the Selectboard has held between 15 and 20 hours of closed-door sessions discussing the controversy that began with Dodge's handling of a

drop box for prescription drugs located at the public safety complex.

The first such executive session occurred in June 2016 after state police detectives descended on Montague to investigate allegations that Dodge had mishandled drugs from the box. Dodge was suspended for a weekend, but then reinstated with a strong statement of support from the selectboard.

That July, the town received word from the Northwest District Attorney's office, which oversees the prescription drug program, that Montague's drop box was being removed from the police station pending the outcome of the state investigation. Montague was also

see CHIEF page A3

Stayin' Alive: High Schoolers Will Train on CPR, Defibrillator Use

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

TURNERS FALLS – At an all-school assembly this Tuesday morning, Turners Falls High School students learned they would all be receiving training on hands-only CPR, along with the use of a new defibrillator being donated to the school.

In a ceremony at the start of the meeting, Shannon Small of the KEVS Foundation presented the school with a new automated external defibrillator (AED). An AED is used to restart the heart if someone collapses due to sudden cardiac arrest.

Athletic director Adam Graves led a presentation explaining the need for this training, and the benefit of having an AED easily avail-



BLANCHETTE PHOTO

Eliza Johnson (left) and fellow Turners Falls High School students demonstrated how to do hands-only CPR in the assembly Tuesday morning. Behind them is a schedule for trainings at the high school.

able for use. He told the students gathered in the auditorium that it was one of their fellow students, ninth-grader Eliza Johnson, who made the request to the KEVS Foundation for an AED to be given to the high school.

Eliza's mother, Amy

Johnson, tells the story of how she learned from a physician's assistant with whom she works about the sudden death of Westfield athlete Kevin Major in 2011. After discovering her son had an undiagnosed condition see CPR page A7

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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A Slick Betrayal

In his State of the Union address, Donald Trump said he was "proud to report that the coalition to defeat ISIS has liberated almost 100 percent of the territory once held by these killers in Iraq and Syria," and went on to describe an American soldier's valor in the battle to drive the jihadist militia out of Raqqa, a northern Syrian city it claimed as its capital from June 2013 to June 2017.

But while he's eager to claim credit for being in office on the other side of the world at the culmination of the nearly year-long campaign, he seems perfectly happy to abandon the actual leaders of that campaign to the wolves.

Northern Syria isn't just a chaotic patchwork of parties warring in the wake of the state's retreat. A large territory is now Rojava – the Kurdish West – and against all odds, it is the site of one of the world's most important experiments in democracy and inclusion.

Raqqa and many other IS-held cities have been liberated in large part – though with coalition air support – by an army known as the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), a pan-ethnic alliance led by the YPG and YPJ, Rojava's standing militias. The YPJ is an all-women fighting force numbering about 24,000.

Alongside these groups stands the International Freedom Battalion, an umbrella for groups of leftists and anti-fascists who traveled to the region from around the world to support the struggle.

While some of the region's armed actors fight for their religious beliefs, or out of sectarian or nationalist malice, these groups have been effective fighters because they are opening space for a modern miracle: in the middle of a global sacrifice zone, an autonomous territory home to millions of people, transforming on the basis of pluralist, feminist, environmentalist, and cooperative beliefs.

Rojava is a kind of historic mutation that grew out of a more traditional national-liberation movement of the Kurdish people, who are concentrated in more or less contiguous regions of Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria.

It's easy to imagine a people long kept under the boot of four brutal nation-states dreaming of a national state of their own. But after years of fighting, many young Kurds are trying to start something better than that – an end to that whole system, and the wars it engenders.

Rojava's constitution, explic-

itly for "Kurds, Arabs, Assyrians, Turkmen and Armenians, Chechens, Circassians, Muslims and Christians and Yezidis and various others," begins with an open critique of "the nation-state, which has brought the problems and acute crises and tragedies of our people" in a region "plagued by authoritarian dictatorships," and prescribes in its place a system in which "all segments of people will form their democratic institutions, foremost of which are women and youth."

Rojava is no utopia – the territory is teeming with internally displaced people, and it would be absurd to expect a new system of worker cooperatives to be able to feed them overnight. But it is a remarkably progressive political project which should be studied, supported, and defended around the world.

In a way, it is the opposite counterpart to the genocidal caliphate built by IS. Rojava is the nucleus of a social revolution that could spread across the whole region. And now that its fighters have served as the vanguard in the campaign to push IS out of Syria – the international community is turning its back.

Rojava, after all, stretches along the border with Turkey, whose government considers the YPG and YPJ terrorist groups, citing their historical affiliations with the banned PKK. Turkish president Recep Erdogan begged Barack Obama to exclude the Kurdish groups from the Raqqa campaign, and now that it is over, he has gained Russia's implicit approval to invade Syria and attack Rojava.

The shelling began January 19, followed by air strikes and then a ground invasion. Turkish troops and Turkish-backed Syrian militia seized seven villages in the western canton of Afrin, displacing thousands and preparing for a siege of the capital town, also called Afrin.

Over 300 people in Turkey have already been arrested for speaking out against their government's dirty border war. As of press time, we learned that Afrin town was being shelled with heavy artillery. Cut off from the rest of Rojava and surrounded on three sides by Turkey, the canton, long a safe haven for refugees, may soon fall.

What kind of superpower stands by nervously when one of its allies – Turkey is, after all, *still a NATO member state* – attacks another? It's not only a sign of US geopolitical cravenness to use and then summarily ditch an ally.

It's also a sign of weakness.



Donna Christenson poses with her brother in front of the candy and chocolates in her new business, Erving Station, located at 3 East Main Street in Erving. Donna and her daughter, Laura DiLuzio, rely on granddaughter Vivienne, 7, "The Official Erving Station Manager of Taste Testing," to confirm the quality of the many treats they provide in the store. Erving Station is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day except Wednesdays.



LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The Wendell Energy Committee is inviting town residents, neighbors, and others interested to their 2nd annual **Groundhog Day potluck supper** and energy event, to take place on Groundhog Day, this Friday, February 2, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the historic Wendell Town Hall.

The Energy Committee will present on its current projects and plans for 2018, and host a discussion on how people can get involved. There will be reports on Wendell's actions as a Green Community, and the latest from North Quabbin Energy's Pat Larson on Orange and Royalston's new status as Green Communities.

A highlight of the evening will be a presentation on the new Wendell solar energy cooperative project, which would allow those without solar access at home, or who want to support local electrical alternatives, to join a co-op endeavor. For more information, contact anna.gy.orgy@crocker.com. The town hall is located at 6 Center Street.

You love your home! We all do. Have you thought about how you will fare with your home in the future? Will your home be safe for you and yours?

Aging in Place Builders will present an informative session at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls this Saturday, February 3, at 10 a.m. Might you need railings? How steep or narrow are your steps? Are entrances wide enough to accommodate a walker or wheelchair? What about your bathroom? Are hand rails, grips, or stabilizers in place?

Stop by and hear how the experts at Aging in Place can help you evaluate your home to insure that you stay there. What should you look for – any red flags start waving? The LaBombard family and their crew have a PowerPoint presentation to share, and will be available for a discussion period after. Light refreshments will be provided, courtesy of the bank.

Racial Justice Rising will hold a discussion, **Trump and Immigration: Franklin County's Response** on Saturday, February 3, from 10:15

a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 43 Silver Street, in Greenfield.

Attorney Bill Newman, Javier Luengo Garrido from the ACLU's Immigrant Protection Project, and others will discuss their experience in working with undocumented immigrants targeted by ICE in western MA. The program is free and open to the public.

The Millers Falls Community Improvement Association (MFCIA) announces that the homeowner winner of the 2017 **Light Up the Village contest** is Marlene Felton, and the business winner is Rodney Madison.

They wish to thank all the residents of Millers Falls who decorated their houses to bring light and cheer to the holiday season. The MFCIA's next event will offer beading, origami, and Valentine-making activities for all ages at the Millers Falls Library next Thursday February 8, from 3 to 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be provided.

Please join the **Erving PTO** for the new release of Peter Rabbit at Greenfield Garden Cinemas, 361 Main Street, Greenfield on Saturday, February 10, with a special showing, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Tickets are \$5, which can be purchased at the door. All proceeds to benefit the Erving PTO.

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CHIEF from page A1

suspended from a regional anti-crime task force administered by the DA.

Dodge remained at the helm of the police department, and there were no more executive sessions on the topic for over a year. The investigation by the state Attorney General ended last spring without any charges being brought. In early October 2017, the drop box returned to the police station.

Then, in mid-October, the *Greenfield Recorder* published an article based on a written report of an interview between state police investigators and Dodge. That document, the source of which has not been revealed, reported that drugs planted by state investigators in Montague's drop box had gone missing.

The *Recorder's* coverage also included a lengthy interview with Dodge, in which he announced that he was in recovery from addiction to opioid painkillers. The newspaper also reported an email from Dodge to state police in which he suggested that other members of his department might have had access to the drugs stored in his office.

This report prompted a statement, signed by all the officers in the Montague police department, claiming that the chief had lost their support. Several days later, the Northwest District Attorney's office informed Montague that it would remain suspended from the anti-crime task force as long as Dodge remained chief.

The selectboard responded to these developments by holding several executive sessions, hir-

ing an outside firm to investigate Dodge's actions, hearing the results of that investigation, and discussing Dodge's potential discipline. The chief's first disciplinary hearing took place January 5 and lasted over four hours; the second on January 27, lasting over five.

The seemingly endless series of closed-door meetings may reflect the fact that the Montague Selectboard is in a bind. The police chief appears to have lost the support of the members of his own department, and the regional District Attorney has pressured the board to replace him.

But the Montague police chief is also a "civil service chief." He can not be disciplined or terminated simply because he alienated members of his own department, the District Attorney, or even members of the town selectboard—only "for cause," according to state law, and he would have the right to appeal any local decision to the state Civil Service Commission. If dissatisfied with their ruling, he could also appeal any decision of the Commission to the state courts.

A review of recent disciplinary appeals to the Commission suggests that the town of Montague might have difficulty terminating Dodge if their case is based only on the evidence publicly available. The commission evaluates local disciplinary decisions by determining whether "the employee has been guilty of *substantial misconduct which adversely affects the public interest by impairing the efficiency of public service.*" (Emphasis added.)

"Substantial misconduct," in Commission decisions, generally means violations of specific regulations or protocols. But it is not clear what, if any, rules Dodge may have violated.

The District Attorney, in his initial communication with Montague in the summer of 2016, stated that "the recommended protocols regarding the safe collection and securing of medications, by both an evidence officer and chief or appointed officer, do not appear to have been adhered to by you and your department." But whether this non-adherence to "recommended protocols" constitutes "substantial misconduct" under civil service law is in no way clear.

On the other hand, if evidence exists that Dodge removed drugs from the drop box placed during the state police sting operation, that could well be viewed as substantial misconduct. But we should remember that the state ended its investigation without bringing charges. The town was not immediately informed last spring that the investigation had been terminated, and it is not clear that the state has communicated with the town about the matter since.

Perhaps Dodge was less than forthcoming in his initial conversations with the selectboard in June 2016. When he was briefly suspended, and then reinstated with full support, was the board aware Dodge was in recovery from opioid dependence? (If so, discussing the matter publicly would likely have been a violation of Dodge's health privacy rights under federal law.) Was it aware of the state

police's sting operation? Did the board know about Dodge's email to state police suggesting that the drugs were not secure, and that other police officers may have been implicated?

If the central issue is Dodge's lack of candor, the board may be in a difficult position; whether the sin of omission is grounds for discipline, under the civil service system, is not clear.

"For an individual subject to civil service... processes," town administrator Steve Ellis told this newspaper, "we have to be fully attentive to these processes when relevant."

Alternately, the central issue may be Dodge's performance as a manager. In their October complaint, the patrolmen and sergeants' unions claimed that upon his reinstatement, Dodge changed scheduled staff shifts.

"[We] were of the opinion that these drastic personnel changes were in retaliation for the Chief's perception a patrolman or sergeant from the Montague Police Department initiated the Attorney General's investigation," they wrote, adding that it was "rectified" after a union grievance was filed.

But while the public does not know what the central contention is, the talks drag on.

Ellis said that he hoped the issue can be resolved at the Selectboard meeting on Monday, February 5, but that "we will not rush the process, if doing so would result in a less desirable outcome for the community."



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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

New Library Design; Elevators; Dump Truck; Minecraft

By KATIE NOLAN and MIKE JACKSON

On January 17, the Erving selectboard and library trustees released \$85,000 for the development of construction plans for a \$4.9 million new library on Northfield Road. The money was previously appropriated by town meeting.

Daniel Pallotta, working as the owner's project manager, told a joint meeting of the selectboard, capital planning committee, finance committee, library trustees, and the library building committee that the town is seventh on the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners' (MBLC's) wait list for receiving a \$2.7 million grant for the project.

"It's a great program," Pallotta said of the MLBC, "one of the best. You're lucky you're in it."

Pallotta said that, after Erving rises to the top of the list and is awarded the funding, the town will receive one-fifth of the grant money, approximately \$544,000, as soon as it signs the contract with MLBC. Once the construction plans and bid documents are completed, the town will receive another fifth.

He said MBLC "spaces out the payments" over five fiscal years. If the town has construction plans and bid documents ready when the grant is officially awarded, it will be eligible to receive the second payment more quickly. He also pointed out that, if a town is able to move quickly into the construction phase, it may save money by avoiding inflation and escalation in construction costs.

Library director Barbara Friedman said that, in addition to the money appropriated by town meeting, the library trustees will release \$15,000 that the trustees have saved

up over the last seven years from the state's annual library grant of approximately \$2,000.

Elevators at IP Mill

The board awarded the contract for decommissioning four elevators at the former International Paper Mill to Buckley Elevator of Salem, MA for \$18,750. The only other bid was for \$40,796.88.

In November, the state Office of Public Safety and Inspections (OPSI) levied the town a fine of \$80,000 for not inspecting and licensing the four elevators in the buildings, since their licenses expired in 2002 and 2003. The town acquired the property in 2014 for non-payment of taxes.

In December, administrative coordinator Bryan Smith said he had contacted OPSI, telling them the town has only owned the property since 2014, the building is unoccupied and boarded up, the elevators haven't been operating for years, there is no wiring or power to run the elevators, and the Erving police department conducts surveillance to prevent trespassing.

Smith provided OPSI with photos of the boarded-up doors and windows and empty electrical conduits. OPSI agreed to reduce the fine to \$16,000, but asked the town to formally decommission the elevators.

At the January 17 meeting, Smith commented that the official notice from OPSI noted the agency had "inspected" the elevators to determine that they were out of compliance. Smith said he had responded to that physical inspection of the elevators by the agency was impossible, because the facility is secured and locked, and no town officials were contacted to unlock the building.

Smith said OPSI staff replied that

the town should not get hung up on the word "inspected." The town requested a hearing to appeal the fine, which he hopes to have OPSI waive entirely. Meanwhile, to show OPSI it is acting in good faith, the town plans to decommission the elevators.

Smith copied Governor Baker, state senator Stan Rosenberg, and state representative Susanna Whipps on his correspondence with the OPSI. Assistant assessor Jacqueline Boyden said she wondered if other small towns that had obtained brownfields properties were also being fined.

Since acquiring the property, the town has been working with Franklin Regional Council of Governments, engineering consultant Tighe & Bond, and state redevelopment agencies to find a new use for the former mill, with a vision of future light industrial use or mixed commercial and light industrial use.

Highway Department

The board reconvened on January 22 for a much longer meeting. They discussed with highway department foreman Glenn McCrory a number of issues including diesel fuel that "gels up" in the cold. The town procured the fuel, as well as heating oil and gasoline, via the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG). McCrory said he said he was unsure whether the town should exercise its option to extend the contract.

"We've never had this problem with any other vendor," he said. "We had record low temps—maybe it could have happened with another vendor, but it seems to be through the county. Everybody had this issue this year with the current vendor."

The board didn't reach a decision, choosing to investigate other options and revisit the matter in February.

The selectboard declared a 1996 John Deere backhoe as surplus and authorized the town to collect bids for it. McCrory said he would need to spend \$1,850 for a new snowblower head, after one was destroyed by a sidewalk feature by the Crooked Tap; Bryan Smith told him that since it was affordable under his operating budget, the purchase was "well within his purview."

McCrory said local subcontractors didn't seem to be interested in taking on the work of clearing snow and ice from municipal sidewalks in Erving Center and Erving side.

Jacob Smith said he thought the town should restrict its focus to municipal properties, but Bill Bembury said the town may as well clear all of Main. "It's the only travel route for people who are coming out of streets surrounding Main Street to get to the store," he pointed out.

Scott Bastarache said it didn't make sense to skip over swaths between municipal properties. "There's just too much that we own," he said.

"It's safer for us," McCrory said, to clear the entire sidewalk instead of driving the tractor into the road to skip private properties.

It was more complicated to consider the town's responsibility in Erving side, but all present agreed a new policy shouldn't be enacted midway through the season, anyway.

Fin Com Session

The selectboard met with Shirley Holmes, Dan Hammock, and Art Johnson of the fin com to discuss FY'19 budget requests, and review and articles accumulating for the next special town meeting.

For the DPW budget, McCrory requested a 3% merit increase for see ERVING page A8

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WATERWAYS REGULATION PROGRAM

Notice of License Application pursuant to M. G. L. Chapter 91 Waterways License Application Number X270120

CT RIVER DOCK NOTIFICATION DATE: February 1, 2018

Public notice is hereby given of the application by Ryan Doherty to construct and maintain a proposed dock at 292 French King Highway (assessors map 229, lot number 5), Gill, MA, Franklin County

The Department will consider all written comments on this Waterways application received by within 30 days subsequent to the "Notification Date." Failure of any aggrieved person or group of ten citizens or more to submit written comments to the Waterways Regulation Program by the Public Comments Deadline will result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with 310 CMR 9 13(4)(c). The group of citizens must include no less than five citizens who are residents of the municipality in which the proposed project is located

Additional information regarding this application may be obtained by contacting the Waterways Regulation Program at 617-292-5929. Project plans and documents for this application are on file with the Waterways Regulation Program for public viewing, by appointment only, at the address below

Written comments must be addressed to MassDEP's Waterways Regulation Program, 436 Dwight Street, Springfield, MA 01103

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TFHS SPORTS from page A1

100-yard backstroke (119.87) and the 100-yard freestyle (108.19); Whittier the 100-yard breaststroke (119.17) and the 50-yard freestyle (29.13).

Boys Swimming

TFHS 45 - Renaissance 27

In the boys meet, Renaissance edged Blue by 7 points while the Powertown Girls took their meet 45-27.

Cameron Bradley took first in two events. He won the 100-yard butterfly in 101.89 and the 100-yard backstroke in 106.25. Nik Martin had the pool to himself in the 200-yard IM and finished in 2:48.69, and Nick Taylor won the 50-yard freestyle in 26.83.

Powertown's other first place came in the 400-yard freestyle relay; R. Hall, Tommy Hall, Bradley and Taylor won the race in 5:08.47.

The team finished second in the 200-yard relay, medley, and freestyle, and Turners' last point came off a third place finish in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Although the regular season is over for the swim teams, this Saturday swimmers who made a time cut - Taylor and Bradley for the boys, Tyler, Whittier, Wheeler and the relay team for the girls - will compete in the Fast Chance Meet at West Springfield High School.

Boys Basketball

Belchertown 79 - TFHS 72

TFHS 53 - Mohawk 16

Smith Academy 69 - TFHS 68

On January 23, the boys' basketball team played an away game against the Belchertown Black Orioles. The game was close in the first quarter, but the Birds had a double-digit lead, 38-27, at the half. In the third period, Belchertown stretched their lead to 62-46.

Powertown scored 27 points in the final stanza, but it wasn't enough, as Belchertown took the game 79-72.

Tyler Lavin led Blue with 16 points, while Jimmy Vaughn and Anthony Peterson both had 15-point nights. Javoni Williams (11), Chase Novak (8), Jon Fritz and Jovanni Ruggiano (4 each), and Ryan Kucenski (2) also scored.

On January 25, Blue traveled up the Trail to play the Mohawk Warriors. Just a couple of years ago, these teams were playing deep in the playoffs, but this year Mohawk, especially, has had a rough go. Coming into Thursday's game, they were 1-10, with 10 points or less in two games. The atmosphere at this game was genial, and fans were free to cheer for both teams, regardless of allegiance.

Wonderful steals and great passes helped Powertown take an early lead, which they never relinquished. At the end of the first half, Williams hit a 3-pointer to put Blue up 36-12. Turners outscored the Mohawks 15-0 in the third, though in the fourth, Mohawk outscored Turners 4-2, for a final score of 53-16.

After a four-game road trip, the boys returned home on Monday to host the Purple Falcons of Smith Academy. After an exciting JV game which wasn't decided until the final buzzer, the crowd settled in to watch the varsity teams.

The first half was painful for Blue. With Powertown clogging up the paint, Purple was forced to go for 3-pointers - and they sunk them. Then they began hitting inside shots, too. The score was 20-10 after one

full, and 42-27 at the half.

In the third Smith stretched the margin to 48-30, but Turners didn't give up. Peterson scored 6 straight points, and Lavin put in 2 himself. But at the buzzer, Smith sunk another 3, and going into the final stanza, they were back up by 13 points, 51-38.

The fourth quarter was wild. Smith seemed to have the game in hand, but Turners just wouldn't lie down. At 2 minutes 16 seconds remaining, Smith was up 67-51. But then Novak scored a basket, followed by 3-pointers from Lavin and Vaughn, making the score 67-59 with 1:37 left.

An intentional foul made it a 10-point game, but Vaughn hit another 3 to make the score 69-62. A steal and a Lavin 3 put the score at 69-65 with 29.8 left. Another quick foul put a Smithy at the line, but he came up empty. Turners got the rebound, moved quickly up court and Novak hit another 3-pointer to make it a 1-point game with 22.7 seconds on the clock, and Purple in possession.

A quick foul put Smith on the line, but he came up empty again; Blue got the rebound, and coach Gary Mullins then called a quick time out. Turners inbounded from center court, down by a point with 10.5 seconds left.

They passed the ball around the horn a few times before taking their last shot - off target, but the rebound was knocked out of bounds by Purple. With only .8 seconds left on the clock, Turners' final attempt came up empty, allowing the Academy to escape with a 1-point win.

Turners lived and died from the 3-point line. With Williams out on injury and Peterson in early foul trouble, they were forced to shoot from the outside. Vaughn hit an amazing five 3-pointers on his way to scoring 19 points; Lavin hit three, and totaled 18.

Peterson worked the boards, scoring 12 of his 16 points inside. Novak scored 11 points off a 3-pointer and four inside the arc, and Fritz and Kucenski also contributed 2 points apiece.

Girls Basketball

Greenfield 82 - TFHS 41

Frontier 43 - TFHS 19

TFHS 51 - McCann 37

On January 23, the girls' team traveled to Greenfield to face one of the best teams in western Mass.

The game started on an ominous note: the Green cheerleaders, dressed in home white, did a very competitive cheer right in the faces of the Blue Ladies and their fans. The night before, the Turners Boys had beaten Greenfield in a thrilling overtime heartbreaker. Now it was time for the girls to go at it, and the whole gym erupted in chanting and foot stomping.

Although the crowds were extremely spirited, both coaches seemed to take the game in stride, dutifully giving their team cues and encouragement throughout the contest.

On the court, Green held a 4-2 lead at 6:34 of the first period. Then the steals came. Green intercepted pass after pass extending their lead to 21-4. Blue managed to add 3 points from the foul line but when the quarter ended, the Waves held a 28-7 lead.

Greenfield extended that lead to 34-7 as the second began, but then Blue made some runs. At the half-time buzzer, the Fielders led 54-22.

The only quarter that Turners



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners' Chase Novak goes up for a shot in the lane as Smith Academy's Max Bartlett defends. Smith defeated Turners by a point after fending off an exciting fourth-quarter rally.

won was the third, outscoring the Wavers 12-11. But in the fourth, Greenfield really poured it on, outscoring Turners by 10 points and expanding their lead to 39 points. With only seconds left to play, Greenfield went for their final shot.

As the ball went in the hoop, giving Greenfield a 41-point lead, a foul was called. To the Powertown fans, this seemed like insult on top of injury, and Turners' coach seemed to echo their outrage. As the Green Girl went to the line, Coach Ted Wilcox called a time out.

With about 8 seconds left in the time out, the refs told Turners to go back on the court. Wilcox said "Sit," and his girls sat. When the buzzer sounded, the refs again called Blue to the floor; Wilcox looked at them and said, "Time Out."

With a few seconds left in the second respite, the refs again approached the Turners Falls bench, telling them to get back on the floor. And again, Wilcox told his team to sit. When the buzzer sounded to end the second timeout, the refs again tried to get Blue back on the floor. Wilcox stood up, gave the time-out gesture, and said clearly, "Time Out."

Chloe Ellis was the top scorer for Blue, scoring 12 points; Taylor Murphy got 9 points, Dabney Rollins 8, while Maddy Chmyzinski scored 6. Abby Loynd hit a 3, and Hailey Bogosz got 3 points at the line.

Then on January 26, the girls hosted the Red Hawks of Frontier. Halfway through the first quarter, Turners held a 5-4 lead after a Chmyzinski 3-pointer. But that was it. For the entire rest of the half, Turners came up empty, while Frontier put up 21 of their own.

Powertown was able to score 10 in the third, but Frontier had a 39-15 lead going into the final act. Both defenses clamped down, each allowing just 4 points, for a final score of 43-19.

Turners' defense played well, but the offense couldn't buy a bucket. Many of the shots went in and back out of the hoop, with only seven landing in the entire game - Loynd, Rollins, Bogosz, Aliyah Sanders,

Ellis, and Chmyzinski all hit 2-pointers, and Chmyzinski an additional 3. The rest of Turners' points came at the foul line, from Karissa Fleming (2), Ellis (1), and Sarah Waldron (1).

Then on Tuesday, January 30, the Blue Ladies overcame a poor second-quarter performance to defeat the Green Hornets of McCann Tech.

Turners opened the game with gusto. War-weary after the two blow-out losses, they were finally playing a team in their division. Blue passed the ball well in the opening period; the outside shots were landing, and they were beating Green on the boards. Turners snagged offensive rebound after offensive rebound before finally putting it in, and after a period, had more than doubled the Hornets' output at 16-7.

Tech opened the second with a 3-pointer, and Turners answered with a Rollins free throw and a Sanders rebound-and-hook. But for the rest of the quarter, though Turners continued their crisp passing, the inside game wasn't there, and Green began pulling down rebounds. The Hornets turned a 3-point barrage into an incredible 17-2 run, with both of Blues' points on Chmyzinski foul shots.

Powertown went into the locker room at the half down 27-21, but they came out on fire. Sanders hit another 2-point hook with seconds on the shot clock, Loynd put in a lay-up, and after a monster 3-pointer, Turners was up 28-27. Both teams had some great steals in the third. The game stayed close for a while, but as the fouls piled up, as Ellis began owning the boards, Powertown methodically pulled ahead to lead 37-31 going into the fourth.

McCann and their pesky 3-pointers narrowed the gap to 39-37 with 3:38 to play, but then Blue made a run of their own, outscoring the Hornets 12-0 in the closing minutes to seal a 51-37 victory. Five Turners girls accounted for all 51 points: Chmyzinski (19), Rollins (11), Sanders (8), Ellis (7), and Loynd (6).



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PARZYCH from page A1

as a walking skeleton." At 19, his mother Mary returned to the US from visiting parents in Poland in 1914, crossing war-torn Germany during WWI with her 2-year-old (also named Mary) through trenches, hitching rides on trains with the enemy – German soldiers. Cash-poor, she stowed away on a Dutch freighter to New York. Discovered, she was charged \$10; daughter, free.

Parzych the Excavator

His business, Parzych Excavating, was a tangible manifestation of his ability to figure things out, get them working, and keep them working, using his standby trial-by-fire method. Some might call him fearless.

"I got along good with all the customers. The rivals – other people in the same business – would have no work, and I was swamped with it. I did as good a job as I could do in as little time as possible. The phone was ringing off the hook, including from other contractors," says Parzych, now 88. "When I first went into business, I didn't know anybody, and no one knew me."

He solved that by sending out a postcard mailing to plumbers using a hand-stenciling machine obtained from a Northfield resident to stencil addresses. Though no plumbers called, "Someone handed a post-

card to Peter Mackin [of Mackin Construction], saying 'here's a new competitor.' He wasn't afraid of competitors," says Parzych.

Mackin hired Parzych to dig a trench along the Route 2A tree belt in Greenfield with his little tractor backhoe, as Mackin's backhoe was too big. "There wasn't room enough between the sidewalk and curb, but mine was perfect," Parzych remembers.

"Peter was entranced with me, and sent me to Westover to clear for dormitories. I had this truck mounted backhoe called a Hopto," or a Hydraulically Operated Power Take Off digger, invented by Minnesota's Daniel F. Przybyski. "The truck was so old, it should have been in a museum."

Besides four control levers, the Hopto had four foot pedals "that were impossible to use, but I changed them, so that gave me a 50% increase in cycling," enhancing his one-man-bandship.

When he arrived at Westover Air Force Base to dig holes for the 10-by-10-foot concrete piers for five dormitories, the superintendent said he couldn't give him the excavating job because Peter Mackin had a brand new Gradall (price tag: \$36,000), and "people will laugh when they see that machine of yours." (The Hopto cost Parzych \$1,500.) The Gradall required a truck driver and excavator runner.

"I said, 'At the very least, give me a chance, try me out!' He agreed, before dismissing me summarily. 'We'll line the two of you up, and whoever digs the stumps, gets the job.' I started digging like a maniac," recalls Parzych.

He had had a welder weld a straight piece of metal across the teeth of his Hopto's bucket so it wouldn't dig in and disturb the soil, as they had an issue with soil compaction. "If you dig too deep, you have to compact it," he said.

The Gradall scooped out huge amounts of earth. Though achieving square sides, their hole ends were scooped out, so they couldn't achieve a vertical wall. "They put guys in the hole to test it, but it wouldn't pass. They had to buy beach sand to replace the compactables."

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Top: Joe's parents, Mary and Joseph Parzych, at their farm in Gill. Above: Joseph A. Parzych astride his faithful Hopto.

Guiding his Hopto, Parzych dug at precisely the desired depth and width, five holes to their two. "I was digging nice neat holes and the superintendent came up and said, 'You have the job.'"

They sent him to another job where a Gradall operator had pulled up a huge telephone cable connected to Westover AFB's mountain site. Rather than get off the Gradall, the operator broke it.

Mackin helped Parzych and other startup businesses. "A guy starting off is working as cheap as he can," Parzych explains. "I was close to broke. The deal I made with him was to supply me with gasoline. He had a tanker on the job to supply his trucks. I didn't have any money to buy gas for a month before I got paid."

Paid hourly, Parzych worked from 7 a.m. until it got dark. "Mackin didn't believe I was working that many hours. I was working to beat the band when I spotted this car pulling up. I knew it was Mackin; I ignored him and kept on working wide open."

Working "wide open" – meaning with the engine revved up as far as it will go; the fuel wouldn't be completely burned and would ignite, causing flames to shoot out the exhaust pipe.

"Working wide open had burned the exhaust valves so the pipe was red hot – the exhaust pipe was only a couple of feet behind me, no cab on this thing. He got out and came over, said he wanted to talk to me. I

said, 'I really appreciate you coming to talk to me, but I got to get this section done, or else the carpenters won't have anything to do in the morning.'"

The following day, Mackin informed personnel that he had driven all the way to Westover to talk to Parzych and Parzych had dismissed him.

A mechanical Superman, only with a better sense of humor, Parzych answered the call to rescue other disasters. He was sent to a trenching job in Brattleboro, where installing a water main kept getting slowed down because "the operator kept breaking any pipe he came to: water line, live sewer, waste gushing out into the trench, making an awful mess."

As soon as Parzych saw differently colored soil on the sides of trenches he slowed down, to Houdini-ize out the soil as carefully as possible, then ask the other laborer to uncover invisible pipe. "They were amazed I had sensed the pipe was there. They thought I was a magician," Parzych recalled. This worked even with clay tile. They were able to put down the water main, and move right along.

A Family Man

His Achilles heel, and his strength, is his family. He married Edna (Carleton) in 1952. He treated his children – Deborah (Debbie), Joann (a school teacher), Joseph M. (retired from working on computers in the President's office at UMass)

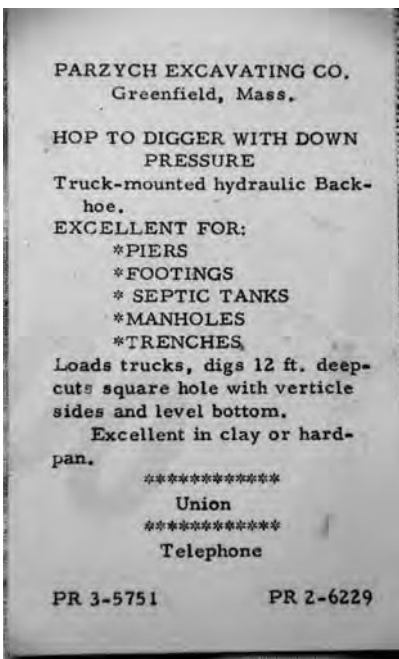
and Christine – with kindness and respect, and was their friend, not their detractor. In adulthood, Debbie (Parzych) Lambert, in 2005, and Joann (Parzych) Olsen, in 2015, died from complications of breast cancer.

Christine was born with multiple severe handicaps. At six months, in Boston Children's Hospital, doctors advised her parents to take her home as she had developed founding syndrome and was not expected to live beyond two weeks. With the persevering love of her parents, her siblings, and Parzych's ability to configure a child-sized exercise machine to allow her to move her limbs with range-of-motion exercises, she outlived all expectations, and is now 52.

As a child, Debbie insisted on accompanying Parzych on some of his excavating jobs. Later, she became a civil engineer, and knew how to read blueprints and shoot grades with a transit level. She was the last to be interviewed out of 84 applicants to manage six landfills, each about 1,000 acres, surrounding King County in Seattle, Washington.

Given 20 minutes rather than the slated two hours, and a set of drainage blueprints for a housing project with many streets, she was asked what was wrong with it. "Nothing, except the last pipe is too small."

They asked how she knew that, and she answered, "Because I laid pipes before, with my Dad."



Postcard used in postcard mailing to jumpstart Parzych Excavating.



Joseph A. Parzych and Edna, in the summer of 1953.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

House-Mover Deemed Unlikely To Materialize

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The only person officially scheduled to attend the Wendell selectboard's January 24 meeting was Steve Bouvier of Holyoke Gas and Electric Company. He came to introduce himself and HG&E to the selectboard, and to give board members a draft copy of an inter-governmental agreement between HG&E and Wendell for consulting on the construction of a town-wide fiberoptic network.

HG&E would provide a statement of work for each phase of the project, and would charge \$145 an hour for their work. The first phase is to examine the spreadsheets and business plan of WiredWest, and the financial plan from Crocker, estimated to take from three to five hours.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard asked that he email a copy to town coordinator Nancy Aldrich.

Light Plant

Before Bouvier's scheduled time, the board took care of several short agenda items. They chose Tuesday, February 27 as the date for a special town meeting. They expect to have the warrant ready to sign and post at their next scheduled meeting, February 7, so it can be posted two weeks in advance without their having to come into the office an extra time in order to sign and post it two weeks ahead of the special town meeting's date.

As part of that warrant they discussed the petitioned article for an elected Municipal Light Plant (MLP), the body that would oversee operation of the broadband network when it is in place.

Massachusetts General Law allows either an elected MLP or an MLP made up of the selectboard. The town created its MLP as an early necessary step in the process of building the network. At the time, no extra work was required, and the three selectboard members took those unpaid positions. Now, their feeling as a group is that they do not want the added job once the network is established – but also that creating a distinct MLP at this point is premature.

Board chair Christine Heard and member Jeffrey Pooser are both on the broadband construction committee, and selectboard member Dan Keller is on the operations committee. They feel that changing to an elected MLP now, in the early stages of construction, would be equivalent to changing horses midstream.

As a group, they would postpone the election of a new MLP to May 2019. They discussed the implications of putting on the warrant an article to elect the MLP in 2019, or in amending the petitioned article at the town meeting.

Heard said that the current selectboard wants an elected MLP, and that the broadband committee "does not have a single voice" on when that elected MLP should be created.

Pooser suggested a third possibility: that the selectboard remain

the MLP, but if it seems necessary, they can appoint either a manager or a three-member MLP to serve until the next election.

Community Solar

Reporting from her conversation with town counsel about the town-owned house and property at 97 Wendell Depot Road, Aldrich said the first step is to transfer the property from the treasurer to the selectboard. Then the selectboard will have the option to create a lease with the group proposing a community solar project there, issuing them a license, or to put out an RFP.

The transfer would also allow the town to develop a PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) agreement with solar group, and reduce the taxes on the solar panels from personal property excise tax to a level that would allow the venture to support itself.

Fin com member Al MacIntire said he walked through the house at 97 Wendell Depot Road with a contractor, who saw that varied wood – not just chestnut – was used in the building. The contractor liked the framing, but said there is not much market for taking the house down now and reassembling it somewhere more attractive.

Swift River School

Assessor Chris Wings has asked for a money managers' meeting soon. The town is closing in on its levy limit, its levy ceiling, and the Swift River School request went up \$100,000 for the next fiscal year, after a \$150,000 increase for the current year.

In a conversation outside and after the meeting, MacIntire said that he felt the school is being punished for providing good services. He said people move to town because the school offers an expensive service that their children need, that the state mandates. The state gives no extra money to compensate for that expense, and for a small school and a small town, the extra cost comes as a big hit.

Swift River School principal Kelly Sullivan asked for, and received, the selectboard's permission to hold a "winter warmer" bonfire at the school during the first week of February. She already had the fire chief's approval.

Sullivan also reported that sodium and chloride levels in the school's water supply have been dropping since April.

Other Business

The Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District sent Wendell an outline of a tax abatement program for veterans, created by the 2012 Valor Act.

Under the program, some of the tax owed by a veteran could be offset by other citizens making voluntary contributions toward their tax payment. A veteran could also pay off some of his or her tax debt in work for the town.

Aldrich said that the UPVSD's director, Timothy Niejadlik, is willing to come to a meeting to explain the program in more detail.

GMRSD from page A1

at this time," Hubert told the *Reporter* after the meeting, adding that he felt last week's executive-session contract discussion was "more of a presentation than a negotiation."

"We could have had a year to discuss that," he said. "I certainly believe in a lot of the things that he's doing, and I support him. That was not a lack of confidence vote against him, as to the job that he's performing – it was more a lack of confidence vote in the process."

"I enjoy working with him," Hubert added.

Sullivan's salary for FY'17 was \$140,000, and he took a 1.5% raise, matching teachers' cost of living adjustments, to \$142,100 for the current school year. Under the new agreement, he will make \$150,000 in FY'19, remaining eligible for increases thereafter.

A 2015 study conducted by WWLP found that the average salary for school superintendents in western Massachusetts was \$138,863, and the average statewide was \$161,133. (Adjusted for consumer price index inflation, these figures are equivalent to \$145,789 and \$169,170 this year, respectively.)

Continuity Sought

"I'm also a parent in the district," said Cassie Damkoehler of Montague before the vote, "so my decision tonight is going to be based a lot on that, and what I see happening in the schools currently – what's going on, and what I want to see continue."

Chair Timmie Smith, of Gill, cited two major grants the district has recently been awarded: a state "efficiency and regionalization" grant, to study opportunities to share resources with Franklin Technical School and Pioneer Valley districts; and a \$200,000 grant from the Barr Foundation, aimed at redesigning Turners Falls High School toward a "competency-based" model in which students would be able to tailor individual education plans toward their particular post-graduation goals. "We all wished to move forward with these grants under Dr. Sullivan's stewardship," she said.

Leslie Cogswell of Montague

said that she had spoken about Sullivan with specialists from the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education earlier this month, who were conducting an accountability review of Gill-Montague schools, including their leadership and governance.

"A lot of [their] questions were about the relationship between the superintendent and us," she said. "The feedback we got from them was – in particular, one gentleman, he said exactly what we were thinking... He said, 'tie him up.' My sentiments exactly."

"I'm thrilled that this is happening, and that we're able to keep this superintendent on track," said Langknecht, adding that he was speaking as "somebody who's been through it a bunch of times, and has seen what the options are – and has seen what happens when superintendents come in and use this district as a stepping stone."

"I'm not going to presume to speak for every member of the community and how they feel," he concluded, "but as someone who's elected to oversee the best interest of the district, that's why I'm voting for this contract."

After the vote was taken, Sullivan thanked the committee members for their support. "When I was hired five years ago, I told you all I'd be interested in staying here for the long term, and I meant it," he said. "I'm excited, with your support, to want to stay until I retire."

Mascot Missed

The meeting began on a more rancorous note. Christopher Pinardi, a Montague Center resident and a leader of the "Save the TF Indians Logo" group, addressed the committee during the public comment period.

The group's page on Facebook refers to Sullivan, who last February supported the committee's decision to discontinue the high school's longtime "Indian" mascot, as "weak and ineffective," "the not so Super," and "clearly driving this district into the ground," and features an image of him edited to add a red clown nose.

"What you have tonight is a lame-duck session which is essentially

passing legislation, for lack of a better word, and kind of forcing it down the community's throat," Pinardi said. "It speaks volumes for how you perceive the community, and how you perceive your positions on this board, whether it's from Mike Sullivan forcing your hand..."

"Point of order: This is out of order," Langknecht cut in. "It's an open complaint; it's accusatory, it's insulting..."

"It's not a complaint at all," Pinardi replied. "It's a statement about what you're doing."

Smith, the chair, began to speak but Pinardi interrupted. "Timmie, this is an open chance for me to speak on what you're deciding tonight," he said, and made for the door, then doubled back. "This is precisely why four of your board members will be voted out," he said, beginning to shout. "Precisely why. These kind of antics are ridiculous."

"Please take the seat," Smith said. "You may continue..."


The two argued back and forth. "This gentleman told me I was out of line, and you told me to stop," Pinardi said. "This is exactly what this committee is known for!"

"No," she replied. "I'm asking you to stop the dialogue, and continue with your statement, and please try not to personalize it –"

"I'm not going to gratify you with that. What I came to say obviously isn't what you folks want to hear," Pinardi continued. "Have your vote in a lame-duck session, jam it down the town's throat as you have everything else! And in May, the town will speak, and four of you will be out on your asses!"

"I will not tolerate that language, sir," Smith said, as Pinardi slammed the meeting room door behind him.

"There are people who associate me with a single decision that they're unhappy about," Sullivan later observed, "and all I can do is keep working hard.... There's a lot bigger, and more important things, than just one decision here."

The school committee's next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, February 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Turners Falls High School. 

Let's Take A Look At Those Feet

GREENFIELD – FootCare by Nurses will hold two free informational sessions about preventing foot problems and how to care for them on Saturday, February 10 at their office at 63 French King Highway #7 in Greenfield. The first session will be held from 9 to 11 a.m., and the second from noon to 2 p.m.

Both sessions will include discussions about the kinds of discomfort and pain our feet can suffer from improper shoe and sock fit, as well as managing feet affected by health problems like diabetes, cancer, and chronic illnesses. While walk-ins are welcome, an RSVP is appreciated. Attendees are encouraged to bring their shoes and concerns. No condition, or worry about discomfort, should be ignored.

Kate Clayton-Jones, founder of FootCare by Nurses, holds a Masters in Nursing from UMass-Amherst and is certified as a foot care nurse through the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society (WOCN) and the American Association of Foot Care Nurses (AAFCN).

Kate created FootCare by Nurses because in her nursing career she has seen how many patients suffer not only discomfort related to their foot health, but pain that limits activities and can lead to more serious health problems.

Kate says, "Feet are very complicated, with over 26 bones and more than 100 muscles, ligaments, and tendons that can be hurt or damaged. They are also what the rest of the body stands on."

"I started this business because I saw an unmet need. It is my goal to provide evidence-based preventative care and to go above and beyond by sharing

knowledge with our patients so they can take better care of their feet at home."

Kate recognizes that many people enjoy pedicures and says that there are many reputable salons that provide these good beauty solutions. However, she thinks that sometimes, especially when there are other health issues, that we all need a little more help and guidance.

While FootCare by Nurses doesn't paint nails, they do enhance the health and beauty of feet and nails. They also end every session with a Reflexology-based, circulation-enhancing massage that sends men and women home with rosy cheeks and full smiles.

Started in the fall of 2015, FootCare by Nurses now includes six Board Certified Foot Care nurses besides Kate. As well as meeting patients in the Greenfield office in the rear of the Village Shops, they also offer home visits and regular clinics at senior centers, councils on aging, and other venues around western Massachusetts.

Appointments at senior centers and councils on aging are made directly through those programs. FootCare by Nurses is also the foot care provider for Life-Path and WestMass ElderCare.

Their certified nurses can be found at the senior centers in Northampton, Conway, Easthampton, Bernardston, Greenfield, Shelburne, Leverett, Shutesbury, Wendell, Gardner, Sterling, and Princeton, as well as the Rockridge Retirement Community.


For more information, see www.FootCarebyNurses.net, call (413) 367-8369, or email Contact@FootCarebyNurses.net.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Public Works Facility Proposal Draws a Crowd in Montague Center

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague Selectboard held its January 29 meeting “on the road” at the community meeting room at the Montague Center Fire Station. “We’re trying to travel around town a little bit throughout the year,” said chair Rich Kuklewicz. “This is our visit to Montague Center.”

This was a well-attended meeting, with most of the twenty-five residents drawn to a public hearing on a proposed new \$11.1 million facility for the Department of Public Works.

The hearing began with a presentation by Ken Morin, the chair of the public works facility planning committee. Morin said that the committee has been meeting since 2015, and initially considered three options: renovate the current DPW building; move into an existing building which had been renovated; or build a new structure. “Doing nothing was not an option for this committee,” he noted.

Eventually, the committee decided a new facility was needed. At first, the plan was to construct a new garage at the former burn dump on Sandy Lane behind Judd Wire. “It could fit in there,” said Morin, “but once you started doing some contingencies and there had been some drilling going on there, there were issues with that site.”

The planning committee settled on 22 acres of land south of the public safety complex on Turners Falls Road. This land had once been restricted due to the presence of endangered species, but the state changed its policy “for some reason,” said Morin. “We’re looking at about five acres of that for this new facility.”

Morin then discussed the \$11.1 million price tag, “a subject that everybody’s eyebrows lift when we bring it up.” He emphasized the potential danger of putting vehicles into a smaller building: “With 25,000 [square] feet, this building would store 21 vehicles. So you could literally drive in, work on the

vehicles, and go out without shuffling around. Now, there’s about fifteen vehicles in a maze down [at the current garage].”

Morin stated that the annual cost to taxpayers of funding the new facility would be \$75 per \$100,000 in assessed valuation. According to an information sheet handed out at hearing, that would amount to just under \$150 in annual taxes for the “average house value in Montague.”

During the public comment portion of the meeting, John Reynolds of Montague Center noted that the town had a number of other projects, including a new library and a new senior center, waiting in the wings. “I’m looking at the price of this thing,” he said, “and wondering what the impact will be on funding these future projects?”

Town planner Walter Ramsey said that the capital improvements committee had determined that the public works facility should be the town’s priority. He also estimated that debt payments for the public safety complex, built in 2009, would end in 2027. “That’s a ways off,” he said, “but we need to start somewhere.”

“Basically, you’re saying we are going to procrastinate on these other two projects,” said Reynolds.

“Yes,” Ramsey responded.

“Well, people should know that,” said Reynolds.

Bruce Young, who serves on the planning board, said he was in agreement that new facilities were needed for the DPW administration, but “we are at the bottom third of the state for median household income... I feel like it could be cut, to have the storage and everything else outside, for half the price. Then we can move ahead with the library, the senior center – whatever we need.”

Morin said the cost of the facility had been reduced. “We’re trying to be realistic about what this town can afford,” he said.

Another resident expressed concerns about trucks coming in and out of the new facility: “Have you

done a traffic study? That’s a bad intersection there and now you’ve got all these trucks coming in...”

Morin estimated that with the stop sign on the corner of Turners Falls and Turnpike roads, cars would be going, at most, twenty-five or thirty miles an hour.

Millers Falls resident Jeanne Golrick asked if the DPW could publish a list of their equipment on the town website. “I suppose we could do that,” responded DPW superintendent Tom Bergeron.

Golrick also asked if the vote on the planning committee to support this proposal was unanimous, to which the response was “yes.”

Other Business

The public hearing ended after forty-five minutes, but the discussion continued in the fire station lobby for the duration of the regular selectboard meeting.

Meanwhile, the selectboard unanimously voted to recommend all seven articles on the upcoming town meeting warrant. These included a lengthy amendment to the town’s zoning bylaws regulating the locations of various kinds of marijuana sales and production establishments. The warrant also contains an article allowing a 3% local sales tax on cannabis.

This meeting, which will take place February 15 at the Shea Theater, will be the first of two special town meetings this winter. The second is scheduled for mid-March, and will focus on the proposed garage.

The board voted to appoint Christopher Rice, who was interviewed the previous week, as the new town building inspector. Rice will replace current inspector David Jensen, but there will be an overlap of several weeks between the two, and Jensen plans to remain available for consultation until the end of the fiscal year.

The special town meeting warrant recommended by the selectboard would appropriate \$13,250 to finance the building inspectors’

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A letter to the Greenfield Department of Public Works expressing interest in exploring a regional wastewater anaerobic digester was approved by the board. The digester would potentially process sludge currently being trucked from the Montague wastewater plant to a facility in Lowell.

The board also voted to express Montague’s interest in joining a new Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District. The request was made by health director Gina McNeely.

The board voted to approve an agreement with AccessPlus Communications to connect an internet cable from the senior center on Fifth Street to the Center for New Americans classroom and office on Avenue A, allowing that organization to

connect to a state network.

A request by planner Walter Ramsey to execute a \$5,000 grant from the state Cultural Council was approved by the board. Ramsey said the money would primarily be devoted to improved signage in the Turners Falls Cultural District.

The board also voted to reduce the scope of work for the Rutters Park renovation in Lake Pleasant, which should also reduce the cost of the project.

Finally, the board granted the real estate agent Mark Abramson the power to sell additional town property in the industrial park to the theater company Ja’Duke. A related tax agreement with Ja’Duke is on the special town meeting warrant, as recommended by the board.



This wall-mounted box in the main lobby contains a defibrillator, one of four that can now be found on the campus of Great Falls Middle/Turners Falls High School.

CPR from page A1

known as hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, Kevin’s mother, Susan Canning, was inspired to create a foundation to promote heart screenings for young people, trainings in hands-only CPR, and defibrillators for schools.

The tragedy led to the founding of the KEVS Foundation, and now to the work that Turners Falls High School staff and students will be doing during the next month to become prepared for heart emergencies.

Graves posted on the large screen at the front of the auditorium a list of dates when CPR training would be available for students to attend. They were encouraged to use their GAP time to do the training.

Next, with half-body forms lined up on the stage, four students, including Eliza Johnson, demonstrated the proper way to do CPR. The concept of “hands-only” is that it is done without any breathing into the mouth of the unconscious person, but only with hand compressions to the chest. (The explanation was that if the victim was a family member or someone you knew personally, then putting your mouth on them would be appropriate, but it is not recommended with a stranger.)

In the question-and-answer portion, a question was raised about the risk of hurting the person with chest compressions. Graves said it was possible that CPR could cause a broken rib, but that this was a fair risk in saving a person’s life.

He added that the state’s Good Samaritan laws protect people of good-faith intention against any litigation.

“The purpose is to keep the person alive,” he said.

During the student demonstration, Graves explained the process involved. He emphasized the importance of calling 911 right away, but also starting CPR immediately. While one person does CPR another should go get the defibrillator, and it is preferable to have two people sharing the CPR so they don’t get tired.

Graves suggested keeping rhythm to the beat of the Bee Gees song “Stayin’ Alive,” which he thought maybe some students were too young to know, but was the perfect song to think of when doing CPR.

Regular compressions at a steady beat are important in order to keep the heart pumping blood until a defibrillator could be used to restart its normal function. Hopefully the police, stationed just down the road from the school, would arrive by that time, and a life would be saved.

The students gathered at Tuesday morning’s assembly seemed very interested. They asked good questions, and appeared to be eager to participate in the training being offered.

It might seem unthinkable that young people die of sudden cardiac arrest, but according to the Center for Disease Control, 5,000 people between the ages of 15 and 34 die annually from hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, which causes sudden cardiac arrest. The condition is due to an abnormally enlarged heart, which can be identified with thorough screening. To learn about free cardiac screenings, which KEVS sponsors, visit www.kevsfoundation.com.

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GOOD USED USABLES

ERVING from page A3

Michael Gordon. His department had been planning to purchase a utility van during FY'18 and a more costly dump truck for FY'19, but he met with the capital improvement committee, and the new idea is to switch the two and seek funding for the dump truck by a special town meeting article, "for timing reasons."

"The trucks are 10 to 12 months out" from delivery at this point, McCrory said, and ordering it earlier would help Erving beat other towns. The Ford F550 is now 8 years old and has been racking up maintenance costs. McCrory advocated buying a stainless-steel body that will outlast the truck. The cost is expected to be about \$110,000.

Erving's assessment to the FR-COG is expected to rise dramatically next year: from \$40,935 to \$52,397. Member town assessments are based on equalized valuation (EQV), and the sharp rise is a delayed consequence of the town's FY'16 property assessments.

"It's the way it is – that's the formula," said Hammock.

The town's rates with its employee health insurer, the Franklin Hampshire Group Insurance Trust, are also rising sharply this year. Bryan Smith said the town's burden would be much higher if copays weren't rising for staff. "It is what it is – we have to carry it," said Jacob Smith.

Holmes wondered if statewide single-payer healthcare might be a better approach. "That would definitely change things," Bryan Smith replied.

A new position to cover meal

service at the senior center had been budgeted at \$14/hour, but after a comparison with going rate at Life-Path, has been reduced to \$12/hour. Jacob Smith recommended it be budgeted at the higher rate. "I'm not encouraging that we start the salary range at that," he said.

Bembury agreed, Art Johnson pointed out that more qualified people might apply if the job paid more.

Reviewing special town meeting items, the boards discussed a "culture and recreation" request from the library department for \$1,800 to purchase two additional laptops. Library director Barbara Friedman said a cohort of young teens were using the facilities to play Minecraft.

Holmes said she wished they played board games such as Monopoly, and Johnson made a series of side comments about the town paying for young people's car-racing hobbies next, but in the end the fin com voted unanimously to recommend the item.

The planning board is working on updates to zoning bylaws to address marijuana businesses. They would need to hold a public hearing first, but it could go to a special town meeting in the last week of April.

Johnson recommended people grow marijuana in the former International Paper Mill. "I would have zero against it, if they could do it legit," he said.

Other Business

The board read out loud a letter from police chief Chris Blair commending officer James Loynd, who responded to a call on the French

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Let me close my eyes and surround my heart with memories of you

Please let those memories remain strong with each year I go through

Staying strong, holding back tears, reaching to crack a smile

With all the joy you have given me it will surely last a while

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YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

**Soup & Games for
"Peace in Place"**

GREENFIELD – Come to Free Soup and Game Night this Monday, February 5, from 5 to 7 p.m. for an evening of fun, food, and games for a great cause!

All proceeds from this month's event will benefit the work of Peace in Place, a new organization supporting higher education for the youngest survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, and working to build more peaceful communities in western Massachusetts.

Peace in Place was founded by Ken Chartrand and Tara Parrish, who first traveled to Rwanda in 2015 as mentors under the State Department Professional Fellows Program.

In addition to strengthening young Rwandans' access to higher education, the organization plans to bring community stakeholders from this area – including formerly incarcerated community members – to experience peacebuilding, restorative justice, and conflict resolution approaches in Rwanda.

In addition to the regular baked goods, crafted items from Rwanda will also be available for sale at Monday's event. Free Soup and Game Night is held at Hope and Olive Restaurant, 44 Hope Street, Greenfield. For more information, contact Ken at (413) 687-3854 or Tara at (860) 830-6222.

King Bridge only to have a distraught man pull a knife on him. Calling for backup, Loynd successfully de-escalated the situation and convinced him to accept transportation to a hospital.

They reviewed an application to the FERC for the town to be granted intervenor status in the process to review Northfield Mountain's hydro license. "We do have a fiscal concern," Bryan Smith said. "The renewal of the license, the capacity of the project have a direct correlation to tax revenues... We always will have a safety concern. It sits right above Farley, and it's a daily concern that if anything was to go wrong, we'd have to respond."

The board's next meeting is scheduled for February 5.



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Objects in Montague's Roads: A Police Log Retrospective

Compiled by EMILY ALLING Illustrations by NINA ROSSI



Saturday, 10/12/13
2:16 p.m. Complaint of someone blowing leaves into roadway at Millers Falls Road and Turners Falls Road.

Tuesday, 12/17/13
4:18 p.m. Caller who had been blowing snow into road complained that a DPW plow had intentionally thrown snow onto himself and his neighbor.

Friday, 2/21/14
8:11 a.m. Caller reported that a vehicle in front of him just hit the pothole on Unity Street and may have popped a tire. Pothole found to be larger today than yesterday. DPW advised; MPD asked to call back if the hole gets bigger or if there are additional problems. Anonymous walk-in reported same pothole. Officer will try to locate a traffic cone to put in the pothole. Attempted to contact DPW again. Cone placed in hole. DPW responded; on scene; calling in second worker due to size of hole.

Monday, 1/5/15
2:40 p.m. Complaint that property owner on Fourth Street extension plows snow into the roadway.

Monday, 1/19/15
1 p.m. Caller expressing concern about water pooling in the roadway on Highland Street.

Monday, 2/2/15
3:07 p.m. Caller from Randall Wood Drive complaining of neighbor constantly shoveling snow from her driveway into the road. States she does this every storm; has never complained before, but today, due to the amount of snow, caller almost got stuck in the road.

Thursday, 2/5/15
10:29 a.m. Caller reports that the metal plate on the sidewalk on the bridge that connects Canal Road in Turners Falls with Turners Falls Road in Greenfield has come out of position and is sticking out into the roadway. MassDOT advised; will send someone to return plate to its proper position. Per Chief Dodge, the entire see OBJECTS page B4

Thursday, 10/9/14
6:15 a.m. Caller reports that there is a large hole in the road on Canal Street that appears to have been worked on recently. Same



LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES ILLUSTRATION

had approximately six reflective traffic barrels around it, but now there are only a few left. Caller is concerned that a motor vehicle could go into the hole.

Monday, 1/5/15
2:40 p.m. Complaint that property owner on Fourth Street extension plows snow into the roadway.

Monday, 1/19/15
1 p.m. Caller expressing concern about water pooling in the roadway on Highland Street.

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Generations Share A Love of Contra Dance and Music



Members of the up-and-coming contra band Polaris. Clockwise from left: Jesse Ball, Sam Zakon-Anderson, Rose Jackson, and Marta Bartholomew.

By DK KNAUER

GREENFIELD – It's rare that the music and dancing of one generation will be taken up by the one following it. But such is the case with the Massachusetts contra

dance band Polaris. The band came together through their mutual appreciation of contra dance music, and it was their parents who first introduced them to the genre.

Band members Marta Bartholomew, Rose Jackson, Sam Za-

kon-Anderson, and Jesse Ball are all between eighteen and twenty years old. All but Marta, who is from Hartland, Vermont, are from north-central Massachusetts. Rose and Marta each play the fiddle; Sam is on keyboards, and Jesse, who is from Leverett, plays guitar, accordion and hammer dulcimer.

While band members may have varied musical interests and – as in Jesse's case – may have played music in bands performing music more typical of their generation, they have all returned to the music passed along by their parents. Sam's father, Steve Zakon-Anderson, is a "caller" at contra dances. Jesse's father, Stephen Ball, has been contra dancing since the mid-1970s and has served as Master at the Guiding Star Grange in Greenfield.

Contra dancing, with its roots in English, Scottish and French styles from the 1600s, is a form of folk dancing incorporating lines of see POLARIS page B8

ART AND SCIENCE: THREE ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

BRATTLEBORO – The great thing about interviews is that you never know how they'll turn out.

For the second in this series on how people use science in their so-called non-scientific jobs, I talked with three local artists: Karen Kamenetzky, a fiber artist whose work is inspired by electron microscope images in Brattleboro; Laura Kaye, a visual artist working with environmental and political themes in Northfield; and Nina Rossi, a mixed media artist inspired by creative reuse of materials and her observations of natural and man-made forms in Turners Falls (and well-known to *Montague Reporter* readers as features editor and writer).

We all met at the Chelsea Royal Diner in West Brattleboro for food and good conversation. My goal in speaking with the artists was to find out their definitions of science and art, and how they are or are not related in their work. I was delighted to find out each had her own complex way of thinking about science in relation to what she does.

Laura felt it was a common cultural assumption that art and science were opposites and dualistic, and while she maintained that science and art are distinct endeavors, she said she didn't think of them as in opposition. Karen said that duality did not hold true for her either; and Nina went further to say she felt like science and art were merged.



Lack of Judgment Day by Laura Kaye.

It turns out that Nina had a very well-defined concept of art and science as both being about the processes of observation and experimentation: "Systematic sometimes, sometimes just finding out stuff by accident – what about my work isn't about observing? The human body and landscapes are all about observing – what isn't being a scientist and artist at the same time? It's about paying attention."

Scientists agree. The scientific method consists of observations both qualitative (to get ideas), and quantitative (to collect data; read more at *sciencing.com*).

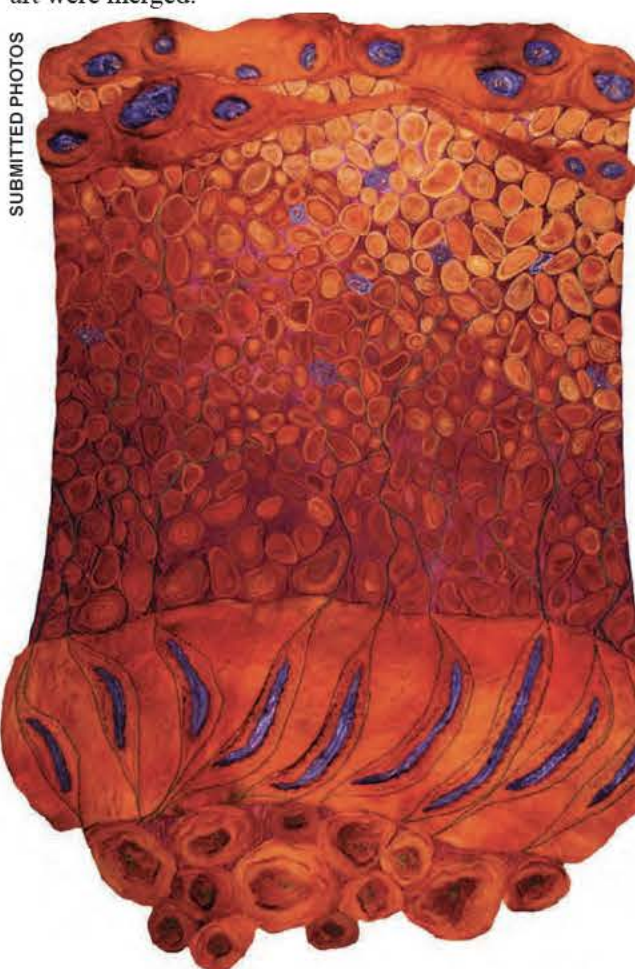
For Karen, the processes of doing science and doing art are not where they meet, but more in the content. "I feel like I could not be a scientist: I am not meticulous, I shoot myself if I had to pay attention to data points and statistics. Where art and science came together for me is when I fell in love with the imagery, the line and shape, the architecture of the microscopic world and at linked to metaphorical ideas," she explained.

"Art is in the center that joins those two things together. I did a lot of reading and research on plant biology, I learned a lot because I never paid attention in biology class, but I started getting interested in how water moved through plants, how systems work and change happens, and so it became not just imagery, but a function of that imagery."

Imagery, and the science and math behind it, became the theme for the conversation. Nina loves drawing the human figure because she finds the edges and planes, the geometry. Karen loves the connections in the human body on the microscopic level, the boundaries you can see and the pathways that connect them.

And Laura spoke about how internet images – sometimes just one, the right one, or sometimes many are one source she draws on for visual information to create her paintings.

According to the University of Chicago Press, authors Ian G. Gross and Joseph E. Harmon "with great insight see ART & SCIENCE page B6



Cultivating Connections-II by Karen Kamenetzky.

WEST ALONG THE RIVER CANDLEMAS EVE IN THE OLD KITCHEN



By DAVID BRULE

Light has won a fraction's strength
And day put on some moment's length...
– The Year's Awakening, by Thomas Hardy (1840-1928)



Song sparrow

THE FLAT, MILLERS RIVER – How many of us are left who still observe the coming and going of Candlemas? Yet this event has been a celebration of winter's passing, throughout the rural world since the beginning of time. Pre-Christian tribes and agricultural folk, especially in the Celtic world, celebrated this time of year with fire and purifying ritual.

Imbolc, like many a pagan practice, ceremony, and holy site, was co-opted by the Christian Church in its various forms, and given a Christian spin, its name changed to Candlemas. But before the Church came the earliest peoples, who worshipped the forces of nature, who were alert and observant of the sun's progress through the skies. For them, *Imbolc* marked the beginning of the Celtic spring, the birth of lambs, and the flowing of ewe's milk to nourish the newborn of the flock.

Those who lived close to the cycles of the natural world were more tuned in to the skies than we are. But some of us, the inheritors of thousands of years of ceremony, are here to remind you of this pivotal time of the year that brings news of the birth of new life, new hope.

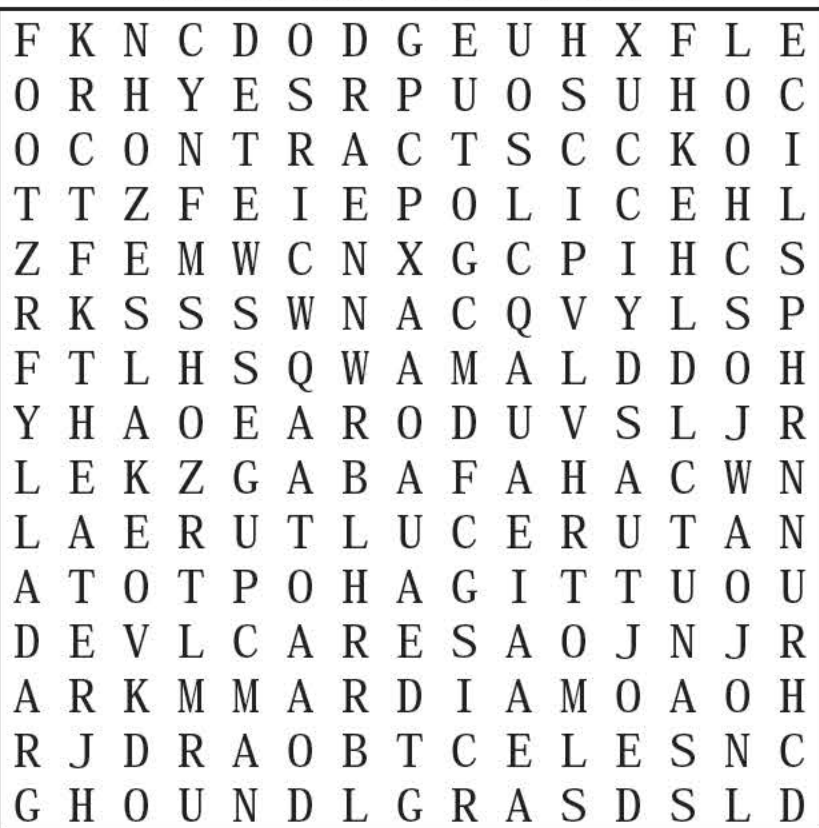
This old house and its kitchen have been just the site of the Candlemas ritual since the 1870s when the first Scotswoman, my great-grandmother, stepped through the door to establish the tradition that we in this house still observe today. Indeed, three women, Celts all, have run this kitchen for the past one hundred and forty years: great-grandmother from Aberdeenshire,

LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES ILLUSTRATION

see WEST ALONG page B4

Montague Word Noticer

27 words from this edition are trapped within this unsettling grid. Have you got what it takes... to notice them?



Word Noticer Hints:

- 1: Name of a young band
- 2 & 3: He's still on paid leave
- 4 & 5: Dog running around Gill
- 6 & 7: Our popular compilations
- 8: Top town elected officials
- 9: Our monthly feature page
- 10: A machine that dies
- 11: Joe P's brand of #10
- 12: It couldn't keep up with #11
- 13, 14 & 15: Monthly Monday benefit
- 16 & 17: Help offered for tired soles
- 18 & 19: A district necessity
- 20 & 21: Holiday some'll observe this Saturday
- 22 & 23: Town-owned venue in Turners Falls
- 24, 25 & 26: Exhibit in a very small place
- 27: Activity popular at Grange halls

Mail your completed Word Noticers to our office! The Montague Reporter, 177 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 We will also accept photographs of completed puzzles by email at: info@montaguereporter.org



Remembering... "The Breakfast Club"

By FRAN HEMOND

Longtime Montague Reporter contributor Fran Hemond passed away in November. By popular demand, we will be periodically republishing a selection of her popular nature columns, written at her Montague Center home Cold Brook Farm. We hope you will enjoy them!

A Winter Haven

The breakfast club crew survived a streak of winter weather that would have discouraged a lesser group. Two feet of snow smothered their natural food supply, and they brought their friends to the feeder at Cold Brook. The ubiquitous juncos, God bless them, moved over for regular visits from the resident cardinals, a him and her who behave in the manner of an earlier generation. He cases the area for dangers, while she hops around in the rhododendron thicket.



Her yellow brown coloration, which generally blends her in with the woody surroundings, does nothing to hide her this day, for snow has encompassed the world. She seems to give him the best pickings, move in when appropriate, and follow respectfully when he decides to leave. Back in the rhododendron thicket, the brilliant white snow clinging to leaves and branches reveals aspects not apparent in the usual green and brown shade. Snow has settled in the bird nest made more obvious by a small bright red object, a mitten perhaps? The very denseness of the bushes

gives safety to birds from the danger of larger animals, and exploration by children, but the squirrels seem to maneuver among the branches well. The nest is only four feet above the ground, and apparently offered some bird haven last summer.

This morning, seven species stopped by. The chickadees, for whom the feeder seems to offer the best perches, came and ate efficiently and left. The nuthatches (one tries to make a tree trunk out of the slippery tube) used their sharp bills to threaten any bird who thought to hurry them off; the titmouse took his sunflower seed off to the catalpa tree, and the song sparrow settled for food from the ground. A downy woodpecker deigned to join the group this challenging morning, but has not returned.

In early winter, warmer weather and open water had brought four black ducks to the north pond daily. They were sleek handsome drakes with good red feet and white underwings that shone in the afternoon sun when they flew back to the river. The four mallards who generally came to the south pond seemed a little heftier, less wary, well settled in.

Now more than halfway through the calendar winter, an undulating brook channel has opened through the snow-covered pond. On its banks the big white oak still clings to tattered brown leaves and the lingering robin in its branches must wish it had gone south. (February 10, 2005)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Pothole-Caused Flats; Deer-Loving Cats; Pole Broken; Dopesmokin'; Dogs Needing Pats

Saturday, 1/20
10:14 a.m. Caller from Walnut Street advises that recently someone has been stealing cigarette butts out of an ashtray on her porch. Advised caller to notify her landlord, take the ashtray in, and call back if she notices anything else suspicious.
2:23 p.m. Caller from Hillside Road states there are two horses walking in the street; unknown where they came from. Officer checking various addresses of horse owners to see if they are missing horses. Owners located and responding to retrieve horses.
7:11 p.m. Caller states that a man is looking over the side of the Gill-Montague Bridge, not on the sidewalk side, but on the other side. Unfounded.

Sunday, 1/21
2:16 a.m. 911 caller from Chestnut Street reports suspicious vehicle across from her house. She observed a male in dark clothing get out of the vehicle and come toward her house, possibly heading for the garage. Investigated.

Monday, 1/22
8:33 a.m. Multiple calls reporting vehicles sliding off road in area of North Leverett Road. No injuries reported; waiting for tow trucks. Stuck vehicles removed.
11:53 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street states that her purse was just stolen from her front porch with her daughter's cell phone and tablet inside. Report taken.

3:50 p.m. Caller from Farn Care Center reporting that one of their residents hit another resident in the head. No medical attention required. Officer attempted to call back, but call could not be completed.

11:18 p.m. Caller from Avenue A reporting loud noise from snow clearing that is occurring at the Freedom Credit Union. Officer advises private company removing snow; same appears to have short time left. No further action needed.

Tuesday, 1/23
8:02 a.m. Caller from L Street states that five dark-colored dogs are walking alone through the neighborhood. Animal control officer notified and responding. DPW employee just saw dogs on bike path near Unity Park; he thinks they may belong to a business on Second Street. Made contact with dog owner, who states his dogs got loose but he now has them all back except for one puppy. ACO updated. All dogs have been rounded up.
8:35 a.m. Caller states that she found two needles and

some baggies outside of the Millers Falls laundry this morning. She is taking care of disposing of the items.
3:50 p.m. Caller reports that there is a raccoon in the Cutlery parking lot; inquiring whether ACO could assist. Raccoon did not appear to be sick. Caller advises there is a large build-up of trash in the area that the raccoon was eating from, and it was drinking from some standing water nearby. Caller has already contacted her landlord, who is going to remove the trash. Raccoon has left area. Advised caller that once trash is removed, raccoon will likely move on; advised to call back if raccoon exhibits signs it might be rabid.
5:53 p.m. Caller reports hearing what sounds like a female screaming in the street in front of a Third Street location. Caller went outside but could not locate anyone in distress. After speaking with several people in area, officers determined that a male party was the person screaming. Party taken into protective custody.

7:32 p.m. Disabled vehicle at Sunderland and Fosters roads; two flat tires damaged after hitting a pothole. Operator working on getting someone to assist them. Vehicle will potentially be a hazard. Rau's requested and en route. Officer located pothole in question; advises it is a significant pothole. Damaged tires on caller's vehicle were consistent with the placement of the pothole. Message left for DPW. TFFD also advised.
10:19 p.m. Vehicle into utility pole on Turners Falls Road. MedCare contacted as precaution; TFFD, PD, Eversource, and DPW advised. Road closed from Swamp Road to Hatchery Road. Vehicle towed; road reopened.

Wednesday, 1/24
12:25 a.m. Detail officer advises of request to assist with unwanted female at residence on Turners

Falls Road. Units clear; male picked up female and took responsibility for her for the night. Shortly afterward, male called 911 advising that as he was driving female home, she became upset and attempted to get out of the car. Male stopped vehicle, and female left on foot. Female located at friend's house. Friend has taken responsibility for her, and both are staying in for the night.
3:26 p.m. Report of dead deer in wooded area adjacent to Roosevelt Street. Deer appears to be attracting a couple of stray cats in the area. Referred to Environmental Police.
6:32 p.m. Report of sewage odor coming from G Street area. TFFD responded to investigate; advised slight odor detected, no more than usual.
8 p.m. 911 call reporting out-of-control female who just broke a window on Fourth Street. Parties on scene have restrained female, who could be heard screaming in the background; unsure if she had any weapons on her. Second 911 caller reporting disturbance in "large" Powertown Apartment parking lot; advised a female was outside yelling "Let me in!" and breaking windows, and several parties on scene appeared to be intoxicated.

[Redacted] was arrested and charged with disturbing the peace, malicious destruction of property less than \$250, and resisting arrest.
11:18 p.m. 911 caller reporting a male at F.L. Roberts whose face is covered in blood. Officers, TFFD, and MedCare en route. Under investigation.

Thursday, 1/25
1 p.m. Two-vehicle accident at Coolidge and James avenues. One operator transported by TF ambulance.
5:35 p.m. Report of erratic operator, last seen on Turners Falls Road passing Hatchery Road, passing in no passing zone,

etc. Registered owner and usual operator's last known address in Gill. Caution noted; usual operator known to carry bow and arrow and was the subject of a Section 12 in 2017. Area checked; negative contact.
Friday, 1/26
3:58 p.m. Caller states that a telephone pole is leaning against another pole's wires near the train tracks on East Main Street. Pole 8/133 is leaning pretty heavy on some wires. Eversource notified.
Saturday, 1/27
8:10 a.m. Caller advises she noticed some jewelry stolen from her mother's residence. Report taken. Officer spoke with Gary's Coins, who will keep an eye out.
8:53 a.m. Caller advises that there is a railroad spike in the lane of travel on the Gill-Montague Bridge. Area checked; gone on arrival.
3:35 p.m. Caller states that there are some kids under the footbridge "smoking dope." Officer out on foot investigating. Nothing found.
6:04 p.m. Report of bale of hay in travel lane on Turners Falls Road near Randall Road. Officer located bale near Hatchery Road; will continue driving through Montague Center to see if any more have fallen. Area checked; no more hay along the roads.

Sunday, 1/28
12:21 a.m. 911 caller with non-emergency animal complaint. Same referred to non-emergency line. Caller on business line reporting barking dog inside neighbor's house on Seventh Street. Same has been barking for approximately six hours. It appears no one is home. Caller has spoken to owners in past, but problem continues. Officer advises two dogs in residence were barking upon arrival. Room dogs were in had open window. Officers closed same, which cut down on the noise. Call left for ACO to follow up on this.

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WEST ALONG from page B1 grandmother from County Kerry, and my Breton wife Monique.

The first in the keepers of the kitchen was great-grandmother Elizabeth Moir, who emigrated from Scotland in 1870s, and who, through the vagaries and quirks of life, found herself in this house, married to a rough-hewn American whose roots went deep into American Indian and African cultures.

However, Elizabeth was a staunch Calvinist, and kept the family of five boys and this giant of a husband in line, in spite of her diminutive size. Bringing with her the Scots traditions from her homeland, she was the first to introduce Candlemas to this house. She observed this time of year as had Scottish tribes since before the coming of Christianity to the Highlands and Lowlands of northern Scotland.

Long ago, tales told around the kitchen table told that central to keeping Candlemas was Elizabeth's insistence that all partake of her rec-

T-RUMP



ipe for griddle cakes! Some maintain that its round form is intended to symbolize the roundness of the returning sun. Either way, even the youngest of reluctant church-goers in the family had no problem observing this particular practice!

Elizabeth left the kitchen and

traditions to her daughter-in-law, grandmother Hannah, a Celt with deep roots in County Kerry. She too had a houseful of children to tame and a houseful to feed. Her recipes for chocolate cake and griddle cakes were never written down; she threw together ingredients by memory and hunch. Those humble secrets she took to the grave, and we'll not again savor those delicious concoctions of hers.

When it was my turn to take over the homestead forty-five years ago, Hannah had relinquished the kitchen to my wife Monique, born and raised in the agricultural homeland of the Bretons. This region is the last stronghold of the Celt in France and has its own language which is cousin to Welsh, Gaelic, and Scots. So the tradition of keeping Candlemas remains intact, even though the term Candlemas became *Chandeleur*, its equivalent in the French language. And under her reign, so-called griddle cakes became known as *galettes* and *crêpes*.

Crêpes, typically made with wheat flour, are light, sweet, and served as a dessert. *Galettes*, on the other hand, are made with hearty buckwheat flour, and as a typically

peasant dish, they are eaten with sausages, or rich cheeses, mushrooms, and eggs.

And so on Candlemas in this house, the day is set aside for making a great stack of the above, to be consumed on the spot by guests and household alike. What is not eaten during the festivities is saved for breakfast over the next few days.

Usually we gather around the Glenwood C cookstove, its great cast iron hulk glowing, its cooking surface holding three or four shallow griddles to keep the *galettes* coming.

Each of us takes a turn in handling and maneuvering the griddle pan, rotating and carefully molding the batter as it flows and grills. The goal is to create the perfect, familiar round shape of the returning sun.

The most skilled learn fast, and timing it just right, flip the *galette* high in the air over the stove, catching it in the pan to the cheers of the increasingly merry group. But if doing so, one of the flippers misses the mark, with the *galette* hitting the ceiling, the stove top or the floor, then it falls to the eagerly waiting dog to claim his share.

Nowadays, we revert back to the old custom of consuming fermented

beverages, as did the Old Kelts, and the whole Candlemas event becomes a real celebration of life indeed.

Flipping *galettes*, bringing out the smuggled bottle of Breton *chouchen* (fermented honey-based mead), faces begin to glow from the heat of the woodstove and the growing fires within us, stoked by *crêpes*, *galettes*, and fermented honey.

So no hokey, commercialized Groundhog Day in this house. We're connecting with the ancestors from over the millennia, and celebrating with them the return of the growing light.

Some say that Solstice celebrations of lighting bonfires encourage the sun to come back during the darkest days of the year. I'd like to think that eating as many of those sun-shaped *galettes* on February 2, really convinces the pagan spring keepers to show themselves.

To prove my point, our song sparrow, like the sly pagan Pan, first lifted his lilting song, piping early this morning from the back of the lilac bush. And another sparrow, stirring in the frozen cattail-ed marsh across the river, answered in a faint and determined echo.



OBJECTS from page B1

Dodge requests that MassDOT make a more secure repair and call back with the disposition. MassDOT later called back to advise that the metal plate has been secured and they do not expect it to come up again.

6:40 p.m. Caller reports that a large hole has opened up in the road on James Avenue; it appears that the street is collapsing into the sewer pipe. Caller placed cone in area; officer viewed sinkhole and notified DPW, who will respond on Monday.

Wednesday, 2/25/15 1:00 p.m. Caller reports a significant pothole at Montague City Road and Turnpike Road. Officer notified DPW, who stated that nothing could be done due to the weather.

Monday, 3/2/15 12:49 p.m. Officer reports multiple spots on the bridge over the river by the Housing Authority and Paper Logic where rebar is sticking up. Same is creating a hazard; could puncture a tire.

Friday, 3/6/15 5:15 p.m. Party into station advising of two giant potholes at Turnpike Road and Montague City Road.

Saturday, 3/7/15 7:45 p.m. Party into station reporting an "extremely large" pothole at Turnpike Road and Montague City Road; stated it was large enough that he thought he lost a tire when he hit it. Responding officer advises that pothole is about 1.5 feet in diameter and 4 inches deep.

Thursday, 3/12/15 9:39 a.m. Officer reports large pothole on Highland Street and requests that DPW be contacted to put a barrel in it. DPW advises that pothole may have been caused by work done by the Water Department; will contact Water Department to have the issue resolved.

Friday, 3/13/15 1:29 p.m. Walk-in report of several large potholes on the General Pierce Bridge.

Tuesday, 7/7/15 6:55 p.m. Report of flooding on Montague City Road. DPW contacted. Road left open, but barricades placed to slow motorists down.

Monday, 7/20/15

8:04 p.m. Caller reports a small hole, approximately 3" in diameter, in the road near the library. Caller stated it looked down a "sewer pipe." DPW advised; responded that they placed cones in the area and will work on it in the morning.

Tuesday, 8/11/15

7:00 p.m. First of several reports of street flooding. Part of Millers Falls Road washed out.

Saturday, 8/22/15

3:07 p.m. Report of a sinkhole at Ninth and K Streets. Officers will be putting barricades out. Hole is 3'x3' across and a foot deep. Officer requests that DPW be contacted for the undermined portion of road and for barricades.

Thursday, 12/3/15

8:34 a.m. While on a detail, officer observed a sinkhole on North Street. Hole is approximately 2 feet deep and 3 feet wide. Officers will mark hole for now until DPW is able to respond.

Monday, 1/25/16

8:06 p.m. Single vehicle accident on Old Northfield Road; caller believes she hit an icy patch in the road, causing her to lose control.

Sunday, 2/12/17

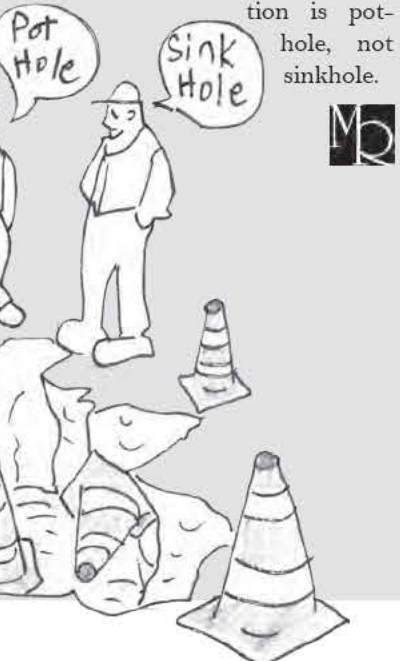
1:31 p.m. Sinkhole or partial road collapse at K Street and Ninth. DPW determined caused by an old sewer line collapsing and will be by to repair at a later time due to weather conditions. Barricaded.

Wednesday, 5/17/17

9:45 a.m. Caller from Vladish Avenue reports that her neighbor blows his grass clippings into the road; she has been cleaning up the clippings out of concern that they could pose a safety hazard to cyclists.

Saturday, 7/22/17

10:09 a.m. Sinkhole reported on the Turner Street side of the Bridge of Names. Officer advises hole in question is pot-hole, not sinkhole.



Mardi Gras Hoopla at the Shea

TURNERS FALLS – It's time to shake off the winter blues and make your way downtown for a lively Mardi Gras party at the newly renovated Shea Theater in Turners Falls. New Orleans powerhouse jazz and blues vocalist Samirah Evans and the popular ten-legged rock and roll machine Trailer Park are joining forces to create a Mardi Gras event you won't soon forget.

The Shea starts shaking this Saturday, February 3 at 8 p.m. Mardi Gras costumes are encouraged, and will be rewarded during a contest at the event.

Samirah Evans (at right) has headlined numerous Fat Tuesday celebrations since emigrating from the Big Easy to New England following Hurricane Katrina. This show marks her debut performance at Shea Theater, which has recently upgraded sound and lighting systems and added a bar in the lobby. Their stadium seating enables audience members to enjoy the concert with an unobstructed view of the stage, while revelers in front of the band will have ample room for dancing. Evans says she thinks the musical collaboration with Trailer Park will provide an opportunity to do both.

"When I first heard Trailer Park, the dance bug bit me in a way it hadn't since moving to the area. Their style is reminiscent of one my favorite bands from New Orleans, The Iguanas. It made me feel right at home," says Evans, who is learning to sing some of the band's material while teaching them the jazz, blues and classic Mardi Gras tunes in her repertoire.

Joining Trailer Park's regular quintet of Tom Mahnken (bass and vocals), James Robinson (guitar and vocals), Joe Fitzpatrick (drums), Greg Lauzon (saxophones), and Rick Page (saxophones) for this show is special guest pi-



anist Peter Jones. The group has been together for more than 20 years, releasing six CDs and sharing stages with the likes of Los Lobos, NRBQ, Little Feat, Bo Diddley, WAR and Rat Dog.

Samirah Evans' 1990 debut at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival began a stint of 15 consecutive years performing there as a leader or featured vocalist, and she was a fixture in both clubs and concert venues throughout the Crescent City, including Snug Harbor, Tipitina's and the House of Blues.

During her career, she has toured North and South America, Europe and Asia, sharing stages with a multitude of New Orleans notables and legendary artists, including James Brown, B.B. King, Dr. John, Aaron Neville, Charles Neville, Terence Blanchard, Donald Harrison, Jr., Poncho Sanchez, Bob Dorough, Irma Thomas, Kermit Ruffins, Trombone Shorty and Sam Kininger, Sheila Jordan, and more.

Advance tickets are available for \$15 online (sheatheater.org), or at the door for \$20. Tickets may also be purchased at River Valley Co-op in Northampton and Tum It Up! Records in Brattleboro. Shea Theater membership information is available at the theater's bar during the show for those interested in joining the theater and getting discounts at various local businesses as well as other perks.

The evening will also offer an opportunity for people to make a monetary donation to musician Charles Neville and his family. The Grammy-winning saxophonist for New Orleans' The Neville Brothers, and longtime resident of western Massachusetts, is currently battling pancreatic cancer.

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French King Restaurant & Motel OPEN BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY 7 A.M.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Families, looking for things to do with your youngest children? Check out Kaleidoscope Story Hour on Fridays in February at the Great Falls Discovery Center. More information is available at TurnersFalls-RiverCulture.org.

As for our new videos this week, check out Greenfield Savings Bank: Playdough 1/13/18. And take a look

at our TV schedule at montaguetelevision.org to see when your favorite local events will be airing.

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, info-montaguetelevision@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We'd love to work with you!

League of Women Voters Announces High School Video Contest

BOSTON – The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts invites all Massachusetts high school students to create 30-second videos encouraging eligible voters to make a game plan to vote in the 2018 Massachusetts election.

This year Massachusetts voters will elect one US senator, nine US representatives, governor and other state constitutional officers, all state legislators in both houses, Governor's Council, and several county positions, including district attorney. The League wants voters to know that democracy is not a spectator sport, and that no one should sit on the sidelines in an election.

The League will publicize the videos throughout the state, with

prizes up to \$500. All winners will receive their prizes at an award ceremony at the Massachusetts State House in June 2018.

The contest is open to all current Massachusetts high school students. Eligible Contestants must be either registered in a public or private high school or be home-schooled. Contestants must be at least 13 years old. Submissions are free and open between February 1 and March 31, 2018. Please visit lwvma.org for the complete guidelines.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is a non-partisan, grassroots organization, committed to influencing public policy through citizen education and advocacy.

Robin Hood, February 9 to 17

BRATTLEBORO, VT – New England Youth Theatre, at 100 Flat Street in Brattleboro, presents *Robin Hood*, adapted and directed by Peter Gould.

Robin Hood and his merry band have been roaming Sherwood Forest for about a thousand years now -- robbing the rich and giving all the money to the poor -- and now they are back at NEYT!

With lots of wonderful character work by talented young actors, this production also features lighting de-

sign by NEYT alum Jay Gelter, and costumes by NEYT's peerless Creative Director Sandy Klein.

The play performs Fridays, February 9 and 16 at 7 p.m. and Saturdays, February 10 and 17 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets for these performances are \$11 for adults, \$10 for seniors, and \$7 for students. They may be purchased in advance at www.neyt.org, in person at the NEYT box office, or by phone at (802) 246-6398 from noon to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays.

27th Poet's Seat Poetry Contest

GREENFIELD – The Friends of the Greenfield Public Library are seeking poems for the 27th annual Poet's Seat Poetry Contest, open to all Franklin County residents and students. Submit up to three poems. The deadline is March 5.

This contest, sponsored by the Friends annually since 1991, is held in honor of Frederick Goddard Tuckerman, who lived in Greenfield from 1847 until his death in 1873 and was considered by his contemporaries – Emerson, Thoreau, and Tennyson – to be a gifted poet. A graduate of Harvard Law School, he shunned law in favor of botany and poetry. Although he never achieved wide public acclaim, his poems are often included in anthologies of noted American poets.

Awards will be given in three categories: first, second, and third place in the adult division and the four top poems in the youth division – divided into 12 to 14 and 15 to 18 for judging. The Poet's Seat awards ceremony and poetry reading will take place in April.

The adult first prize winner will receive stewardship of the Poet's Seat chair, with their name on a plaque listing all previous winners, as well as a handcrafted Poet's Platter, a gift

certificate to a local bookstore, and a night at the Poetry Ridge Bed and Breakfast. All other winners will receive a handcrafted mug along with a gift certificate to a local bookstore.

Submission rules: Submit up to three poems. Number pages of multi-page poems. Indicate "Adult" or "Young Poet." Young Poets should write their age on the front of the sheet where the poem appears, lower right-hand corner, circled. No other identifying information on front of sheet, and no staples.

All poets, on reverse side of poem write name, address, telephone number and email address. Poems will not be returned. Submit on white paper, printed clearly in ink or typed in plain typeface. Include SASE for notification of receipt; otherwise notification will be via email.

Only unpublished poems may be submitted. Previous first-place winners may not submit, though top-placing youth poets may re-submit in a new age category. Entries must be postmarked by March 5, 2018. Mail to: Poet's Seat Poetry Contest, Greenfield Public Library, 402 Main St., Greenfield, MA 01301.

For more information, contact Hope Schneider at 772-0257 or email hopeschneider395@comcast.net.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Loose Basset Hound Wearing Sweater

Tuesday, 1/2
4:23 a.m. Car vs. deer, Main and South Cross roads.
Wednesday, 1/3
9:22 a.m. Medical emergency: Montague dispatch advises they received a report of a male subject vomiting over the side of the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.
9:42 a.m. Disabled vehicle at West Gill and Main roads.
10:51 a.m. Welfare check requested on Main Road.
4:34 p.m. Car vs. deer, French King Highway.
5:31 p.m. Disabled vehicle at French King Highway and Camp Road.
Thursday, 1/4
1:25 p.m. Vehicle stuck in driveway, Stoughton Place.
1:34 p.m. Two-car accident, no personal injury, Route 2 at Chappell Drive.
1:59 p.m. 911 call: vehicle stuck off private way off of Main Road.
3:34 p.m. Accident on French King Highway: caller hit a tree and went into a ditch. No injury.
6:44 p.m. Harassment report.
Saturday, 1/6
12:32 p.m. Carbon monoxide hazard, Boyle Road.
2:08 p.m. Snow drifts blocking roadway on Riverview Drive.
5:18 p.m. Chimney fire on West Gill Road.
9:58 p.m. Vehicle slid off Back Road. Tow coming in the morning. Northfield Mount Hermon security aware.
Monday, 1/8
7:08 p.m. Vehicle slid off steep driveway on private way off French King Highway. No police response needed.
8:38 p.m. Annoying phone calls reported from Franklin Road.
Tuesday, 1/9
3:41 p.m. Vehicle with revoked registration stopped by Riverside Radiator, Route 2. Criminal complaint issued.
10:05 p.m. Disturbance, Chappell Drive.
Wednesday, 1/10
2:45 p.m. Complaint of vehicle speeding at 90+ mph on Route 2 westbound. Stopped near Greenfield town line; citation issued.
Thursday, 1/11
8:05 p.m. Caller requested well-being check on a friend on Oak Street.
Friday, 1/12
8:26 p.m. Caller advises there is an object in the center of the travel lanes on Route 2 between old BBQ and welding company. She is concerned it could move into a travel lane.
12:53 p.m. Caller complains of a dark gray Toyota Camry weaving all over Route 2.
5:03 p.m. Caller advises water has started backing up in a culvert on Highland Road. Highway superintendent advised.
5:07 p.m. Disabled vehicle reported, westbound at French King Bridge. Was determined to be on other side of Erving. Assisted with traffic control. Numerous vehicles with blown-out tires due to large pothole.
Saturday, 1/13
8:36 a.m. Traffic hazard reported: Chappell's Brook jumped the bank and they have a river coming down Chappell Drive.
Monday, 1/15
2:44 p.m. Medical emergency, McCollum Ice Arena, Northfield Mount Hermon.
6:20 p.m. Officer requested to help caller retrieve her property.
6:30 p.m. Welfare check requested.
Tuesday, 1/16
4:41 p.m. Vehicle over-

turned on Main Road, no injuries.
Wednesday, 1/17
7:26 a.m. Caller reports traffic lights on Route 2 are not functioning correctly.
Thursday, 1/18
9:28 a.m. Caller advises there is an ice jam along the river in the area of her Peterson Way house.
12:03 p.m. Officer at French King Highway location to keep the peace while party removes property.
12:17 p.m. Medical emergency, West Gill Road.
Friday, 1/19
11:26 a.m. Main Road business advises male subject just stole from their store.
5 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle, Route 2 at Gill lights.
Saturday, 1/20
3:46 p.m. Alarm, Cutler Science Center, Northfield Mount Hermon.
3:49 p.m. Loose Basset Hound wearing a sweater reported running in the road on Route 2 between the Wagon Wheel and French King Bridge.
5:10 p.m. Basset Hound seen running up behind a house on Hill Drive.
Sunday, 1/21
1:14 p.m. Burglar alarm, Center Road. False alarm.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was January 31, 2008: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

From Mowing Our Lawns To Closing Our Schools

Nor surprisingly, passions flared during the lengthy discussion at the special town meeting around the amendment to change school closings to a decision made by 2/3 of the school board and a simple majority of town meeting members, rather than the 8-out-of-9 school committee vote it had been.

Mary Kociela, head of the Gill-Montague school board, made the case and fielded questions from a number of concerned townspeople. She explained that she understands the original 8-out-of-9 vote system, because closing a school is a very important decision to make, but that the committee's "inability to make a decision has led to a rift in the community."

Despite numerous questions, Kociela and interim superintendent Ken Rocke were adamant that this vote was not about closing individual schools in the district right now – although the vote to close Montague Center School has already passed – but that it was more to ensure future protocol.

Eventually the change did pass, 45-21, but not before a standing vote needed to be taken.

Another great debate took place during the discussion of Article 7, a proposal to appropriate \$81,080 for the purpose of purchasing mowing equipment for the Turners Falls Municipal Airport. Mike Sweeney, airport manager, explained that now that the airport has 90 additional acres of property to mow upgraded

services are needed.

Many questions later, Marge Levenson of the finance committee stated she was "not only stunned, but aghast" that the airport manager would be mowing the airport lawn instead of thinking creatively about bringing in revenue.

Finally, after much debate, the article was moved and passed by a majority vote.

Polling Place Move Contentious

The Montague selectboard meeting on Monday was the scene of a lively and sometimes fractious discussion over the topic of the recently-moved polling location for town voting. Residents who previously voted at the Montague Center Library will now do so at the Montague Center Fire Department on Old Sunderland Road.

Jeff Singleton of Montague Center, addressing the select board and those assembled, said, "I recognized that there may be a problem in the current location, but it's a radical step to move it. People are reminded to vote by seeing voters coming in and out of the library."

Several others echoed Singleton's concerns, mentioning the more remote location of the fire department, and the need to use cars to reach it.

Town clerk Deborah Bourbeau explained the decision. The space available for voting at the library measures 18 by 14 feet, which is not enough room for the polling booths, an accessible voting machine, and the check in and check out areas. The state Voting Board had recently visited the library and recommended a move.

The area available at the fire sta-

tion will be 18 by 48 feet.

Virus Strikes Connecticut River Salmon Stock

Many of us love our local Atlantic salmon. We visit the fish ladder viewing station - hoping to glimpse the rare silvery salmon. We scan the scoreboard, where FirstLight Power Resources, the local dam and fish ladder operators, records numbers of each species passing by the ladders. Our school kids tend salmon eggs in their classrooms, watching as the large salmon embryos develop. They squeal with delight as the young salmon squirm from their translucent shells and begin to dart about the tank.

This year, 121 of the 141 salmon returning from sea – possibly the same ones raised and released by hopeful school children – are destined not for reproduction at the Richard Cronin National Salmon Station in Sunderland, but rather, destruction.

According to Ben Letcher, an aquatic ecologist at the Silvio Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center in Turners Falls, ovarian samples from two of the returning adult fish tested positive for Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis Virus, or IPNV, a potentially lethal disease in salmon.

And so, as a precaution to prevent the possible spread of the disease, all of the adults and over seven hundred thousand of their eggs, are slated for destruction at the hands of the hatchery managers who tend these precious wild fish.

"I was devastated," said Mickey Novak, hatchery manager for the Cronin station, speaking of the drastic measures required. "I've tested thousands of samples. I've never had to do this in my entire career."

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NatureCulture: The Science Page

ART & SCIENCE from page B1

and admirable rigor” argue that “scientific meaning itself comes from the complex interplay between the verbal and the visual in the form of graphs, diagrams, maps, drawings, and photographs.” Apparently, it took Drs. Gross and Harmon over 300 pages in their book *Science from Sight to Insight: How Scientists Illustrate Meaning* to prove what these artists know – thus showing our conversation, too, was very insightful, if not rigorous.

Circuitously, we returned to the theme of scientific content, and that brought a dynamic note into the conversation. Karen described how her images based on electron microscope photos of cells tell stories about change: “Changes in the world are based on change at the cellular level [...] a moment of change and synthesis. I can articulate a story that is not abstract, it’s about miscommunication, attempts at connecting. Using that imagery, I can articulate a story maybe about connection and disconnection or transformation.”

Even art that does not contain scientific imagery can have effects that fall within the realm of science. Nina emphasized the psychological effects of art that doesn’t involve creating an object: conceptual art, e.g. sitting naked in a field, has scientific effects on the people who see it, and on the person enacting the art: “They’re paying attention to the field and their body: anything can arise. You’ll get interaction from different behaviors, how people react to you sitting in the field, there’s a whole study of human interaction.”

This emphasis on movement – change, a story, an effect that changes people, was a new concept for me. I thought of art as static, but talking with artists, what they seemed most interested in was its dynamic nature, and what made it real or not. The conversation became more philosophical. They admired Andy Goldsworthy, who made and documented ephemeral pieces; but also, Nina discussed the un-real nature of art she personally had yet to see – that art cannot be fully experienced without being there in its presence, and that this lack occurs in the same way with ephemeral art and more permanent art that exists thousands of miles away.

In this way, time became a dimension in our conversation – laid over place, it either produces reality (when they coincide), or an unreality that is different, somehow less, when they do not. I hadn’t expected the fourth dimension to be part of our art conversation, but while the artists didn’t use the same words as physicists, there it was, underlying our shared reality.

After that foray into the theoretical, we returned to material art that each of the women creates, and another

theme that emerged was the use of tools. As Laura put it, “Materials are a scientific aspect of art.”

Working with fiber, paints, metal, clay, adhesives – we discussed in great depth and detail the virtues of Sugru (a moldable glue invented by a woman, Jane Ni Dhulchaointigh) vs. another company’s silicone; we discussed step drills, the chemical composition of paints, and the process of fusing.

Throughout, our conversation was laced with references to how the artists use the technology of the internet, from marketing to research and inspiration. It brought home for me, a non-artist, the fact that what artists can manifest as material in the world sometimes depends on physical material possibilities as much as their inspiration, and that these are not separated or linear concepts. From the conversation it seemed to me an iterative process, as in engineering design, when what is possible and what is imagined dance with each other until a mutual agreement is reached.

In fact, I felt for a time during this conversation I was talking with engineers. And this is probably the point. Art and science and engineering – they have a lot in common; and we are lucky to experience the combination in these artists’ work.

For more from the artists:

Karen Kamenetzky:
karenkamenetzky.com

Laura Kay:
conscientiousobject.com

Nina Rossi:
ninastudio.net



Woman with Feather Earring by Nina Rossi.

FEATURED WEBSITE: DoSomething.org

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

This is a website for youth who want to make a positive, practical difference. It lists hundreds of fun, creative campaigns for social and environmental justice. On this innovative site, you can craft and promote your own campaign or join an on-going one.

Examples of environmental campaigns include “Climate Change Scavenger Hunt,” which gives kids

tips on how climate change affects everyday lives, and encourages them to hide notes with this information in their parents’ appliances to help get the message across that climate change is real. If you join this campaign, you’ll receive a packet about how to talk to your parents about climate change.

“Road to Recovery” helps kids make cards with wildlife rehabilitator information on them to hand out to drivers in their community,

while “Don’t be a Sucker: Share” helps youth “slay energy vampires” by unplugging electronic equipment that uses electricity even while switched off.

The social justice campaigns are even more innovative. “Babysitters Club” provides free childcare for parents completing their GED. “Crisis Crew” posts a mental health crisis text line number in public bathrooms, while “Food Forward” donates extra cafeteria food to homeless shelters.

Vermonters Track Plow Trucks Online

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

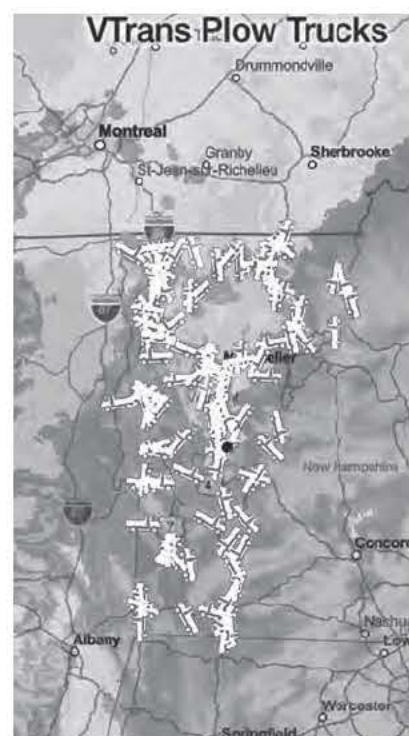
Vermont is way ahead of Massachusetts in helping drivers find clear roads in winter. Their webpage plowtrucks.vtrans.vermont.gov is a government-sponsored page that shows in real time the location and path of plow trucks.

This screenshot was taken at 8:19 a.m. on Christmas day, 2017. It shows those hard-working Vermonters plowing throughout the state. Each orange blob is a particular truck with a location device, and the helpful blue trails can be clicked on to show exactly when a truck was last there.

The trails stopped abruptly at the Massachusetts border, where I would later have to guess how best to get to Conway from Northfield.

Besides being really useful, the application has a good dose of humor. On the opening page of “Find My Plow,” it doles out the following information to help with proper map interpretation (I wondered if this was based on real feedback from those sometimes over-literal Vermonters):

- This map is based on data transmitted over a cellular network. Like any cell signal, there will be glitches and dead zones. Our plows do not leap over road sections.



Screenshot of Vermont snow plows in action, Christmas day, 2017.

- If a transmitter is offline, the truck may appear off the coast of Africa or another invalid location. We are not plowing there.

I think the diligent plow operators in our commonwealth deserve an app too. It would save us from having to go down to check if we can get out of our driveways, and maybe even get us to Christmas dinner on time.

Moon Calendar for February 2018:

Wednesday,
February 7:
Last Quarter

Thursday, February 15:
New Moon

No full moon this month! We had two last month, the last of which came on January 31, and our next one will be on March 1... just missed it both times.

Friday, February 23:
First Quarter

Visible only from Antarctica and parts of South America, a partial solar eclipse will occur on Thursday, February 15.

Note that some of the campaigns on this site are for young adults, so not every campaign is kid-safe – parents should definitely supervise younger children using this site.

This site is worth visiting for

the many great ideas that could be implemented anywhere, even if you don’t choose to join in electronically. It’s hopeful to see the creativity and energy of youth making the world a better place.

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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.

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 mcbress@vermontel.net for location and details.

2ND AND 4TH MONDAYS

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

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers. 10 to 10:45 a.m.

1ST AND 3RD THURSDAYS

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Open Mic Night*, 7 p.m.

2ND AND 4TH THURSDAYS

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Karaoke Night*, 8 p.m.

EVERY THIRD THURSDAY

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

EVERY FRIDAY

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Acoustic Country with Heath Lewis*, 9 p.m.

EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

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.

EXHIBITS:

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *There Must Be Something in the Water* by Paul Specht. *There Must Be Something in the Water* is a collection of composite photographs by Paul Specht, fea-

turing portraits and landscapes from the artist's previous works. Through February 16.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *The World of Wranglers, Rodeo Riders and their Horses*. Photos by Diane Norman taken in the wilds of Wyoming. Through February 27.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Slice of Humanity*. Five artists: depicting the human figure in unique portraits: Robert Bent, Suzanne Conway, Lauren Paradise, Nina Rossi and Jeff Wrench. Through March.



A portrait by Jeff Wrench, one of five artists in the current "Slice of Humanity" exhibit at Nina's Nook in Turners Falls. Says Wrench, who paints on wallpaper samples and paint chips, "I draw attention to the paint itself by using heavy brush strokes and colors that may not necessarily conform to reality. These techniques and the use of 'ready-made' surfaces create opportunities for serendipity." Showing now through March 31.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Remembrance of Our Past: Inspiration From The 1800s Women Abolitionists For Our Times*. Fifteen years ago fellow Librarians Mary Boehmer and Bambi Miller illuminate the nineteenth century story of the Dorsey Family, Freedom Seekers from Liberty, Maryland and the Leavitt Family, staunch Abolitionists of Charlemont. Exhibit includes contemporary Underground Railroad quilts, historical artifacts and facsimiles. Through February.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne: *Fly Away Home... by Belinda Lyons Zucker*. Dolls and figures from Black folklore that tell of Africans that flew, perhaps as a desire to ease their weary lives; to dream of escape. Through February.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: *Small Works Exhibit and Sale*. Show of small works contributed by area artists. Reception Feb-

ruary 3. Through February 26.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *"Seeing Red."* The show will feature work by Co-op members in which the color red is a unifying or dominant theme. Media include painting, prints, photographs, collage, pottery, mixed media sculpture, decorative and wearable fiber art, floorcloths, jewelry, and glass. Through February 26.

Whately Library, Whately: *Winter Light: Art Exhibit*. Handmade paper scrolls and origami lanterns by Sheryl Jaffe in the Muse Cafe. Through March 24.

CALL FOR ART:

Resist Art Show, Brattleboro: A call for art that reflects on the current political situation. Stand up and express your hopes, your outrage, your vision, in the face of the times we are living through. Open to all mediums, including writing (one page maximum and presented as visually engaging) that can be wall-hung. Exhibit to be in May 2018 at the River Garden. An opening reception will take place May 4, Gallery Walk Friday. Artists may submit a maxi-

mum of two pieces of wall art, no more than 36" by 36". Jury fee of \$20 is due with the application by March 15. All work must be submitted digitally. To receive an entry form, further details: resistartists2018@gmail.com.

AUDITIONS:

Mutton and Mead Festival Shire Cast Audition: The Shire Cast is at the heart of Mutton and Mead's interactive experience. Each cast member plays a character or role from the story of Robin Hood, and or the shire of Nottingham. Together these characters bring the story of Robin Hood to life, through coordinated street and stage shows and semi-scripted/improvised interaction with festival patrons. Shire cast members also can join a number of other singing and dancing ensembles to bring further cheer to the day! Auditions held February 3, 4, and 10 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at

the Montague Common Hall in Montague Center. Register to audition at muttonandmead.org.

EVENTS:

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Four Rivers Charter School Annual Variety Show*. 7 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Whiskey Treaty*. Live road show. 8 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Winter Carnival Ball with Roomful of Blues* with Erin Harpe and the *Delta Swingers*. Blend of swing, rock 'n' roll, jump, blues and R&B. 8:30 p.m. \$

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

La Mariposa, Turners Falls: *Come Celebrate With Me*, community poetry reading with queer and trans POC poets, 6 to 8 p.m.; dance party to follow at 8 p.m. Tamales for sale, to benefit the People's Fund.

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault Trio honors Charles Neville*. New Orleans style music. Benefit for Seeds of Solidarity. Opportunity to support Charles Neville fundraiser to offset medical expenses for the performer, who is battling pancreatic cancer. 7:30 p.m. Donation.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Mardi Gras with Samirah Evans and Trailer Park*. See description in this section. 8 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Dave Noonan's Green Island w/ special guests I-Ganic Sound System*. Reggae, dub, roots. 8 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Hittin' the Note*. Allman Bros tribute band. 9 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*, Reggae fantastico! 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Joe Belmont Experience*, Jazz with Evelyn Harris. 6 p.m. \$

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Two Week Notice* and *Mystics Anonymous*. Singer songwriter projects, eclectic independent rock. 8 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Great Falls Coffeehouse Series presents *Lisa Davol and Steven Page*. Classic tunes from the Great American Songbook. 7 p.m. Donation.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Tap Root and Rebirth*. Matthew King (El Rey Mateo) and the TapRoots band in a night filled with rhythm, spirit, poetry, politics and community. 9 p.m. \$

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Mardi Gras Madness*, featuring local Cajun and Zydeco bands *Zydeco Connection* and *Bayou*

X. 7:30 p.m. \$

Mount Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Fundraiser Concert* featuring *Kit Johnson, Ben Tousley, Sue Kranz, Court Dorsey, and Jay Mankita*. A variety of music including folk, classical and jazz, to benefit the Friends Meetinghouse. 7:30 p.m. Donation.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Plate scrapers*. Bluegrass and folk. 8 p.m. \$

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POLARIS from page B1

dancers. It has been a long-established tradition in the United States, known as far back as the 1780s. Its popularity has gone through ups and downs, although it has always found strong support in northern New England. The resurgence in modern contra dancing began back in the 1970s and has continued to gain followers all across the country since then.

All of the members of Polaris met at contra dances; Jesse's parents began taking him not long after he was born. They all began playing music at a young age. Sam, who is from Conway, started piano in the second grade and began playing folk music in the ninth grade. Rose grew up listening to her father's CDs of Wild Asparagus, a longtime favorite Massachusetts contra band, and started playing the fiddle at ten.

Marta learned about contra music through her parents and began playing classical violin when she was four. And Jesse took up classical piano early on in grade school.

Perhaps the biggest cross-generational appeal of contra dancing is the friendly social atmosphere it engenders. As opposed to the more typical bar scene in other music venues, contra dances are held in well-lit, generally alcohol-free halls where the acoustic music does not drown out conversation. All are welcome, and often there is an introductory lesson at the beginning of the night for new attendees. The dancing involves continually changing partners, which also encourages a group spirit of participation and inclusiveness.

The Guiding Star Grange in Greenfield is a mecca for contra dancing, and is known as such across the country. This is due, in great part, to its members' dedication. At one time it looked like the grange would be sold. The original membership had dwindled and there was a need for the hall to be re-habilitated.

Peter May, of Habitat for Humanity, was one of the principal advocates for the preservation of the grange and gave his financial support and

a great deal of time to the cause. With his help, and the generosity of all the dedicated contra dancers, a new floor and other renovations were done to the hall, making it one of the prime venues for contra dancing in the US.

David Kaynor, musician and a long-time promoter of contra dancing and its music, has encouraged many musicians and dancers in their participation of the contra dance world.

These are just two examples of the people who have helped make the Guiding Star Grange such a popular contra dance destination.

At this time, three of the Polaris band members are attending college out of the state. In Sam's case, out of the country, as he is studying music at Holland College on Prince Edward Island. Marta is at the University of Vermont, and Rose is at the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine.

Jesse, the only band member currently in the Pioneer Valley, is a student at Greenfield Community College.

Whenever possible, the band gets together to practice and play at dances. The next time the band will play in public will be May 19 at the Lenox Community Center in Lenox, Massachusetts. Their other professional venues this summer will be during June and August, and then they will return to their studies in the fall.

While Polaris does not have any of their music for sale at this time, they do hope to record it at a later date. They are committed to playing together as a band and they all have plans to be involved with music for the foreseeable future.

Wherever their musical explorations take them, contra dance music will have served as the foundation for their musical inspiration and perhaps something they, too, will pass on to the next generation.

A video from a Greenfield Grange performance in 2016 is available on YouTube - search for "Polaris Debut at the Guiding Star Grange."

MONTAGUE REPORTER



ON THE ROAD

Top: Neil Cloaca Young of Turners Falls brandishes his Montague Reporter in front of an old boat, old canal, and old windmill in foggy Schiedam, Netherlands last week. Our January 11 edition also made it onto the dancefloor at Forbidden City in Antwerp, Belgium (bottom right) and to the International Film Festival in Rotterdam (bottom left), where Young and co-director Jake Meginsky attended the world premiere of Milford Graves Full Mantis, their feature documentary on New York drummer/percussionist Milford Graves.

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

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Advertisement for Turners Falls Pizza House, a family-owned business serving pizza, grinders, dinners, salads, and burgers.

Advertisement for Artisan Beverage Cooperative, featuring their new tasting room with hours from Friday 4-7 PM to Saturday 2-6 PM.

Advertisement for Bob's Home Pros, highlighting 25 years of experience in commercial and residential building and remodeling.

Advertisement for Cruise & Travel Company, located at 30 Montague Street in Turners Falls, offering various travel services.

Advertisement for About-Face Computer Solutions, offering computer repair and services, with the slogan 'Turn your computer troubles around!'.

Advertisement for H&O, serving home-grown farm-inspired food and drink, located at 44 Hope Street in Greenfield.

Advertisement for Diemand Farm, featuring fresh farm products like chicken, turkey, and beef, with a focus on home-style meals.

Advertisement for Turn It Up! Music & Movies, located at Bookmill and Montague Center, offering local entertainment.

Advertisement for AllEarth Solar, featuring solar trackers and a solar store in Greenfield, emphasizing quality and reliability.

Advertisement for The Gill Tavern, a local eatery and bar, offering drinks and meals, located at 326 Main Road in Gill.

Advertisement for Greenfield Savings Bank, promoting the Buzz Points program and a \$10 sign-up bonus.

Advertisement for LS Tractor, featuring Sirum tractors and other farm equipment, located at Rte 63 in Montague.