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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 16 – NO. 12

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 11, 2018

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Town Facilities Hit Hard By Cold Snap

By KATIE NOLAN

At the January 8 Erving selectboard meeting, chair Jacob Smith reported that the extreme cold and snow of the previous week had many impacts on the town.

According to Smith's memo, the water service at the town hall froze on January 1, leaving the building without running water until January 2. The drain from the second-floor kitchen at the former Pleasant Street School at 18 Pleasant Street froze, and water backed up and damaged a first-floor sink and cabinet area.

The sprinkler system at Erving Elementary School froze and damaged two sprinkler heads and set off an alarm and the heating coils in the foyer burst. And the diesel fuel in the highway department loader, dump truck and backhoe gelled on January 1, clogging fuel filters.

Smith said he had spent a day and a half working on the frozen town hall water line. The electric heating tape for the water line was replaced and sheetrock was partially removed to allow pipes to be heated. According to Smith's memo, "Water service was restored and no damage resulted."

At 18 Pleasant Street, inspection of the frozen cast-iron drain see **ERVING** page A5

LEVRETT SELECTBOARD

Board Open To Public Ownership Of Post Office

By ROB SKELTON

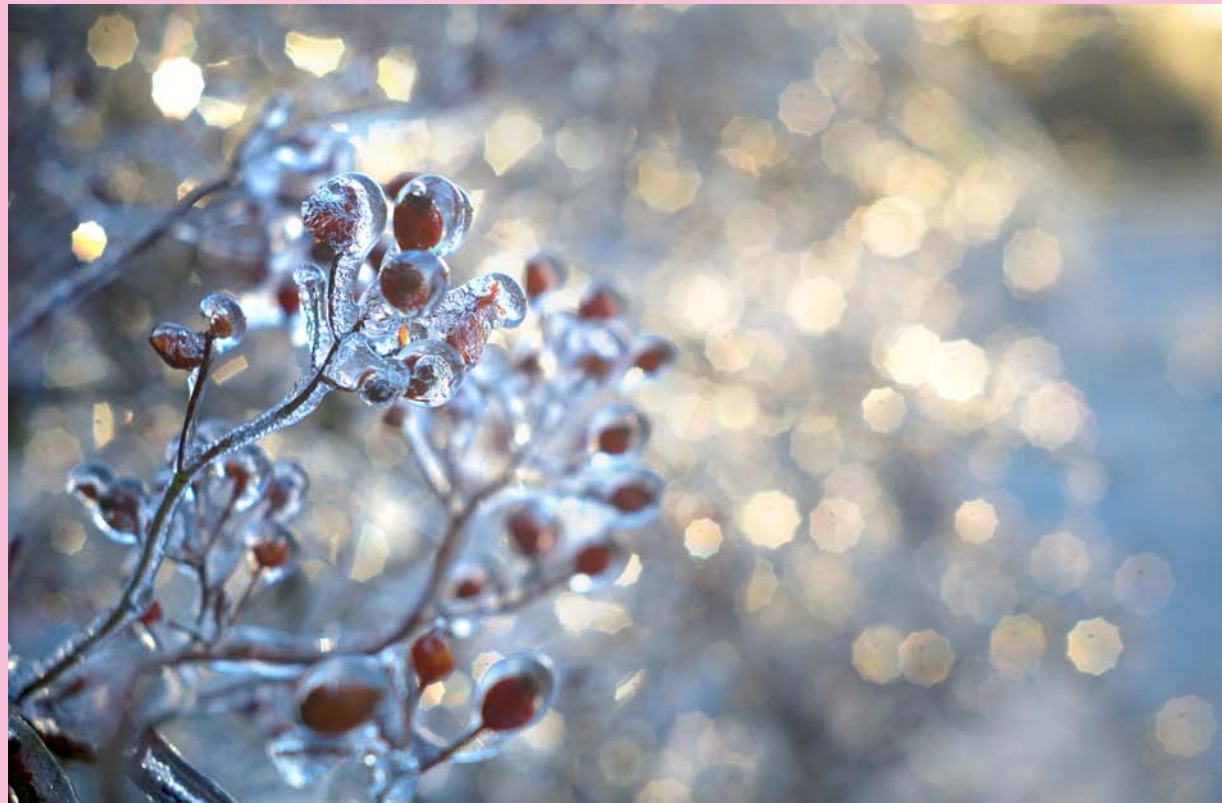
The Leverett selectboard met with library trustee chair Lisa Sullivan and approved a search to replace the departing library director, who is relocating, at its January 9 meeting. The search committee will consist of three library trustees, outgoing director Ashley Blais and two other library supporters – Leslie Fissette and Adam Wellen.

Since there are no changes to the current position description, the search can bypass the town's personnel board. Sullivan anticipates strong candidates based on the "plum" nature of the job and Leverett's pro-library reputation.

Greg Woodard's decision to sell the post office property prompted a selectboard visit from immediate neighbors the Alfanges, who urged the town to buy it. Planning board member Ken Kahn has also been consulting with the board regarding allowable uses of the property, listed in the real estate ads as "convertible" to a single-family.

The board wants the post office to remain open even if that means the town owns it, despite most municipalities' disinterest in owning and maintaining buildings. The shared see **LEVERETT** page A5

A WORLD OF ICE



JOE KOPERA PHOTO

Montague reader Joe Kopera shared this photograph of *Rosa multiflora* rose hips, which he took behind the Leverett Village Co-op during a recent ice storm. Kopera said he used a "Cold War-era Russian lens" to get the shot. "Ice storms are pretty great for photographers, because when the sun goes low, you can play around with that star pattern – it's sunlight reflecting off all the ice," he tells us. "That effect is called bokeh." (Kopera sells photo prints at Etsy.com, under "Joemapsphoto.")

ANALYSIS

Downtown Snow Removal Schedule Leaves Residents Scratching Heads – and Paying Fees

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – After each major snowstorm, Montague's public works department asks residents parked in downtown municipal lots to move their vehicles to allow for snow removal.

"No Parking 7 AM – 9 AM For Snow Removal," "Tow Away Zone," "Public Lots Not Maintained On Weekends," read the signs posted at the Third Street lot. The Fourth Street lot is posted for between 9 and 11 a.m., and others for later in the day.

But apparent inconsistency in recent winters about how much snowfall makes snow removal necessary, and on which morning the job is done, has led to confusion among downtown residents, who also may not park on the streets between 1 and 5 a.m. during the winter months.

And the stakes for vehicle owners are high: towing to Rau's Sunoco in Montague Center is charged to the vehicle owner at between \$120 and \$130, and Montague police often top that off with a \$20 ticket.

Currently, no announcement is posted anywhere alerting residents



JACKSON PHOTO

Cars parked just after 7 a.m. on Monday in the municipal lot on Third Street, scheduled for snow removal after a storm the prior Thursday.

of impending snow removal and/or towing.

Last Thursday saw significant snowfall in Franklin County, but the snow was not removed on Friday. Highway superintendent Tom Bergeron told the *Montague Reporter* on Friday that he had made the decision not to pay his staff overtime, and so all the snow was left in place over the weekend.

Department staff currently work four 10-hour days, Mondays through Thursdays.

At 7 a.m. on Monday, eight cars sat in the Third Street lot, but no town employees were in sight. But not long after, the police and Rau's showed up.

Perhaps given the questionable nature of their legal mandate, they see **SNOW** page A2

Dodge Disciplinary Hearing Will Continue

By REPORTER STAFF

MONTAGUE – Town officials met behind closed doors last Friday for over four hours with police chief Charles "Chip" Dodge, suspended since October, in an executive session of the selectboard, but recessed without coming to any conclusions or taking any votes, according to town administrator Steve Ellis.

The hearing, originally scheduled for 9 a.m., began instead at 10:30 and ended around 3 p.m.

The chief was the subject of a 2016 investigation by state police over the handling of medication from a public prescription drug "drop box" at the station.

No charges were ever filed and the investigation was closed. But its subject became public knowledge last fall after documents were leaked to the *Greenfield*

Recorder. Dodge acknowledged then that he is in recovery from addiction to opioid painkillers, but after he said that other department staff might have been responsible for pills going missing, the rank-and-file detectives and patrolmen unanimously signed a letter critical of his handling of the situation, and claiming he may have retaliated against staff when setting schedules.

The selectboard hired an outside firm, APD Management, to investigate the situation. APD's report has not been made public, but upon reading it, the board scheduled Friday's disciplinary hearing.

Dodge is employed under the state civil service system, and would be able to appeal any disciplinary action, including termination, the town might take.

As of press time Wednesday, no date had been announced for the hearing's continuation.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Board Rejects Moratorium For Cannabis Stores; Proposes Zoning Bylaw Changes

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard voted Monday night to recommend zoning bylaw revisions to planning board that would allow the licensing of establishments for the sale, production and cultivation of marijuana. If the planning board approves they will go to a special town meeting in February for a vote.

In taking this action, the selectboard effectively abandoned an earlier proposal to place a moratorium on recreational marijuana establishments until the end of 2018.

One of the reasons planners had sought a moratorium was the fact that the state's newly-created Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) would not issue regulations on marijuana sales until March 15, but businesses could apply for state licenses on April 1. This would presumably not leave much time for cities and towns to consider and adopt their own zoning regulations consistent with state law.

The Montague selectboard's response last fall to the moratorium see **MONTAGUE** page A7

G-M SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Preliminary 2019 Budget Eliminates Four Positions

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – A full complement of regional school committee members turned out for their first meeting of 2018, and heard a presentation from superintendent Michael Sullivan on the district's preliminary budget for FY'19.

Up a mere 0.49% from FY'18, this "not level-service, close to level-funded" budget would eliminate one elementary and three secondary faculty positions and trim spending on operations, supplies, and professional development, in order to make up for losses in Medicaid and charter school reimbursements and a dwindling excess and deficiency account.

Sullivan said the four planned faculty layoffs, which would save about \$230,000, "do not eliminate any academic courses or programs," but did not elaborate further. "I don't want to be specific with you tonight because we haven't spoken to people about that yet," he said.

"If there's a way to draw on teacher retirements or people who are leaving, you'd like to try and do that," Sullivan added. "I do think we'll be able to take advantage of some of that with these four cuts."

The preliminary FY'19 budget is see **GMRSD** page A5

The Montague Reporter

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Founded by
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August 2002

SNOW from page A1

were lenient. One Avenue A resident who spoke on condition of anonymity said the tow operator had already lifted their car onto a truck when they arrived, but agreed to take it off in exchange for \$40.

At Fourth Street at 9 a.m., Officer Dan Miner sounded his cruiser’s *woop-woop* effect and blinked its blue lights, hoping to prompt the half-dozen vehicles still resting in the snowy lot to disappear before the highway department equipment showed up. He said he planned to exercise “discretion” by not issuing tickets.

Two residents scrambled with cables, trying to jump a car that wouldn’t start. In the end, according to Ralph Rau, his company only towed four cars – two cars from each of the two lots – that morning.

“The signage could be improved in those lots,” town administrator Steve Ellis acknowledged on Tuesday, “so we’re going to be working to add clarity. The old statements on those that the lots aren’t maintained ‘on the weekends’ should be ‘Friday through Sunday,’ at this point in time.”

Ellis also confirmed that “there isn’t, at the present time, a staff budget to allow people to come in for the overtime that would allow them to clear those lots on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.”

But both Bergeron and Ellis told us that the town *might* tow on a Friday or weekend under exceptional circumstances, and Ellis also pointed out that snow might not be removed on a Monday due to “a more significant public safety hazard the DPW needs to focus on,” in which case the town would still want to tow cars the following day.

“Tom Bergeron is always trying to use his best judgment and discretion to make the decision that’s in the best interest of public

safety and public convenience,” Ellis said, “in light of the resources that he has to work with.... The town is committed to doing what it can to be as clear in its procedure as we can be.”

Mik Muller of Montague Web-Works, architect of the recently revamped town website, told officials this week that it would be possible to create a “new text-alert capability” with an online signup, and estimated he would charge “somewhere in the area of” \$500 – or the cost to residents of four towed cars – to set it up.

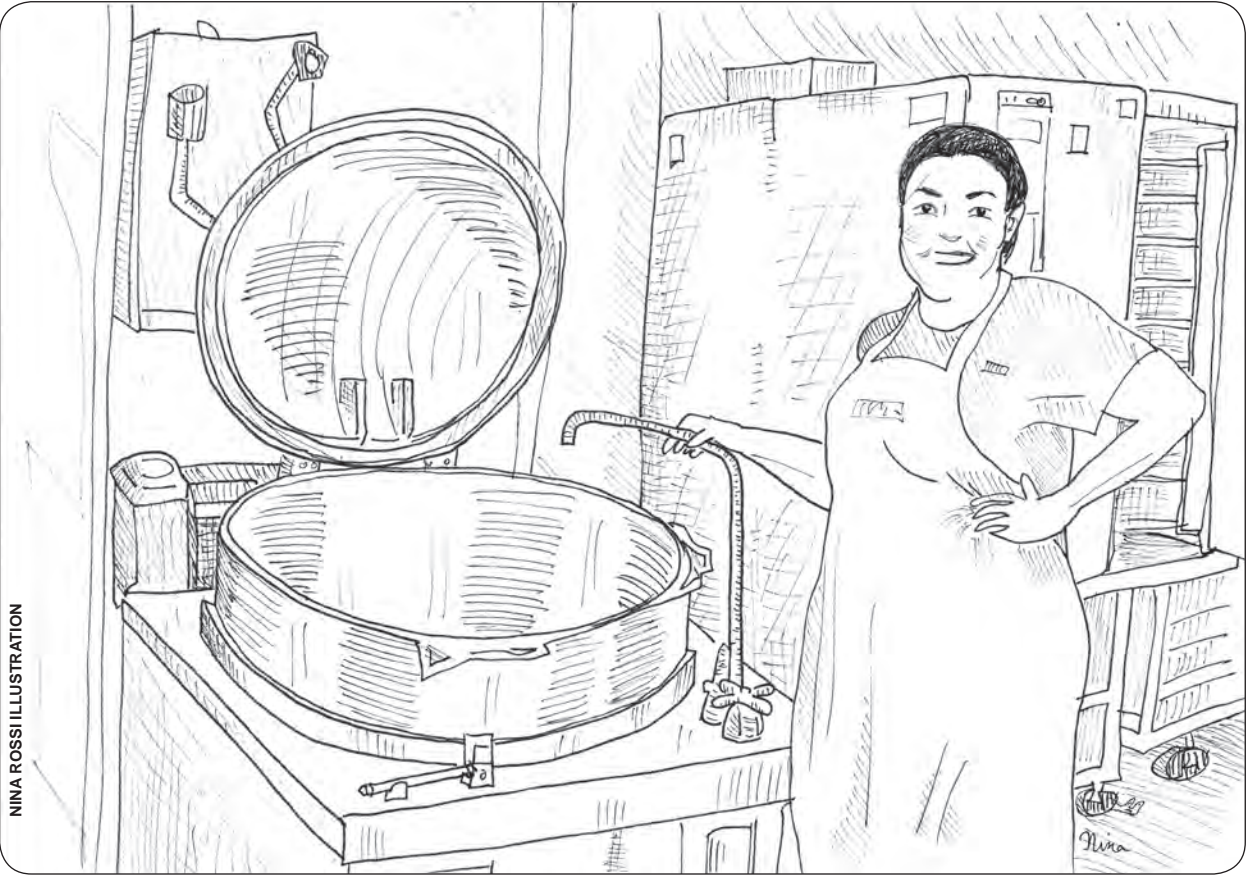
“They should also use the homepage alert system, in red,” he recommended.

“By improving the signage, and by having consistent communication through easily accessible sites, we should be able to address part of the problem,” Ellis said. “We want to make use of the town website and Facebook page to proactively communicate when Monday morning plowing is expected.”

Reached for comment, town planner Walter Ramsey, who said he had been involved in meetings about the issue, focused on the broader historical picture.

“I feel that Montague is ready to discuss winter parking alternatives as a way to increase quality of life and continue revitalization efforts identified in the Downtown Livability Plan,” Ramsey wrote. “The Planning Board will explore the issue this year, and make some recommendations to the selectmen. My goal is to have some of the recommendations be implemented next winter.”

“More people with cars are living in downtown Turners Falls,” he explained, “and that is presenting a new set of challenges, since the building stock was not developed with parking in mind.”



Heather Holmes, kitchen manager at Turners Falls High School, with the giant steam kettle that processed 270 servings of mashed potatoes for lunch on Tuesday. (Heather was happy to report that the spuds came pre-peeled.)

Letters to the Editors Multiple Histories

I’m sorry that your reader Nina Keller finds it necessary to disparage my book *Buying the Farm*. All histories reflect the views of their writers, and this one is no exception. I look forward to further accounts of these years at Montague and its sister farms that might expand the narrative of our shared experience.

Tom Fels
North Bennington, VT

Researched Response

I applaud your brilliant editorial refutation of “The Name Game” Letter to the Editor. From Marco Polo’s *Travels* to George Carlin’s *Brain Droppings* to Turners Falls High School yearbooks, you researched and cited source materials and provided a compelling counter-point to each of Mr. Gregory’s arguments in support of the Turners Falls “logo.” Very well done.

I am regularly impressed with the true journalism presented in *The Montague Reporter*, including this week’s story on Southworth’s bankruptcy proceedings. *The Montague Reporter* is a community gem. I send my most sincere thanks to you and all who contribute to it.

Christine Turner
Montague Center

GUEST EDITORIAL

Montague: For a New Public Works Facility

By MARK WILLIAMS

Fellow Montague residents, I am writing as a member of the Montague DPW Facility Planning Committee to ask for your support for the proposed new Department of Public Works facility. This committee has been working together for over two years to identify the right site for a new building, and to design a building that will meet the current and future needs of our DPW, all while keeping the cost at a level that we feel our residents can reasonably afford.

Our committee first looked at the possibility of renovating the current site, but due to the size, space, and present building conditions, this option does not make sense fiscally or practically. We have looked at designs of multiple building styles on two other sites, and we are now ready to present to you what we consider to be our best proposal.

Our DPW’s current building at 500 Avenue A is almost 70 years old. The building is inefficient, too small, and is not up to modern building codes in a number of critical areas. The present facility creates a high safety risk to the employees who work there, and this in turn is a high risk to our town as a whole. Imagine the cost to us as taxpayers if a federal or state inspector were to order our building to be shut down? This is a real risk we are facing, and one that we can’t ignore any longer.

Our DPW employees who serve our town deserve not only a better and more efficient space, but most importantly, a safer space to work in. We would invite you to visit our current DPW facility during normal business hours and decide if this is a building that you’d be willing to work in.

The building design we are proposing is 25,500 square feet in size. This is a substantial reduction from

the initial design offered to us by the engineer. The new building will allow for more interior storage of the valuable DPW vehicles and equipment, while also creating additional covered parking for vehicles that can be stored outside.

There will also be space on the property for a salt shed, fuel depot, and other equipment storage that currently has to be housed at multiple other locations in town. The new building will cost less per square foot to heat, be more energy efficient, and allow for roof-mounted solar panels.

After many meetings and debates, we feel that we have a design that balances the needs of a DPW for a town our size while being mindful of and respecting the fact that there are future important building projects that need to happen in town as well.

The total estimated cost for the site development and construction of the building is \$11.2 million. Yes, that is a lot of money, and more than we had hoped it would be. However, we must ask ourselves: what is the cost of doing nothing? Or kicking the can down the road yet again for someone else to deal with?

Construction costs are escalating by an estimated 6% per year. If we continue to delay this project, we will get less of a building for more money, plain and simple. Our committee has also researched that cost in comparison to other towns and facilities of a similar size to ours, and that is in the normal range.

This is a big investment, but it is an investment in a department that provides critical safety services for all citizens in town.

This new building will meet the current and future needs of our DPW. It will operate far more efficiently than the current building, and it will bring all the DPW

see **GUEST ED** next page

Gov. Baker’s Silence

President Trump has declared his intent to open our Massachusetts coastline up for drilling oil off shore. Imagine seeing oil rigs from Boston harbor, and Provincetown, and Gloucester? Even worse seeing the oil leaks that will inevitably occur, washing oil on to Massachusetts beaches.

As soon as it was announced, Gov. Brown of California and even Republican Gov. Rick Scott spoke out opposing the drilling off the shores of their state.

But here in Massachusetts, with supposedly the “most popular” Gov-

ernor in the country, we hear nothing from Governor Charlie Baker. Silence. Is this what we want from our Governor? Supposedly there is an advantage for Massachusetts because we have a Republican Governor who can talk to the Republicans in Washington. Has anyone actually seen that advantage?

It is important to note that when it matters most to us, our Governor, Charlie Baker, is silent.

Time for a change.

Tom Wolff
Leverett

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

This Friday, January 12, Great Falls Books Through Bars hosts a documentary and discussion at the Brick House in Turners Falls to learn about grassroots responses to the combined crises of **climate change disasters and colonization in Puerto Rico** and beyond.

Come watch the short documentary “No Permission Needed,” and stay for a discussion with Puerto Rican radical pedagogue Aurora Santiago-Ortiz and historian Jorell A. Meléndez Badillo about how people have taken action in the wake of austerity and Hurricane Maria.

Donations will be accepted to support ongoing direct action relief efforts, specifically buying water filters to send to Puerto Rico. The event starts at 7 p.m. at the Brick House, located at 24 Third Street.

Get in the **spirit of the upcoming Winter Olympics** in South Korea, right at Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls, on Saturday, January 13 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

How is this possible, you ask? Well, try Play-Doh “Ice” Sculpturing, right in the convenience of the bank’s community room. Design

and create your own idea without the risk of frostbite.

Play-Doh will be provided, as well as light refreshments. Take your masterpiece with you or leave on display at the bank for all to see. No reservations are required. A family fun affair, for sure.

The **Franklin County Youth Football** team, the Bulldogs, will be the beneficiary of a Bingo Night event on Saturday, January 13 at St. Kaz in Turners Falls.

Games will start at 7 p.m. There will be cash prizes, and other amazing raffle prizes as well. This is an adult-only event.

Greenfield Community College is hosting at **Martin Luther King Day Celebration** in the Main Building Core Lobby on Monday, January 15, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The events activities are geared towards children from age 2 to 12.

The **Young Shakespeare Players-East** present their Fall/Winter production of *King Henry IV, Part 1* next week at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls.

Actors ages 8 to 18, performing with a full understanding of Shake-

speare’s language, backed by nearly all-youth tech crews, will put on an unabridged, unedited production of one of the Bard’s best-kept secrets – a comedy about a young prince’s coming of age, with many of the best insults found in Shakespeare’s (or anyone’s) writing.

The play is free; concessions are available for sale. All ages are encouraged to attend, and no reservations are required. Performances are: Tuesday January 16, Wednesday January 17, and Friday January 19 at 6 p.m.; Saturday January 20 at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; and Sunday January 21 at 1 p.m.

For more information see www.youngshakespeareplayerseast.org.

On Thursday, January 18 at 7 p.m., Tim Bullock of Leverett and David Detmold of Turners Falls will talk about their **experiences in Alabama** canvassing for the election of Doug Jones as US Senator. The informal talk at the Leverett Town Hall is sponsored by the Leverett Alliance and is part of its monthly meeting.

Bullock and Detmold were part of a contingent of six volunteers from Franklin County to travel to Alabama in December 2017 to help bring out the vote. Their talk will be preceded by a 6:30 p.m. dessert potluck at the Town Hall, and will be followed at 8 p.m. by Alliance business. The event is free and open to the public.

All are invited to rally in honor of the one-year anniversary of the Greenfield Sister March, which was one among hundreds of other marches across the world inspired

by the massive Women’s March on Washington. Last year over 2,500 residents gathered on the Greenfield Town Common to support women and girls.

The **2nd Annual Franklin County Women’s Rally** is being organized by Women Rise, who invite all backgrounds, races, religions, gender identities, nationalities, ages and abilities to join. The rally features local speakers, musical performances, and various activities.

The event is again gathering at Greenfield Town Common on Saturday, January 20, from noon to 2:30 p.m. Organizers are calling for a non-partisan, peaceful event.

The Montague Congregational Church at 4 North Street will host a **Ham and Bean Supper** on Saturday, January 20, at 5:30 p.m., with ham, baked beans, carrots, coleslaw, homemade brown bread, apple pie squares, coffee, tea, and milk.

Adults tickets are \$10; children \$5. Call for reservations at 367-2652. Walk-ins will be seated as space allows. You may also call for take-out.

The Montague Reporter mentioned in our October 19 issue that we are mailing papers out to 33 communities around Massachusetts. That total has now **increased to 37**, with the direct help of readers taking out gift subscriptions for the holidays. Thank you!

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GUEST ED from previous page operations together onto one site.

The best site we have identified for this building is on the parcel on Turners Falls Road just south of the Public Safety Complex. The DPW would take 5 acres of a 22-acre site, and the remaining land would be available for future town use. We believe this site has a minimal impact on the residences nearby. No private and taxable properties will need to be taken off the tax rolls, and the present site at 500 Avenue A will be available for sale for private redevelopment.

The DPW Committee is hosting three different Public Informational Sessions where we will explain this project in more detail, and also answer any questions that people may have. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

- These sessions will be on:
- January 17, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the Highland Apartments Meeting Room
 - January 29, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the Montague Center Fire Department
 - February 13, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., at the Public Safety Complex

Mark Williams is a member of the Montague DPW Facility Planning Committee.



Announcing... The Pregnancy Kitchen!

GREENFIELD – The Pregnancy Kitchen is a partnership between the Franklin County Birth Workers Collective (FCBW) and Women Infants and Children (WIC), serving low-income pregnant individuals in the Franklin County area.

The Kitchen kicks off later this month with three events at Community Action’s Family Center in Greenfield. The first takes place Monday, January 22 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Two more are scheduled for January 29 and February 5 at the same time.

At the Pregnancy Kitchen, WIC will provide nutrition and cooking classes surrounding pre-natal health, immediate postpartum nutrition, and baby’s first foods. WIC will also provide information on SNAP farmers market benefits program.

Together, FCBW and WIC will host and cook a meal at Community Action. Local farms that are generously donating food include Atlas Farms, Uppingil, and Happy Valley Organics. The meal is free for all participants.

FCBW will also provide information on reducing Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome symptoms (nutrition and exercise being key components of symptom reduction), as well as hold space for discussions about self-care during pregnancy and postpartum.

Driven by our strong community’s support, the Pregnancy Kitchen fosters community for pregnant and parenting folks. We acknowledge the struggle of poverty in Franklin County: pregnant and parenting folks living paycheck-to-paycheck, in shelters, or struggling to make rent do not always have time to think about self-care and nutrition.

We believe that through connecting community, a non-judgmental environment, and accessible nutrition, we can work together to benefit and support low-income families.

Register for the Pregnancy Kitchen at the Family Center, by phone at (413) 475-1555, or in person. The Family Center is located at 90 Federal Street in Greenfield.

January 17: Rainbow Elders Breakfast

GREENFIELD – “Looking Forward: A Winter Breakfast with the Rainbow Elders” will take place on Wednesday, January 17, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Greenfield Corporate Center Cafeteria, located at 101 Munson Street in Greenfield, Mass., and the location of LifePath’s new main office.

The event will feature a light breakfast spread and social time. LGBTIQA elders and their allies are invited.

Registration as soon as possible is requested. Please visit LifePath-MA.org/RainbowElders to sign up, or call Lynne Feldman, Director of Community Services at LifePath, at 413-773-5555 x2215 or 978-544-2259 x2215.

There is no charge for this event, but a suggested donation of \$10 is appreciated and will be used to cover expenses for this and future Rainbow Elders events.

If you can donate more than \$10, it will help someone else with fewer resources attend. Any donation amount is welcome.

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Saturday January 20
5:30 p.m.

Menu:
Ham, Baked Beans,
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Homemade Brown
Bread, Apple Pie
Squares, Coffee,
Tea & Milk

Adults \$10 - Children \$5
Reservations: 367-2652
Walk-ins seated as space
allows - Call for takeouts

GUEST EDITORIAL

By PETER D’ERRICO

Thanks for your archival research and statement about the Turners Falls “American Indian” mascot and logo controversy (4 January 2018); it prompts me to send you this note.

You clarify how Native Peoples of the “New World” came to be called “Indians”: Christopher Columbus thought he was going to India and insisted he had found it; so, he named the people he met “Indians.” Even though Columbus was wrong, the name stuck; it was immediately used by the Spanish and other Christian colonizers in their official documents. The U.S. government still uses it in “federal Indian law,” the legal framework used to dominate Native Peoples and their lands.

The “American” part of “American Indians” came later, after everyone but Columbus had admitted his error and the continent had been named for another Italian navigator, Amerigo Vespucci. In short, “Indians” and “American Indians” derive from colonizers’ worldviews.

“Native American” poses problems, too: It came into vogue as “political correctness” – part of a 1970s effort to acknowledge ethnic diversity in the United States, but insist on an over-arching American unity. Many people became hyphen-American: African-American, Irish-American, Italian-American, Asian-American, and so on. For the original inhabitants, the “correct” term became Native-American. But as John Trudell (Santee Dakota) observed, the change was superficial:

“They change our name and treat us the same.”

In this context, the difference between “American Indian” and “Native-American” is nonexistent. Both are names given by outsiders. There are no American Indians or Native Americans. There are many different peoples, hundreds in fact, bearing such names as Wampanoag, Cherokee, Seminole, Navajo, Hopi, and so on.

But the conundrum of names doesn’t end there. Some of these names are not actually derived from the peoples themselves, but from their neighbors or even enemies. “Mohawk” is a Narraganset name, meaning “flesh eaters.” “Sioux” is a French corruption of an Anishinabe word for “enemy.” Similarly, “Apache” is a Spanish corruption of a Zuni word for “enemy,” while Navajo is from the Spanish version of a Tewa word.

If we want to be accurate, we have to learn what a People call themselves. It may not be surprising to find the authentic names are often a word for “people.” As John Trudell also said, “We’re too busy trying to protect the idea of a Native American or an Indian – but we’re not Indians and we’re not Native Americans. We’re older than both concepts. We’re the people. We’re the human beings.” (“Reel Injun,” Rezolution Pictures: Montreal, Canada, 2009.)

In 1997, a survey of Native college and high-school students, reported in *Native Americas* (Winter 1997), indicated more than 96% identified themselves with their Native Nation,

and more than 40% identified themselves *solely* in those terms.

Your quote from Columbus’ *Diary* underscores a deeper point: Regardless of their names, Native Peoples were a target of Christian colonization, based on the same ideas the Christian monarchs used to attack Jews and Muslims – “infidels,” “pagans,” and “heathens.” In fact, Columbus’ Spanish name – Cristobal Colon – names his mission: the Christian colonizer.

If we want to be
accurate, we have to
learn what a People
call themselves.

The excerpt from Columbus’ *Diary* follows a pattern called the doctrine of “Christian Discovery,” established in 15th century papal Bulls; here’s one issued by Pope Alexander VI in May 1493, a *Bull* named *Inter Caetera*, in response to a plea from Ferdinand and Isabella, the royal sponsors of Columbus’ expedition:

“Our beloved son Christopher Columbus... discovered certain very remote islands and even mainlands.... We... by the authority of Almighty God... do... give, grant, and assign forever to you and your heirs and successors, kings of Castille and Leon, all and singular the aforesaid countries and islands... provided however they at no time have been in the actual temporal possession of

any Christian owner....”

And here’s an earlier Bull, *Romanus Pontifex*, issued by Pope Nicholas V in 1455:

“We bestow suitable favours and special graces on those Catholic kings and princes, ... athletes and intrepid champions of the Christian faith... to invade, search out, capture, vanquish, and subdue all Saracens and pagans whatsoever, and other enemies of Christ wheresoever placed, and... to reduce their persons to perpetual slavery, and to apply and appropriate... possessions, and goods, and to convert them to ... their use and profit...”

To this day, “Christian Discovery” – usually shortened to “Discovery,” to hide its religious basis – forms the core of “federal Indian law” and the US claim of ownership of Native lands (think Standing Rock). That claim, and the domination that goes with it, are of far greater significance to Native Peoples’ lives than a mascot controversy.

The debate about the Turners Falls Indian provides an opportunity not only to replace the mascot, but to really grapple with world history. Even some opponents of the mascot have only stayed on the surface, with slogans like “Native rights are civil rights” – which they are not; they are sovereignty rights, and they are being reasserted by Indigenous Peoples around the world. The mascot debate puts Turners Falls on a global stage.

Peter d’Errico lives in Leverett, where he serves on the selectboard. A longtime UMass legal studies professor, he also wrote a regular column for Indian Country Today.

GUEST EDITORIAL

By H. PATRICIA HYNES

My nephew, an Army veteran who spent most of his 20-plus years military service as an officer in South Korea, is now a civilian military contractor living on a base in Afghanistan. Our only conversation about US military pollution in South Korea was something of a non-starter.

These two Asian countries, so disparate in development, economy and stability, have something in common – severely polluted US military bases, for which our country takes little to no financial responsibility. *The polluter pays* (aka “you break it, you fix it”) does not apply to the United States military abroad. Nor do civilian workers, or most US soldiers stationed at these bases, have a chance of winning medical compensation for their military pollution-related illness.

Consider the barbaric military burn pits. In its haste for war, DOD ignored its own environmental regulations and approved open-air burn pits – “huge poisonous bonfires” – on hundreds of US bases in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Middle East. They were sited in the midst of base housing, work and dining facilities, with zero pollution controls.

Tons of waste – an average of 10 pounds daily per soldier – burned in them every day, all day and all night, including chemical and medical waste, oil, plastics, pesticides and dead bodies. Ash laden with hundreds of toxins and carcinogens blackened the air and coated clothing, beds, desks and dining halls,

according to a Government Accounting Office investigation.

A leaked 2011 Army memo warns that health risks from burn pits could reduce lung-function and exacerbate lung and heart diseases, among them COPD, asthma, atherosclerosis, or other cardiopulmonary diseases.

Predictably, base commanders temporarily shut them down when politicians and high-ranking generals came to visit.

Few veterans exposed to burn pit toxins have won compensation for their severe, chronic respiratory illness. No local Afghani or Iraqi citizen or independent military contractor ever will. Wars may end, bases may close, but our toxic military footprint remains as a poisonous legacy for future generations.

Consider next the 250 barrels of Agent Orange herbicide and hundreds of tons of hazardous chemicals, buried at the Army’s Camp Carroll, South Korea, according to the testimony of three former US soldiers in May 2011. “We basically buried our garbage in their backyards,” said veteran Steve House.

Early reports about the US excavating decomposing drums and contaminated soil from the base do not disclose their whereabouts. Environmental studies conducted by the US forces at Camp Carroll in 1992 and 2004 found soil and groundwater seriously contaminated with dioxin, pesticides and solvents. These results were never acknowledged to the South Korean government until the US veterans’ testimony to news media in 2011.

Camp Carroll is situated near the Nakdong River, the drinking water source for two downstream major cities. Cancer rates and mortality for nervous system diseases among Koreans in the area around the US base are higher than the national average.

I have friends in Asian countries with historic ties to the United States from World War II, countries that are wary of China for its aggressive economic ambitions. While most of these friends strongly resent the US military presence in their countries, a few do express a sense of security having US military bases as a counterbalance to China.

“We basically
buried our garbage
in their backyards,”
said veteran
Steve House.

However, this does remind me of kids relying on schoolyard bullies, whose tensions and tactics hardly advance children’s maturity, not to mention regional stability in Asia.

Our taxes support at least 800 foreign bases, with hundreds of thousands of soldiers and military contractors in more than 70 countries. The rest of the world combined has some 30 foreign bases.

Consider, too, that the United States is the lead global merchant of military weapons, with \$42 billion

in sales and an expected increase in 2018. Our government’s proposed budget for 2018 increases military defense spending – already more than all domestic spending for education, housing, transportation infrastructure, environment, energy, research, and more – at the expense of cuts to domestic programs.

Not only do we leave dangerously polluted environments all over the world in our global role as top cop while our peddlers of weapons profit from conflict across the world, but we do so at the neglect of our own citizens:

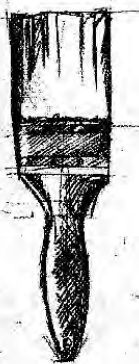
Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children.

– President Eisenhower, 1953

Pat Hynes worked as a Superfund engineer for the US EPA New England. A retired Professor of Environmental Health, she directs the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice in western Massachusetts. She lives in Montague.

This editorial is part of a presentation that she will be giving at the national Conference on US Foreign Military Bases, January 12-14. The conference presentations can be viewed at noforeignbases.org.

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LEVERETT from page A1

septic system with the abutting town hall also raises concerns.

Road boss David Finn has a new hire, but the board warned that a re-organization of the highway department may be impending. The board discussed increasing Highway to four full-timers, but Finn when hired was promised three, plus contracting out for extra snow removal at his discretion.

While the board expressed pleasure with his leadership, town clerk Lisa Stratford, married to the former road boss, asserted that some amount of building maintenance, formerly under road boss purview,

was not being done.

Selectman Tom Hankinson said he wished to go into executive session to further this conversation, but the board balked.

Hankinson, who is a member of Friends of Leverett Pond, announced a fundraiser at the dump to finance a new dam on the pond. Coffee will be available in exchange for a “donation” on days the dump is open. He asked for “right of first refusal” in case another group with good intentions sought to do the same, but dump boss Ananda Larson said she couldn’t offer that.

Larson was at the meeting to defend her budget, which is in the low

\$70,000 range. She answered all the board’s questions and praised the volunteers. She indicated there were no problems with Shutesbury patrons using the dump, for which they pay \$3,000 per year.

The selectboard approved the disbursement of surplus properties, mostly old computer components which no other department wants.

A secure town network, guarded by firewalls, funded by grants, is up and running and comprised of the safety complex and town hall. Soon to be added are the school and library.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG

Sawicki Handles... Most Things

Monday 12/4
7:57 p.m. Officer Sawicki responded to Sunderland to assist Sunderland PD with a domestic incident.

Tuesday 12/5
4 p.m. Officer Sawicki took a report of a male that had been missing for three weeks. Ofc. Sawicki investigated the missing person and located the male in Chester, MA a few days later.

Saturday 12/9
9:08 a.m. Officer Sawicki took a report of a past motor vehicle crash into a

barn. Homeowner stated that someone crashed into her barn and caused damage. Unknown exactly when or who did it. Incident under investigation.

1:30 p.m. Officer Sawicki responded to assist both Shutesbury PD and Pelham PD with motor vehicle crashes.

5:02 p.m. Officer Gralenski responded to Amherst Road for a car vs. utility pole motor vehicle crash. No injuries.

Monday 12/18
4:30 p.m. Officer Sawicki

responded to Shutesbury Road at Cushman Road for a hit-and-run motor vehicle crash. A tractor trailer truck had crashed into the boulders on the corner of the road, dragging them into the road, and continued on. The vehicle was stopped on Route 202 in Shutesbury with a flat tire. Criminal court summons was issued to the operator.

Tuesday 12/19
6:50 p.m. Officer Sawicki was informed by Shelburne Control that locomotives

would be idling near Depot Road while crews were changed out. Numerous calls into the station reporting the loud engines.

Saturday 12/23
1:45 p.m. Officer Sawicki responded on Shutesbury Road for a car vs. sign motor vehicle crash. No injuries.

Thursday 12/28
9:49 p.m. Officer Sawicki assisted state police in Shutesbury with a mental health evaluation and transport to the hospital.

GMRSD from page A1

for \$21,733,440, as compared with \$21,627,937 for the current school year.

“Things around the district, from where I sit, are going really well this year,” Sullivan told the committee, citing enrollment figures that have risen for the second consecutive year, low teacher turnover, and administrative cohesion.

Though fewer students are being lost to charter schools, quirks in the state’s formula will result in a “pretty significant drop” in money the state will reimburse the district for the tuition it pays for students who do enroll in charter schools.

The largest single drop in revenue is in reimbursement expected from the state’s Medicaid program. Last spring, it was discovered that a range of paraprofessional services for which the district had claimed reimbursement over the last decade should not have been eligible.

Though the district must also repay the state for the prior seven years’ worth of overbilling, Sullivan hinted to the committee that the firm that had processed those claims may be held to some accountability for the error.

“Our attorney’s continuing to be in close and increasing contact with New England Medical billing with increasing frequency,” he said. “Hopefully we’ll have some news to report to you on that soon.”

As a result of the new understanding of what services the district may claim for reimbursement, state Medicaid aid will drop from the \$530,000 that had originally been budgeted for FY’18 to just \$200,000 for FY’19.

But other changes led to increases in revenue lines. A solar array Kearsarge Energy is building on publicly owned land in Montague is expected to generate \$155,922 in new revenue for that town, and officials are allocating half, \$77,961, toward the schools. About \$37,811 will go to the district’s operations as an increase to the town’s “afford-

able assessment,” while the remainder will go into a stabilization fund earmarked for either operations or capital improvements at the school buildings Montague owns.

Assessments to Gill and Montague are expected to rise by 4.3%, offsetting decreases in state money.

The superintendent also listed a number of items the district wishes for but will not be able to afford next year, including a school police officer, an after-school program at Hillcrest Elementary, outreach staff for families, Chromebooks for all high school students, and a truck with a plow.

“It’s kind of heartbreaking to say, ‘we’re just trying to hang onto the good things we have, and not take them apart,’” he said.

The school committee plans to hold a “less formal” meeting next Tuesday to review the budget line by line, take a “preliminary vote” at its next regular meeting January 23, meet with the Gill and Montague finance committees January 31, hold a budget hearing February 13, and approve the final budget March 13.

Logo Taskforce

Alana Martineau gave the committee an update from the community taskforce working to select a new logo and team name for Turners Falls High School, which for decades was the “Indian.”

The taskforce was convened in October, and met three times in November and once in December, Martineau said. So far, it is still focused on collecting suggestions from the public. Over 100 suggestions have been received, “some of them repeats.”

The group is maintaining a “TFHS Logo/Nickname Task Force” Facebook page. Suggestions can be left in boxes placed at local schools and libraries, by mail to PO Box 514 in Turners Falls, or by email to “submissions@tfhslogo.com.”

“You’ve got it covered!” exclaimed Gill member Shawn

Hubert.

The group’s meetings are open to public observers. The next will be held January 18 at the high school.

The taskforce plans to screen the suggestions it has collected according to the criteria set by the school committee, run the resulting list by the committee in early February, and then engage the public in narrowing down final choices. The group has “decided, at this point, to not go with a hard timeline” for finishing that process, Martineau said.

Other Business

Music director Kayla Roth came to the meeting, along with Thomasina Hall of the Music Boosters, to ask the school committee’s approval for a field trip.

The cast and crew of the spring

musical, *Dorothy in Wonderland* – “at least 40 students slash chaperones,” according to Roth – will travel to New York City during February vacation for a morning Broadway workshop and an afternoon show of *Wicked*.

The package deal comes to \$243 per person, and Roth broke down various ways the Boosters, her department, and additional community fundraising should be able to subsidize the costs to ensure everyone can afford the trip. The Boosters are contributing \$3,000 up front and have offered to match student fundraising.

The committee approved the trip. Student representative Aly Murphy informed the school committee of a planned three-day student council trip to Hyannis in March for the

Massachusetts Association of Student Concils conference. She said they also anticipated holding fundraisers to defray expenses.

One item of “new business” on the meeting agenda was “High School yearbook cover design.”

Michael Sullivan told the committee that both he and Turners Falls High School principal Annie Leonard “support allowing” a design voted by the senior class. The design, which was emailed to school committee members and the press, incorporates two hanging feathers on the front and, on the back, four “dream catchers,” woven ornaments originally associated with the Ojibwe (Chippewa) people of the Great Lakes region.

No action was required of the school committee, and they did not discuss the design.



ERVING from page A1

indicated that it was cracked and also corroded, and needs to be replaced. The second-floor kitchen was closed, and the damaged first floor sink and cabinet area was removed.

At Erving Elementary, the sprinkler system was shut down, drained and repaired. No interior damage was reported.

The diesel fuel was drained from the highway equipment and new filters were installed, at a cost of approximately \$2,500. All of the equipment was repaired in time to clear snow from Thursday’s storm.

Highway foreman Glenn McCrory and Smith met with fuel supplier Roberts Energy to discuss the problem with the fuel and discuss ways to avoid a recurrence of the problem.

FY’19 Budget

The board and two finance committee members – Benjamin Fellows and Art Johnson – reviewed the fiscal year 2019 budget requests for the fire department, the library, the recreation commission, the board of health, and the senior center.

Fire chief Philip Wonkka presented a FY’19 budget request for \$336,519, an increase of \$8,800 over the FY’18 budget. Among the increases are costs for testing hoses, ladders, and pumps. The cost for ambulance service from Orange has not been set yet, but is likely to be higher than the current year.

Library trustees Mackensy Bailey and Rupert Roy-Clark presented a request for \$86,755, an increase of \$16,130 over the FY’18 budget, primarily resulting from an increase in salaries and wages. The request included hiring a second library assistant to work 14 hours per week.

Recreation commission clerk Alison Rollins presented a request for \$66,224, an increase of \$2,500 over FY’18.

Board of health chair Cyd Scott presented a FY’19 request for \$48,322, an increase of \$21,274 over the FY’18 budget. The large increase is the result of an increased assessment from the Eastern Franklin health district for the health agent, and increased activity against abandoned unmaintained properties. The board of health included \$10,000 to cover “secure

and board” actions and \$2,000 for associated legal costs. Scott said that the town would recover the costs by placing liens on properties that needed to be secured.

Senior center director Paula Betters presented a budget request of \$119,416, an increase of \$13,360 over FY’18. The majority of the increase was for a 14-hour per week kitchen coordinator to organize, prepare and clean up from lunches prepared at the center.

LifePath currently provides food that is heated and served at the center two days a week. Betters prepares a meal on Tuesdays, and she said these meals have been very popular. She said some of the time she spends buying food and preparing it is unpaid volunteer time. Betters said she would like to see meals prepared onsite three days a week.

As an addendum, Betters recommended hiring a kitchen coordinator for 19.5 hours per week at a higher pay rate, but after discussing the costs with the board and finance committee members, reduced the request to the original 14 hours at \$12 per hour.



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BIO 130L	Human Nutrition Lab
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CIS 140	Microcomputer Software Tools I
CIS 150	Programming Principles and Concepts
ECO 101	Principles of Macroeconomics
ECO 102	Principles of Microeconomics
ECO 105	Sports and Stadium Economics
EDU 101	Introduction to Early Childhood Education
ENG 090	College Writing Strategies
ENG 101	English Composition I: Expository Writing
ENG 112	English Composition II: Exploring Literature
ENG 116	English Composition II: Analysis of Literature and Film
ENG 207	Creative Writing and Literature: Themes and Methods
ENG 248	Women in Literature II
FST 252	Strategy and Tactics
GEO 108	Global Climate Change
GGY 101	Introduction to Geography
HIS 102	Western Civilization Since 1500 A.D.
HIS 105	History of the American People to 1865

HIS 218	Women and Gender in the American West to 1920 CE
MAC 103	Medical Office Procedures
MAC 112	Human Body in Health and Disease
MAC 120	Medical Claims Management
MAT 096	Intermediate Algebra
MAT 107	College Algebra
MAT 114	Introduction to Statistics
MAT 117	Mathematical Problem Solving
MOM 110	Medical Terminology
PCS 141	Interpersonal Communication
PHI 103	Introduction to Philosophy
POL 101	American Politics
PSY 101	Principles of Psychology
PSY 209	Abnormal Psychology
PSY 217	Human Growth and Development
PSY 225	Psychology of Women and Gender
PSY 233	Child Behavior and Development
SCI 117	Meteorology
SOC 101	Principles of Sociology
SOC 106	Social Inequality
SOC 201	Social Problems
SOC 210	Drugs and Society
THE 101	Introduction to Theater

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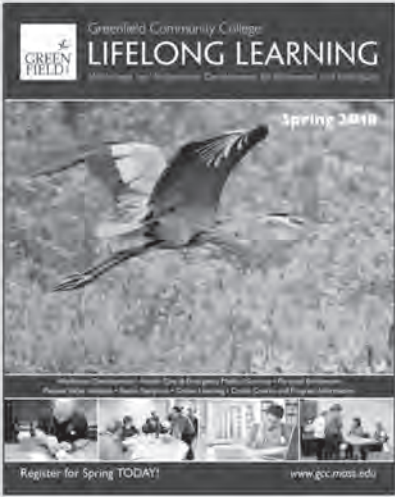
MONDAY CREDIT	
BIO 215	Human Anatomy and Physiology I
HIS 129	Intro to Modern Africa
MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY CREDIT	
ART 151	Photography Foundation
BIO 126	Biology I
CHE 112	General Chemistry II
EMS 101	Emergency Medical Technician-Basic
EMS 203	Mgt of Medical & Shock Trauma Emergencies
MAT 108	Precalculus
TUESDAY CREDIT	
ACC 152	Concepts of Financial Accounting II
BIO 130	Human Nutrition
DAN 105	African Dance I
EGT 109	Dimensional Metrology
ENG 101	English Composition I: Expository Writing
ENG 114	English Composition II: Literature and Creative Writing
ENG 116	English Composition III: Analysis of Literature and Film
ENG 208	Creative Writing & Literature: Studies in Genre
EVS 205	Understanding Climate Change: Policy and Practice
FST 153	Fire Prevention
MAT 090	Basic Mathematics Skills
PSY 217	Human Growth and Development
TUESDAY AND THURSDAY CREDIT	
ASL 102	American Sign Language
BIO 194	Comprehensive Anatomy and Physiology
BIO 205	Microbiology
EMS 203	Mgt of Medical & Shock Trauma Emergencies
MAT 096	Intermediate Algebra
MAT 107	College Algebra
MAT 116	Mathematics for Early Childhood and Elementary Educators

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY CREDIT	
AGR 110	Beekeeping
WEDNESDAY CREDIT	
BIO 216	Human Anatomy and Physiology II
CMN 201	The Social Impact of Mass Media
CRJ 110	Contemporary Operational and Inmate Treatment Practices
ENG 101	English Composition I: Expository Writing
ESL 113	Spoken English-Intermediate Level
HIS 134	World History II
HSV 141	Substance Use Disorders
MAT 095	Introductory Algebra
MOM 122	Medical Coding-Procedures
PSY 101	Principles of Psychology
THURSDAY CREDIT	
ACC 121	Principles of Financial Accounting I
BUS 105	Personal Financial Literacy
BUS 205	Principles of Management
EGT 111	CNC Programming with G code
ENG 204	American Literature II
FST 156	Hazardous Materials Chemistry
HIS 105	History of the American People to 1865
PCS 101	Public Speaking
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MONTAGUE from page A1
idea was less than enthusiastic, although it did vote to send the proposal on to the planning board at its September meeting. A number of other towns in the region, including Leverett, Erving and Wendell, have decided to move forward with implementing the state law this spring without a moratorium.

According to Montague town planner Walter Ramsey, who presented the new zoning bylaw changes to the selectboard, the CCC issued 107 pages of draft regulations on December 21, and will hold public hearings around the state in early February.

The proposed bylaw, Ramsey said, replaces existing language targeted to the sale of medical marijuana “with a broader regulation addressing both recreational and medicinal marijuana establishments, in light of new regulations for recreational marijuana drafted by the [CCC].”

The bylaw essentially attempts to fold the criteria for various kinds of marijuana establishments into the uses already permitted in current zoning districts. For example, marijuana retailers would be allowed within Montague’s “central business districts,” which include parts of downtown Turners Falls, Millers Falls, and Montague City.

Marijuana cultivation alone, meanwhile, would be allowed in districts designated “agriculture – forestry,” while cultivation, production, research, and testing – but not sale – would be allowed in industrial zones.

The bylaw would not cap the number of establishments in town, but it would, at the same time, not allow a marijuana business to be established simply “by right”; such businesses would need to go before the zoning board of appeals or the planning board to receive a special permit and site plan review.

The bylaw also lists a number of specific provisions regarding siting. For example, a marijuana establishment must be more than 100 feet from a school, and “no odor may be noxious or cause a nuisance or impair public comfort and convenience.”

Ramsey told the *Montague Reporter* that the town could revisit these regulations in the future, but “they give us a certain level of protection that we don’t have now.”

Garbage Chaos

The selectboard met with Dan Higgins, an official from Republic Services, which handles trash pick-up and recycling services for the town. Over the holidays the firm failed to pick up trash in some sections of town. There were delays caused by snow and cold weather that were not communicated well to residents.

“I’ve been doing this for over 35 years, and this is the most challenging period I have seen,” said Higgins. He said that fuel had been “gelling” in the trucks. He also said that the two holiday weeks are “traditionally the toughest weeks of the year.”

Higgins also acknowledged that there had been poor communication on Friday, December 29, when the trucks did not complete their scheduled pick-ups in Montague, “so we did not send a truck out on Saturday, because we did not know we were not done.” He said he felt there needed to be better communication between the trucks and the company’s dispatchers, as well as with the Montague DPW, so residents can be informed.

Selectboard members said it was

important to provide information about pickup irregularities to the DPW and town administrator Steve Ellis, so it could be put up on the website or announced in a newspaper. Ellis pointed out that “that works on Monday through Thursday,” when town hall is open, “but not so well on Friday and Saturday.” But, he said, there needed to be a plan to get the information to news outlets.

Tax Swamp

A man named Greg Newth, who owns property on Route 63 (Federal Street), came before the selectboard to ask for support for a “home rule petition” to the state legislature. The petition would allow the town to reimburse Newth for some past property taxes paid.

Back in 2003, Newth had gone before the planning board, who gave him permission to subdivide the property into five lots. He has sold three, but when he recently found a potential buyer for a lot on the corner of Federal Street and Swamp Road, the building inspector told them that the lot did not have sufficient frontage to construct a house. The buyer walked away from the deal.

The assessors reduced his 2017 assessment to the minimum of \$3,700, but Newth had been paying at a much higher rate for the previous decade on the theory that the lot was buildable. “I am out \$10,000,” he told the board.

[Marijuana] businesses would need to go before the zoning board of appeals or the planning board to receive a special permit and site plan review.

After discussion with town officials, as well as state senator Stan Rosenberg and representative Steve Kulik, Newth decided that the best course of action was special legislation by the state legislature allowing the town to give him a rebate. The board voted to support the petition to the state, which will need to go to Montague town meeting. The motion stipulated that the funds would come from a reserve known as the assessors’ overlay.

Sludge Future

The selectboard heard an update from Bob McDonald, director of the town Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF), on discussions with the state about the future of the “Montague process” for reducing sludge in the town sewage. The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has ordered the town to put the process on hold while the WPCF conforms to federal permit requirements for toxic materials generated by the plant.

McDonald, Steve Ellis, and selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz met with DEP officials recently to discuss the future of the plant. McDonald said the DEP wanted to see experiments with the Montague process continue after a four-month period of stability. “I felt we were at the table as collaborators,” said Ellis.

Solar Conflict

Building inspector David Jensen came before the selectboard to “disclose” that four members of the town’s zoning board of appeals

(ZBA) had either a conflict of interest, or the “appearance” of one.

The ZBA will be hearing a zoning request by the Elks Club to lease property on Millers Falls Road for a new solar array, but four of the seven ZBA members are Elks Club members. However, if each recused themselves from the issue, the ZBA would not be able to take the required vote.

Jensen said he had been told by the state Ethics Commission that three members could remedy the problem by disclosing the appearance of conflict, but chair Ernie Brown, in Jensen’s words, had a “financial conflict” because he was also an officer of the Elks.

The board took no action on the matter, since three ZBA members were only required to file the disclosure forms with the town clerk.

Solutions Dismissed

Steve Ellis requested that the selectboard vote to dismiss legal claims that the town had made against Solutions Consulting Group LLC, which at one time owned the former Railroad Salvage Building, which suffered a fire in January 2017.

Millers Falls resident Jeanne Golrick, who is associated with the LLC, had previously claimed that the actions of the selectboard had been taken in violation of the state open meeting law.

Golrick applauded Ellis for his “integrity,” but criticized the board members for not coming to judicial hearings on the issue.

The board voted to approve Ellis’ request.

Other Business

The board heard an update on the project studying the 1676 battle, or massacre, at the Great Falls (now Turners Falls), and voted to endorse an \$80,000 grant request to the National Park Service to continue the project.

The board also voted to designate five sections of town as “economic opportunity areas.” Walter Ramsey said this would allow developers to obtain “abandoned building tax deductions” for certain properties.

Ramsey also requested that the board endorse an application to the Massachusetts Cultural Council for a \$150,000 “cultural facilities grant” for the Shea Theater. The request was approved by the selectboard.

The board officially retroactively voted to remove police officer Joshua Hoffman from 111-F (“injured on duty”) status, as of December 24.

It also voted to endorse two landfill inspection reports to the state DEP, as well as a memorandum of understanding with the Franklin County Solid Waste District regarding a wood pellet recycling shed.

The board approved a contract extension with Berkshire Design Group for the next phase of the Avenue A Streetscape project, and designated Ellis to be the town’s delegate to both the Massachusetts Municipal Association convention and the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association.



Special Town Meeting

February 15, 2018 6:30 p.m.
at the Shea Theater
71 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Board of Selectmen to execute
warrant on January 29, 2018

MONTAGUE PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ZONING BYLAWS: LICENSED MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS

Tuesday, January 23, 2018 7:00 PM
Town Hall – Second Floor

The Montague Planning Board will hold a public hearing to consider a petition to amend the Montague Zoning Bylaws pertaining to the regulation of licensed marijuana establishments at 7 p.m. on **Tuesday, January 23, 2018** at Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA: The proposed amendment would replace existing bylaws for registered (medical) marijuana dispensaries in section 7.10 with regulations permitting marijuana retail, cultivation, processing, research, and testing by special permit in certain zoning districts. Full text of the proposed amendment is available for review at www.montague-ma.gov and at Town Hall during office hours M-Th.

Ron Sicard, Planning Board Chairman

PROPOSED MONTAGUE DPW INFORMATION SESSION SERIES

Hosted by the Public Works Facility Planning Committee.
All are invited to attend to learn more about the project.

Wednesday, January 17 at 7 p.m.
Highland Apartments, 446 Millers Falls Road

Monday, January 29 at 7 p.m.
Montague Center Fire Station, 28 Old Sunderland Road

Tuesday, February 13 at 6 p.m.
Public Safety Complex Community
Meeting Room, 180 Turnpike Road

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was January 10, 2008: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Sewer Work Continues

Penta Corporation of Moultonboro, NH has been contracted for the two million dollar upgrade of the Montague wastewater treatment plant on Greenfield Road.

This project is the second phase of the upgrade project designed by engineers Camp Dresser and McKee, following the construction of new pipelines in Avenue A and Seventh Street last winter. The work is being paid for from the \$5.7 million borrowing authorized by town meeting in 2005; 40% of that sum derives from a property tax hike approved by a \$2.2 million debt exclusion vote on August 1 of that year, the remainder will be paid by sewer users via rate increases in coming years.

The most visible change will be the construction of a new chlorine contact tank at the treatment plant on Greenfield Road. Work began in December to prepare the site for construction, including removing pavement and relocating an on-site water line. In order to construct the concrete tank, a large excavation must be opened up and stabilized.

After Innocence: Exoneree Speaks

With gruff candor and an amazing lack of bitterness, recent exoneree Dennis Maher spoke to a small – but enthralled – audience at Turners Falls High School on Friday.

Maher, a native of Lowell and an Army veteran, spent nineteen of his forty-seven years in prison, con-

victed for committing two rapes and an assault in Ayer and Lowell. Maher was misidentified at a line-up and convicted, although there was no physical evidence linking him to the crimes.

In March of 1984, Maher was sentenced to life imprisonment. With help from the Innocence Project and DNA testing, Maher was freed in 2003.

He came to Turners Falls High to speak following a showing of the movie *After Innocence*, a film that described his case and a half-dozen others, in often painful detail. The movie also provided an overview of the work of the Innocence Project, while raising serious questions about the United States justice system.


Clean Energy for Montague

The Grange has a long, proud history in America of supporting agriculture, and advancing initiatives that would help rural communities, like electrification.

Now the Montague Grange #141, established in 1884 on the second floor of the old town hall in Montague Center, is updating the organization’s historical advocacy of rural electrification for a warmer century.

In spring of last year, the Montague Grange voted to support a project of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC) that would provide funding for large wind turbines in New England, while at the same time creating an annual line item – through MTC’s Clean Energy Choice program – for the town of Montague to purchase renewable energy systems for town buildings, or for energy-efficiency improvements.

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GOOD USED USABLES

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Garden Beds, Chicken Coop, and Benches for Gill Elementary

By GEORGE BRACE

At the January 8 Gill selectboard meeting, principal Conor Driscoll of Gill Elementary was granted a \$7,000 distribution from the Quintus Allen Trust Fund to be used to create an outdoor learning center for the school. The money will go towards building seven raised garden beds (one for each class), a chicken coop, an outdoor classroom space with log benches, and associated landscaping work.

Driscoll noted that the new structures will assist in the school's focus on project-based learning and benefit all students. The work is to be performed by students from the Franklin County Technical School.

Talks between administrative assistant Ray Purington, the state Department of Environmental Protection, and engineers working on the Gill Elementary School well project are continuing. At issue are elevated iron levels recorded in several tests over the last couple of years.

Purington said the raised levels may have been due to a dry summer two years ago. The iron levels are not a problem in themselves, but there is a concern that they may interfere with the functioning of some of the equipment originally

intended to be used in the drinking water treatment project, which uses ultra-violet light to sterilize the well water. Alterations are being discussed.

Liquor License

The board held a public hearing on the application by 23 French King Highway LLC for an annual off-premises wine and malt beverages convenience store liquor license at 23 French King Highway. The operations manager of the newly renovated gas station, Mark Graham, appeared to represent the LLC and answer questions.

The license was granted. The board had previously approved the license, but upon review, an error in the application was discovered necessitating a re-submission.

In the course of general questioning, Mr. Graham said the station is hoping to be open for business sometime between January 18 and 22.

Other Business

Selectboard chair Randy Crochier reported that the town's 225th anniversary sing-a-long on January 1 was fun and well-attended. Board member Greg Snedeker seconded that opinion.

The board approved the 225th anniversary planning committee's request to remove and replace a spruce tree on the town common. The committee hopes to finalize plans at next week's meeting for a contra dance to take place on February 2.

Two new members were added to the 225th anniversary planning committee, Emily Samuels and Ed Golembeski.

Chris Savinski has resigned as a part-time Gill police officer, effective December 18, to pursue a full-time position with the South Deerfield police department. The board expressed their gratitude for his service and wished him well in his new job.

Fred Chase II was appointed to the machinery advisory committee.

The board designated the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative as a purchasing agent and approved buy orders for the purchase of 5,300 gallons of diesel fuel and 3,500 gallons of heating oil for FY'19.

Fire chief Gene Beaubien presented a purchase order request for \$1,200 to buy a printer/fax/copy machine to replace the fire department's current unit which is old and malfunctioning. The purchase order was approved.

Greg, You're the beat of my heart, the breath in my body, the light in my soul.
Love, Mom.

Thinking of you today, like always. Like every time we see a hawk soar, the sunrise, or hear a certain song. Like when we see something we want to show you, or have a story we want to share.

The thing is, we talk to you in those quiet moments. The corners of our mouths turn up in smiles as we feel your presence.

A day like today would often be one to share what has happened over this past year – all the things we want you to know about.

But you already do. Because we know you're there by our side in every moment. When there's laughter and when there are tears. In the night sky, when day is done and we know the brightest star is yours.

So we won't tell you what's been going on, we'll thank you for going with us. Stay with us always.

Love,

Mom, Dad & Melissa, Jeremy, Maryrose, Anthony, Sebastian, Emily, Damien, Owen & Ayleanna.



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In Artificial Intelligence We Trust?

By EMILY MONOSSON

MONTAGUE CENTER – We are like toddlers out of control. We have changed the world to better suit our needs, blissfully unaware of the beastly things we’ve done until they’ve come back to bite us: the chlorinated chemicals that brought good things into our lives are spread across this earth; those of us with access to convenient food and drink are mired in an epidemic of obesity; we have powered ourselves into a potential planetary disaster.

We could use some guidance here on earth, and I don’t mean the spiritual kind. No, we need an entity that is unbiased; that can not only solve problems that our human minds cannot, but that can help us make better decisions, maybe even better predict the negative consequences of our actions. Computers encoded with algorithms that can learn, may someday soon be able to help us confront the short-sightedness brought about through our own hubris.

Although technologically, computers may still be toddling along, already their computational skills have surpassed some of the best human strategists alive. In 2015 Google’s AlphaGo outmaneuvered a top player at Go, an ancient game of strategy and intuition, considered far more complex than chess. This past year, AlphaGo Zero one-upped its predecessor by learning to play the game on its own, and then beat the earlier version of itself. (The original was fed data from more than one hundred thousand Go games.)

And, unlike us, Artificial Intelligence (AI) agents, especially those based on a subset of AI called Machine Learning, are poised to mature – rapidly. There are now machines that can program what we cannot; and as the algorithms become ever more complex, some are now being developed to explain to us how they do what they do. Because it isn’t always evident.

But more about that in a bit.



A network-generated image that failed to capture the “essence” of a dumbbell – perhaps because it had not seen enough pictures of dumbbells that were not being held by weightlifters.

Can We Trust AI?

As with any new technology, artificial intelligence comes with a caveat. How far do we trust an inscrutable entity?

My sister Susan recently drove to Albany, NY from Boston. She’s not a Luddite, but she refused to rely on Siri. (“We all know you shouldn’t trust those directions,” she said, before setting off, despite my suggestion that it was highly unlikely she’d wind up on a dead-end road with no food or water for a week in Albany.)* Instead she opted to rely on her own brain and paper maps.

She got lost. Eventually she found someone knowledgeable and kind enough to talk her step-by-step through the city to the funeral home where she was headed.

“Now, there’s an app,” she said. “Someone who can talk you through directions.” If Siri was

sentient she might be offended because that’s exactly the purpose for which Siri is designed.

Trust is an important issue in the world of AI. Here is a bit from an article published in Backchannel by Steven Levy about how Deep Learning – a form of machine learning that uses neural networks modeled on those found in the human brain – has made Siri less robotic sounding and more human:

“Though it seems like a small detail, a more natural voice for Siri actually can trigger big differences. ‘People feel more trusting if the voice is a bit more high-quality,’ says [Dr. Tom] Gruber. ‘The better voice actually pulls the user in, and has them use it more. So it has an increasing-returns effect.’”

Gruber co-founded Siri, Inc. and serves as its chief technology officer. see ARTIFICIAL page B8

*The author has actually ended up way off track in the middle of Ohio with no service and no map because her GPS couldn’t handle a major but temporary road diversion. She had enough food, but recommends carrying a real old-fashioned map.



THE GARDENER’S COMPANION

Welcoming the New Year

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – Many people have the habit of setting resolutions for themselves at the time of the New Year. We reflect on the past and pledge to make changes. But these resolutions often smack of Puritanism and read like a list of maternal chastisements.

Changing behavior is difficult, but often positive. One year my late husband and I vowed to quit smoking. At least, he said that he intended to lose the habit, but that I didn’t have to do so also. That turned out to be the perfect goal. I quit smoking too, even if it did take three tries.

Resolutions often feel punitive since they are frequently about changing bad or unhealthy habits. This year we want to feel more positive about it all, acknowledging the good of last year instead of dwelling on the not-so-good.

We share the following sayings to guide our thoughts of a fresh start to the new year:

Don’t let yesterday use up too much of today. (Cherokee saying.)

Where are you in terms of your efforts to make your life brighter? (From “365 Tao,” Deng Ming-Dao.)

So much wisdom in those nine sparse Cherokee words. What a waste of time. Reflection on the past day or week or year can be helpful, but can’t be allowed to dominate and impair what we do in the time we are in right at this moment.

Note that the Taoist does not say we might work to make our lives

happier or wealthier or busier, but brighter. Perhaps more hopeful, joyful, positive. Perhaps more spiritual, more involved, more aware in each moment.

We admit, however, to a lack of enthusiasm for this current cold spell with its concomitants of frozen pipes, ice and increased heating bills and a general sense of being cooped up. Nonetheless this weather brings an opportunity to indulge a bit longer in reading a really engrossing book or picking up an unfinished piece of knitting or sewing; writing a long letter (imagine!) to an old friend, or cooking up something delicious like making real honest-to-goodness bread from scratch.

We also look forward to ordering seeds for next season’s garden and plan always to plant favorites and to try at least one new crop or variety. Because of last season’s troubles with late blight, we will only be planting two late season tomatoes, both beefsteak types: “Church,” a family heirloom, and “Brandywine,” a trusted old heirloom, both of which produce beautiful, huge-slicing, flavorful tomatoes.

The other six of the eight varieties are all early or mid-season types which will ripen before the period susceptible to late blight. These are: “Celebrity,” a tried and true real tomato favorite; “Stupice,” a Hungarian tomato of medium size and good flavor; “Jet Star,” a reliable hybrid; “Tidy Rose Tomato,” a new kind for us, large yet early; “Independence Day,” another experiment, harvestable in 55 days from setting out plants; and “Sungold,” our favorite prolific cherry

see GARDENER’S page B3

The Week in TFHS Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – This week in high school sports, the Turners Falls boys’ basketball team lost two games in the second



Turners’ Chase Novak cruises past Mahar’s Sam Paul as the Senators topped Powertown, 55–50.

half. The girls’ basketball team won by 21 points off the long ball and great defense. Area football players were selected to the all D-VIII team and the cheer squad kept the crowds in the game.

But first, a review of the last three swim meets...

Boys Swimming
Sci-Tech 40.5 – TFHS 30.5
TFHS 41 – Easthampton 14
Sci-Tech 62 – TFHS 53

On Tuesday, December 19, the Turners Falls boys swam against the Cybercats of Sci-Tech, and the Cats took the meet by 10 points, 40.5 to 30.5.

Nick Taylor won two events for Blue: the 200-yard freestyle, with a time of 2:22.43, and the 500-yard freestyle in 6:26.54. Nik Martin took gold in the 50-yard freestyle (31.15) while tying for first place in the 100-yard freestyle (1:12.07).

Tommy Hall had Turners’ other individual win, the 100-yard breaststroke (1:48.77), while Will Turn combined with the other three swimmers to win the 200-yard medley relay in 2:32.85.

On Tuesday, January 2, the Easthampton Eagles came to town. Turners won the meet 41-14.

The relay quartet of Turn, Cameron Bradley, Taylor and Martin took first in the 200-yard medley (2:24.76) and won the 200-yard freestyle in 2:05.34. In individual events, Martin won the 50-yard freestyle in 32:26.00, and took first place outright in the 100-yard see TFHS SPORTS page B4



A view across the Connecticut River in Turners Falls, December 2004. This was the author’s first winter in Turners Falls after she moved there from the house in Millers Falls. Exploring Unity Park with her new digital camera was a way to get to know her new home.

Change Is Not Easy

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

MILLERS FALLS – The house on Grout Circle in Millers Falls was made of wood and painted blue. Tall, boxy, it sat on a nice plot of land with a wide lawn that swept around from the driveway to the back of the house. There the land dropped off into a deep gully, a wild space full of trees, tall grasses and wild flowers.

The house sat at the edge of the gully, with a separate apartment built below the main house. I had two roommates, David, the owner, and Bear, who lived in the apartment below. David was a carpenter and had built the house himself. It was sturdy and quite pleasant inside. The living room was large with

a comfy sectional sofa that almost filled the room. There was a spot where I could sit and stretch my legs out and watch the large television directly across from me and be completely at peace.

David usually was out early in the morning, so I had the place to myself during the day. He considered me a roommate, letting me share the kitchen and living room. I had a kitchen table in storage and his very large kitchen had no table, so once we agreed I should move in, I moved a bed into the small room upstairs that was mine, and brought that lovely wooden table with the shiny white tile top plus four wooden chairs into the empty space in the kitchen. In this way I felt I was see TRANSITIONS page B2

Pets of the Week

Fun Facts About Gerbils:

We are very social animals, happiest with at least one gerbil friend!

We're diurnal which means we're awake for a good part of the day and are we busy? And how! We can make a toy from almost anything!

We use vocalizations: squeaks, clicking, and high-pitched grunts, to communicate with one another.

And we live 3 to 4 years.

We like carrots, celery, peas, cucumbers, string beans, grapes, apples, pears, cooked potato, raisins, bananas, plain popcorn as treats.

And the occasional dust bath!!

Ask an adoption counselor about any other personality traits that we may have!

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



“ICE MELT & BATTERY”

Senior Center Activities JANUARY 15 to 19

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

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

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

Tues–Thurs Noon Lunch
M, W, F 10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Monday: 1/15
8 to 9:15 a.m. Foot Clinic appts.
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday: 1/16
9:30 a.m. Tech Help Appts.
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
Wednesday: 1/17
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday: 1/18
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Cards & Games
Friday: 1/19
1 p.m. Writing Group

LEVERETT

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

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

Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

ERVING

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

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

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

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

Monday: 1/5 CLOSED –
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Tuesday: 1/16
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch
12:30 p.m. Friends Meeting
Wednesday: 1/17
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo, Snacks, Laughs
Thursday: 1/18
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
Friday: 1/19
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop
9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling
11:15 Music, Magic, Movement

WENDELL

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TRANSITIONS from page B1

contributing to the house, which only seemed fair, since my rent was quite reasonable.

When I finally moved into the house in Millers Falls in early September of 2002, I had been drifting, essentially homeless, since I’d moved out of my apartment in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn at the end of July. The move itself was the culmination of several months of preparation. And yet all I had accomplished was packing up my apartment with the help of friends, and driving it all up to Massachusetts where my son Paul and I, and his friend Kevin, packed everything I owned into a storage unit that was clean and secure. Furniture and boxes were neatly stacked along the wall of what looked like a very large room, and I felt confident I could find things if I needed them but still, I did not yet live anywhere.

For all those months I went from staying at Rowe Camp, to the Country Aire Camp Grounds in Shelburne Falls, where I slept in a tent, to going up and down the East Coast, staying with my friend Sherry in New York City, and Long Island, and visiting with my family in Philadelphia. I also spent time in Brooklyn, visited my son Paul and my friends, Susie and Jerry.

All that time I felt disconnected, unhinged from real life. So when, at last, I could stretch out in my own bed, look out the window and see the sun come up, listen to the birds sing, I felt real joy. At last I was home.

I also had a job, of sorts. With all that drifting around, I had managed to get an interview with the editor of the *Athol Daily News*, Barney Cummings. He hired me as a correspondent, to my surprise. He was an elderly man – in his eighties, I believe. He was very nice to me. I was assigned to cover the selectboard meetings in New Salem, which I started once I was settled in my new home.

My bedroom was small, with a slanted ceiling and dormer windows. In it was my bed which I’d brought from Brooklyn, and a desk I bought at Staples in Greenfield to fit in the corner. There I put my computer, all I needed, along with a pad and pencil, to be a reporter. Apparently.

It wasn’t like I had no idea what reporters did. I had watched with interest the work of men like Walter Cronkite, whose news reports my family watched every evening on television when I was young. His standards were ingrained in my mind, along with the work of the reporters at the *New York Times*, which I read every morning on the subway on my way to work in Manhattan.

Still, sitting in a room, listening to people talk about the details of town government, then writing about it: that was a totally new experience. It took me a while to figure out the basics. Deb Porter at the *Athol Daily News* was my guide, and she was infinitely patient.

I didn’t know, for example, that I could interrupt and ask questions of the members of the selectboard, which was important because they often simply passed papers around to sign and spoke quietly in a conversational manner that left me in the dark regarding the subject of their discussions. It was challenging, but also very exciting, seeing the internal workings of town government.

In my efforts to earn a living in New York City, I had bounced between teaching, which I did only



This little chipmunk liked to sit in the sun atop a pointed stone in the garden where the author lived on Grout Circle in Millers Falls. Taken in September 2003.

sparingly, and office work. In spite of the fact that I spent many years earning college degrees, expecting that to improve my ability to get a better job, in the end the work I was able to get was not materially different, although it did pay better.

The world had changed around me in the twenty years between when I first entered college at the Philadelphia College of Art in 1961, where I failed to graduate when a serious back injury made continuing impossible, and the achievement of a bachelors degree in 1977, at which point I was both a college grad and a single mother, as my husband left for his shot at a dream job in Israel that year. Because my son had serious health problems as a child, I was not able to return to work at that point, so I went back to school.

Even more time passed before I completed an MFA in creative writing from Brooklyn College, something I really fell into by luck, I think, but did not fit the definition of high value new hires by then. By 1985, the world wanted MBA graduates. Goals are good, but it sometimes helps to know why these goals are worthwhile. Nevertheless, you never know. All those things I learned in college have served me well as a reporter.

Change is never easy. Challenging, dangerous, full of pitfalls, risk – change is scary; which is why in the end we gravitate back to the familiar. That is why, in spite of all the years spent getting an education, I went back to office work, as it was what I knew and I was good at it.

But the problem with that was twofold. I was older, in my 40s, not my 20s, when I returned to work, and my health was never good to start with and continued to be a problem. Sitting at a computer all day only caused my back issue to get worse, along with the new work-related injuries that came with computer work.

We called it “word processing” back then, and it involved day-long typing on a computer keyboard, with no understanding of ergonomics. In many cases a computer was just put on a regular

desk with no consideration of the level of the keyboard. Over the many years I worked in this field, I suffered from various injuries: carpal tunnel, rotator cuff shoulder injuries, tendonitis. I took time off from work, moved to different kinds of jobs, more secretarial in nature so I didn’t type all day, but by the time I left New York, my work schedule had been significantly reduced as I took more time off between assignments in order to allow my body to heal.

Nevertheless, I needed to keep working because I had to support myself.

The struggle for that balance between working for a living and taking care of my body became clear when I took a job as a staff reporter at the *Athol Daily News*. The computers had been placed on old wooden desks. The chair didn’t quite support my back. It didn’t take long for me to start to have problems with my shoulder and back again.

At some point I had to give it up, as much as I wanted to stay, really loving the experience and the training I was getting there. I applied for Social Security Disability, and went back to working for them as a correspondent.

It wasn’t until 2008 that I connected with David Detmold, and started working for the *Montague Reporter*. By then I had retired officially and had a steady income and health care.

With the introduction to digital photography through the *Daily News* I had found something wonderful, an opportunity to work as a photographer. So, words and pictures. It made my work that much more enjoyable. In time I connected with other artists in Franklin County, and began showing my work in public.

I believe that idleness does not suit me, and I need to work at my own pace at the things I love to do. Art, music, theater, writing – these things enrich our lives and if we can share our work with others, that contributes to the community in a most valuable way. It gives us strength, and keeps us young.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

We hope you’re finding warmth on these icy cold days. Now on *MontagueTV.org* and in our TV schedule, you can watch “It’s a Wonderful Night in Turners Falls” from December 2017.

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TFHS SPORTS from page B1
freestyle (1:15.74).

Bradley also had two first-place finishes: the 100-yard butterfly (1:03.02) and the 100-yard backstroke (1:13.80). Taylor helped the Tribe take the meet by winning the grueling 500-yard freestyle in 6:31.96.

Then on Tuesday, January 9, the boys traveled to Springfield to try to even up their record against the Cybercats. But the Cats went on to sweep Powertown. In this meet, they won by a mere 9 points, 62-53.

Taylor and Bradley each took first in two events: Taylor won the 200-yard freestyle in 2:23.41 and the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 1:05.52, while Bradley took first in the 100-yard freestyle (57.90) and the 100-yard backstroke (1:12.20). The relay team (Turn, Bradley, Taylor, Martin) also won the 200-yard medley in 2:22.36.

Girls Swimming

TFHS 52 – Sci-Tech 2
Easthampton 69 – TFHS 23
TFHS 71 – Sci-Tech 20

Like the boys, the girls’ swim team also played Sci-Tech twice and Easthampton once, but their fortunes were reversed: the Blue Ladies swept the Cybercats while losing the Easthampton meet!

In the first Sci-Tech contest played on December 19, Turners blew the Cats out of the water by allowing just 2 points off two third-place finishes. Jade Tyler won both the 200-yard freestyle (2:18.80) and the 100-yard butterfly (1:10.14). Olivia Whittier also won her two events, the 200-yard IM with a time of 2:42.96 and the 100-yard breaststroke (1:20.73).

Allison Wheeler completed the trifecta of double-firsts by taking the 100-yard freestyle in 1:10.21 and the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 1:17.06. Abigail Johnson also won her individual event, the 50-yard freestyle, in 35.53.

The relay team of Wheeler, Whittier, Tyler and Johnson won the 200-yard medley relay in 2:25.27, and the 400-yard freestyle relay team (Lillian Poirier, Catie Reynolds, Whittier, and Tyler) won their event in 5:08.70.

On January 2, the girls lost to the Easthampton Eagles, 69-23. In that meet, the Blue Ladies relied on second and third places to earn all their points.

A week later, on January 9, the team swam in friendlier waters as they completed their SciTech sweep. Tyler again won her two events, the 50-yard freestyle in 29.06 and the 100-yard butterfly in 1:11.28. Whittier also took first in both of hers the 100-yard freestyle (1:04.56) and 100-yard backstroke (1:15.44).

Jordan Muniz won the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 2:59.29, while Johnson won the 500-yard freestyle in 8:34.76. The 200-yard medley relay team of Wheeler, Whittier, Tyler and Johnson won in 2:20.85 while Wheeler, Whittier, Tyler and Muniz won the 200-yard freestyle relay in 2:07.79.

Football

Mass Live recently announced



their 2017 All-Western Mass. Division VIII football selections.

Andy Craver, Kyle Dodge, and John Driscoll of Turners Falls and Spencer Telega and Bailey Young of Franklin Tech were all named to the first team, while Kurtis Kuenzel and Dan Momaney from Franklin Tech were named to the second team.

Girls Basketball

TFHS 48 – Southwick 27

On Tuesday, the Turners Falls girls basketball team extended their winning streak to two games by beating the Southwick Rams 48-27. Powertown benefited from strong middle quarters for the 21-point victory.

The Lady Rams kept pace in the first quarter and trailed by only 3 points, 12-9, after one. In the second quarter, Blue’s defense took over, allowing South only 3 points in the period while putting up 14 of their own. Turners stretched the lead to 43-20 after three periods, and after a defensive fourth, took the game.

Maddy Chmyzinski led Powertown, hitting four 3-pointers and ending up with 20 points. Abby Loynd sunk two 3-pointers and also hit double digits with 10 points.

Chloe Ellis worked the boards and scored 8 points off three field goals and two free throws. Dabney Rollins (3), Emma Miner, Eliza Johnson, and Sarah Waldron (2), and Karissa Fleming (1) rounded out the scoring for Blue.

Boys Basketball

Mahar 55 – TFHS 50
Pioneer Valley 78 – TFHS 60

On Friday, January 5 the Turners Falls boys’ basketball team took on the Senators of Mahar. Blue played strong, but the Senators pulled away in the fourth quarter to take the 5-point victory, 55-50.

The Senators came into the game with only one loss and were ranked #12 in Western Mass. Powertown played the Senators tough and benefited from some great fast breaks to take the early lead 12-6. But Mahar nosed their way back into the game, and after a quarter, the Tribe only led 14-11.

In the second period, the Senators caught up, and with the score tied at 21, sank the last bucket of the half to take the lead at 23-21. The lead bounced back and forth in the third,

but Mahar missed the last shot of the period, and after three quarters the game was knotted at 34.

The Turners Falls cheer squad are the unsung heroes of Powertown sports. They go to most of the home games and through snow, rain and heat, they keep the home crowd stoked.

On Friday, the Senators sent their own cheer squad to the game. And as the lead switched back and forth, the cheerleaders from both schools kept the crowd in the game. But even with the home crowd and their cheerleaders behind them, Powertown found themselves down early in the fourth quarter as Mahar scored the first 7 points of the final

period. Mahar expanded their lead to 10 points, 51-41 with 50.7 seconds left, but intentional fouls and a few 3-pointers by Chase Novak narrowed the final margin to 55-50.

Novak led Blue in scoring, hitting an incredible five 3-pointers, and ended with 18 points. Javoni Williams scored 13 from 4 field goals and 5 free throws. Jimmy Vaughn ended with 10 points off two 3-pointers and two 2-pointers.

Tyler Lavin scored 6 points, hitting two buckets and two free throws, while Kyle Dodge also scored 6 points off three baskets. Giovanni Ruggiano (5) and Anthony Peterson (2) also scored for Blue.

Then, on Tuesday, the team went

by denis f. bordeaux



Turners’ Tyler Lavin looks for a shot as Mahar’s Brennan Mailloux defends.

up Route 2 to take on the Pioneer Panthers.

Pioneer shot out to a 17-13 lead, after one period, but Blue tied it up 33-33 at the half. But the Panthers stretched their lead to 5 points in the third, 48-43, and outscored the Tribe 30-17 in the fourth to take the 18-point victory.

Vaughn connected on three-pointers and netted 13 points. Novak also had three 3’s on his way to scoring 11 points, while Lavin also scored 11 off two free throws, three 2-pointers and a 3. Peterson scored 8 points for Blue, while Jon Fritz had 5 points and Ruggiano got 2.



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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!

Black Ducks Enjoy January Thaw

Light, shadow, and color define the bird shapes this lovely January morning. The Breakfast Club window offers a varied scene. The bright pond reflects the dark patterns of winter trees. The surface seems dappled by the bushes along the shore, and sparkles with ice floes from December’s freeze.

Here by the house, the rhododendron have shaken their load of frozen snow and their green leaves shine with white memories of the holiday’s weather.

The breakfast birds have arrived with a leader. The tubelike feeder swings gently, propelled by a vigorous-living chickadee. He’s big and quick and obviously respected by his kin, who busy themselves in the bushes. He tosses seed with abandon, the most profligate of feeder visitors, and good friends to the juncos who wait expectantly for scatterings on the ground below.

The master is off, then back to sample another feeding station, now undecided which has the tastier morsels. Too much on his mind to linger longer or reward his chickadee ad-



mirers with a glance, he flutters a moment, bounces on a rhododendron branch, and is off to new pastures.

At his departure, the tree sparrows, their caps shining red in the morning sun, join the waiting chickadees for a turn at the feeder. A tufted titmouse stops by; he has not been a regular for some days and his neat gray back, muted white breast and handsome darker crest give a touch of elegance to the assorted group.

A blue jay disrupts their feeding, but no suet and he’s gone, to stare from the catalpa. Somebody in the bushes. The lovely red cardinal enters in his leisurely manner and hops around the periphery of the established group, while his spouse blends her dark gold self in the

bushes, as if it were not worth her time to socialize with lesser kin.

The smaller birds are happily feeding when the pond erupts as four black ducks sweep in, a drake and three girls. Shortly, two depart and the remaining pair resumes feeding at their favorite spot, gray heads down, white rumps up, their little red legs paddling fast so they can reach deep for good pondweed. The white under wings are a good field mark for blacks in flight.

The pair feed for some time, then he swims over to their favorite beaver log. She follows respectfully. He preens a bit and she copies his action while he climbs aboard the floating tree to sun on this rare January morn. She joins him, her aspect just a little lower.

And so two handsome black ducks take good advantage of the January thaw, in the tranquility of North Pond, confirming the opinion of one old-time birdbook writer that blacks are smarter, more versatile, and more wary than some of their kin. (January 19, 2006)

Madge, Put On Your Teakettle

The old thermometer says zero. Rain, wind and finally snow and cold have battered our world and snug indoors we may wonder where and how the little creatures survive. The seedy meadows are covered with ice, and the regulars at the feeder have brought a continuing stream of friends and family.



A song sparrow.

Breakfast Club does not stop all day. The tree sparrows, spending winter here in Montague from the north country, who have been less active in the earlier thaw, have returned in force. A flock of maybe twenty are very lively in the cold, and actively compete with the chickadees, to whom they have often deferred.

The chickadees are all aquiver this morning. They zoom in, swap places at the feeder without losing a bite, and somehow do not collide with the waiting bird who apparently has signaled, “My turn” and slips neatly into the just vacated place. The birds this morning are not scattering seed but they are a little selective.

A new, small feeder with sunflower seed has been hung among the rhododendron, and it is a chick-

adee who occasionally tries it out. Perhaps he is not willing to spend the time to crack sunflower seed, because he goes back to the old feeder when he gets a chance.

The lone song sparrow sits on a branch, his feathers fluffed out as if against the cold, but perhaps not happy at the horde who have arrived this wickedly cold day near the thicket where he may nest. Compared with the sleeker tree sparrows, he looks like a fatso. His very distinctive song, “Madge, Madge, Madge, put on your teakettle, teakettle, teakettle,” his good identifying spot in a well-streaked breast, and the fact that he is fairly common, make him a satisfactory and treasured sparrow to know.

The juncos are busy finding seed on the ground, their dark and white bodies, their little red feet and pink bills a striking contrast against the snow. They keep a different pace. While the chickadees zoom around and make impossible turns in the air, and hang off the feeder with ease, and the tree sparrows barely keep in the game, the juncos methodically scratch up the seed in the icy snow, steer clear of the cardinals who have stopped by imperiously, and avoid the mourning doves and blue jays.

Along with the snow bunting, whose brown and white flocks are sometimes seen in Montague’s open fields, juncos are sometimes called snowbirds.

Both birds have “come south” for the winter, to remind us it is even colder up North. (January 26, 2006)

Stars and Sparrows

The Breakfast Club at Cold Brook Farm, birdfeeder for an assorted clientele of juncos and titmice, chickadees and nuthatches, cardinals and woodpeckers, sets its hours to coincide with the rising sun.

The little rusty-headed tree sparrow that is first to arrive at daybreak perches on a bush and basks in the morning warmth. He does not care that the rays that warm him have traveled 93,000,000 miles at 186,000 miles per second (the speed of light in a vacuum, says Britannica) to reach him.

This hardy soul is here for breakfast.

It is below zero. Magically juncos move in and scuff back and forth to retrieve seed from the foot-deep snow. The cardinal hops around in the rhododendron.

In the cold its leaves are so tightly compacted that the bush is a mere tangle of branches. Two titmice dine politely with a chickadee at the twirling feeder.

A blue jay flies in and everyone scatters. He won’t stay long, and we know that they all have to eat.

He reminds me of the athletic squirrel of an earlier year who could leap to the top of a swinging feeder and somehow hang upside down on a wire to get his daily ration. After the unwelcome visit of a cooper’s hawk, he disappeared and the squirrel population deserted the old catalpa on the pond and shifted to the trees to the west.

This time of year, the Breakfast Club is in a great place for the observer. The ecliptic, the apparent path of the sun across the sky,

Saturday at the Brick House: Kath Bloom ... and friends



The singer-songwriter has become something of a legend for her early works, but she continues to quietly play, record and tour. She headlines a strong bill Saturday.

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS — Kath Bloom may be best known for the six (or so) albums she and experimental guitarist Loren MazzaCane Connors recorded in the early 1980s: strange, relaxed, vulnerable and starkly personal songs; “folk” music someone left to melt on the radiator by accident.

But though she is periodically rediscovered by new generations of listeners, she never really went anywhere — she has continued writing and playing music in Litchfield, Connecticut, and occasionally ventures out to play a show for a lucky audience.

Bloom’s big brush with fame came in 1995, when director Richard Linklater used her song “Come Here” in a pivotal scene of *Before Sunrise*. “Used,” meaning not just as background music — protagonists Julie Delpy and Ethan Hawke enter a listening booth at a record store, let the needle drop on 1984’s *Moonlight*, and then squirm awkwardly at the obvious romance of it all.

(We have to suspend disbelief that one of the 200 copies of 1984’s *Moonlight* made it as far as Vienna, but thanks in part to that scene, those 200 records now resell for as much as \$550 — and the *Guardian* rates the movie as the third-best romantic film of all time.)

That’s the fame-cult part of the story: a fluke, but one only made possible by that song’s frail beauty. A 2009 double-length tribute CD included covers by artists including Bill Callahan (Smog), Meg Baird (Espers, Heron Oblivion),

Josephine Foster, Devendra Banhart, and Scout Niblett.

But Kath Bloom’s own recent albums have also been well-received. On 2010’s *Thin Thin Line*: “[S]he has achieved a grace and gravity to match her age and experience.... Bloom sounds like a woman who has spent years in the wilderness.... An earthy, unpretentious presence, she can snap a heart like a twig...” (Steven Deusner, *Pitchfork*)

And on 2017’s *This Dream of Life*: “There is an aura about Kath Bloom that I know, from experience, hits different listeners in starkly different ways. A voice that cuts through time and space, to the heart, for some, is grating to others. Her guitar playing’s simplicity can come off as transcendent or rudimentary. That multiplicity.... is essential to her songwriting and performance... it might even be a driving force behind the album. These songs are about human flesh and bones but gather in the stars and their dust; they write human weakness and eccentricity into mythology.” (Dave Heaton, *PopMatters*)

Anyway...

Bloom is playing this Saturday, January 13 with a full band in tow, at Turners Falls’ community center the Brick House (24 Third Street). Supporting her on the bill are Brattleboro songwriter/composer **Ruth Garbus**; **Alexander**, the alter ego of Bloom’s own guitarist David Shapiro; and ambient acoustic trio **Donkey No No**.

The show is open to all ages, and it’s a sober space. Doors open at 8 p.m.; no advance tickets are available. Suggested donation \$10.

clears the eastern horizon above South Pond, to my right. The morning sun beams down nicely on the feeder and its occupants.

The sun continues on over open fields to the woods by the river. Here, as it slides down to the western horizon, the setting sun can be a sight to behold. Sometimes there are sun dogs to either side, sometimes Venus or Jupiter blaze in its afterglow.

In the summer months, the Breakfast Club’s location brings a problem. The ecliptic has shifted north. The sun now rises behind the pine trees on the hill, and aims right into the Breakfast Club window. On a bright morning it shines out the view of ducks on the pond and birds at the feeder. Not a big deal, but surely a reminder that the sun is a given, and we are the ones who must adjust.

And as our sun moves in the ecliptic against a background of stars that are blotted out in the daytime by its brilliance, cast into

constellations and imagined into a zodiac by a wondering earth, my little tree sparrow takes advantage of a warming sun on a bitter winter morning. (January 17, 2008)



A male northern cardinal.

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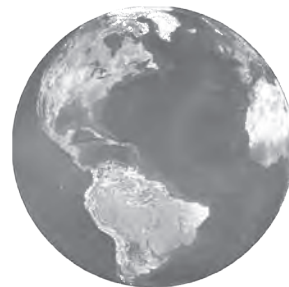
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Aquí se habla español

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



ANÁLISIS POLÍTICO

Predicciones para Latinoamérica en 2018



Mapa de Latinoamérica

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO

¡Feliz Año Nuevo a todos mis lectores! Me he permitido reunir en este artículo los hechos más importantes que se esperan en 2018 para los países de Latinoamérica.

Argentina: Argentina se enfrenta en 2018 a una gran batalla contra el déficit exterior. La balanza comercial se encuentra en este momento con 8.000 millones de dólares de déficit. Así mismo el presidente Macri se sigue enfrentando a dos problemas vigentes en Argentina: la inflación y el desempleo.

Bolivia: El 2018 viene marcado por la decisión del Tribunal Supremo que permitirá a Evo Morales el poder presentarse por quinta vez a la relección. La oposición debe encontrar una forma de unirse si quiere triunfar en las urnas. Respecto a la economía, si la estabilidad política perdura, la economía seguirá con la misma estabilidad que se inició hace diez años.

Brasil: A finales de 2018 se celebrarán elecciones presidenciales en Brasil. En este momento el gobierno de Michel Temer ha conseguido una ligera estabilidad política y económica, mientras siguen surgiendo noticias acerca de la corrupción.

Chile: Piñera se convirtió en presidente de Chile a finales del año pasado. Fue el primer triunfo de la derecha en la etapa democrática del país. Chile posee el PIB más alto de Sudamérica, aunque la desigualdad social es amplia. Piñera en sus primeras palabras dijo que quería ser el presidente de la clase media. Recuperar la economía estancada y lograr superar la desigualdad son sus grandes retos en 2018.

Colombia: Colombia celebra en 2018 su primer año sin las FARC, y su principal objetivo este año es construir la paz. Colombia tendrá elecciones presidenciales en 2018. El presidente Juan Manuel Santos, que obtuvo el premio Nobel de la

Paz debido a su colaboración en el cese de la violencia, dejará su cargo este año.

Costa Rica: Costa Rica celebrará elecciones generales el próximo mes de febrero. Costa Rica es uno de los países más estables de Latinoamérica, aunque en los últimos meses del año pasado la inestabilidad política se acrecentó debido a casos de corrupción, especialmente el que tiene relación con las cementeras y China. Así pues el presidente Solís se enfrentará en las urnas a Juan Diego Castro, candidato que está bien posicionado en las encuestas.

Cuba: Raúl Castro anunció a finales del mes pasado que extendería su mandato hasta el 19 de abril de 2018, aumentando así el misterio sobre el futuro de la isla. Defendió esta decisión por causa de los estragos causados por el huracán Irma. La mayoría de los analistas señalan al actual vicepresidente, Miguel Díaz Canel, como su sucesor.

Ecuador: El presidente Lenin Moreno lleva unos meses en su cargo, y ya ha manifestado en diferentes ocasiones su discrepancia con el presidente saliente, Rafael Correa, aunque ambos sean del mismo partido. Moreno convocará un referéndum en febrero con el fin de eliminar la reelección indefinida.

El Salvador: este mes de enero el gobierno estadounidense decidió cortar el programa de visados llamado Estatus de Protección Temporal que beneficiaba a unos 250.000 salvadoreños que deberán volver a su país o buscar una forma de regularizar su estatus migratorio. Este programa se estableció para paliar los efectos de los huracanes que asolaron Centroamérica en el año 2001. La principal lucha del gobierno salvadoreño será contra el narcotráfico en el que incluso están implicados altos cargos de la administración.

Guatemala: El pasado diciembre el presidente Jimmy Morales apoyó la decisión de Donald Trump y trasladó la embajada de Guate-

mala en Israel a Jerusalén. Guatemala seguirá teniendo como caballo de batalla la lucha contra la corrupción que alcanzó el año pasado a su presidente al que la Comisión Internacional contra la Impunidad, creada por la ONU en 2006, quiso quitar su inmunidad y debido a ello se declaró una impresionante lucha política en el país.

Honduras: El país cerró su año con graves confrontaciones debido a las disputas electorales que dejaron 14 muertos y cientos de heridos. Honduras, el país más pobre de Centroamérica, está presidido por Juan Orlando Hernández. Además de a la pobreza, y a la violencia entre bandas, Honduras se enfrentará en 2018 a la lucha contra las drogas, ya que el 70% de la cocaína que llega a E.E.U.U. viene de Honduras.

México: El principal problema del presidente Peña Nieto para el 2018 son las relaciones con Donald Trump y contener la violencia como resultado del tráfico de drogas. En julio habrá elecciones presidenciales entre los que se dibujan como candidatos principales: López Obrador y Ricardo Anaya. Los analistas ponen también su atención en el nuevo partido Movimiento Ciudadano que con su canción Movimiento Naranja está a punto de desbancar a Despacito.

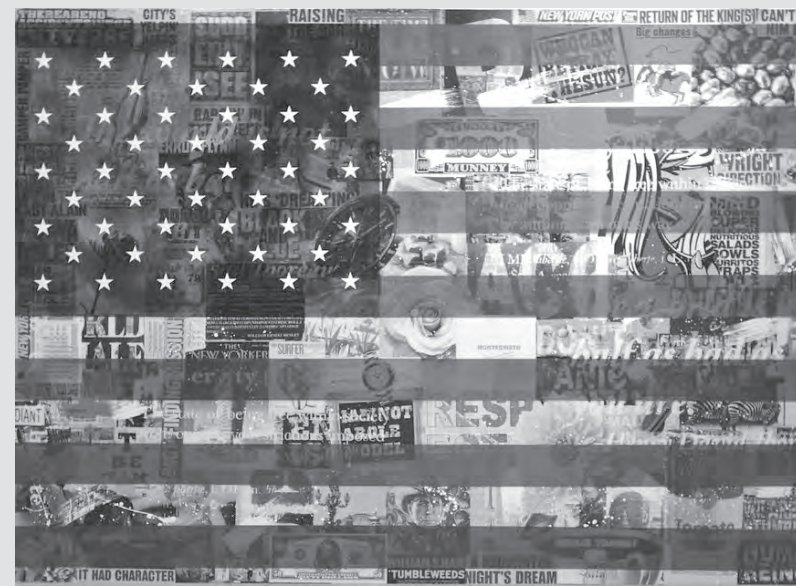
Panamá: Panamá apareció durante los últimos meses del año pasado casi a diario en las noticias a causa de los llamados Papeles de Panamá y el caso Odebrecht. La constructora pagó sobornos millonarios a diferentes mandatarios y políticos en todo el mundo.

Paraguay: Este país tendrá también elecciones generales en abril. El pasado diciembre, durante las primarias se empezó a notar la ideología que estará en alza en este país el próximo año: la ultraconservadora. Se han cortado los fondos para apoyo a campañas a favor de la igualdad de género y diputados se han declarado abiertamente en contra del colectivo LGTBI. El presidente Cartes del partido Colorado deberá enfrentarse a la batalla legal contra los pueblos indígenas del Chaco que luchan por la restitución de tierras.

Perú: El pasado diciembre el presidente Kuczynski concedió el indulto humanitario al expresidente Fujimori. Esta decisión causó una gran polémica ya que Fujimori había sido condenado a 25 años de prisión por crímenes de lesa humanidad. El nombre del presidente Kuczynski estaba ya en entredicho al estar ligado al caso Odebrecht. La economía peruana buscará subsanar su mala fama debido a este caso que le afectó de lleno y tratará de relanzarla mediante nuevos proyectos de construcción.

Puerto Rico: No podemos hablar de Puerto Rico sin mencionar el huracán María que impactó de lleno la isla. Las consecuencias han sido nefastas: destrucción, muertes, y un nuevo exilio. Aunque la guinda del pastel llegó con la nueva reforma fiscal firmada por el presidente Trump en la que Puerto Rico

DACA a cambio del muro?



El sueño americano

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO

WASHINGTON, DC – El presidente Trump exigió a los congresistas demócratas a través de un tweet desde su residencia privada de Florida el intercambio entre la renovación del programa DACA y la construcción del muro en la frontera con México. Si la situación no cambia, el 5 de marzo es la fecha en que expira este programa creado por el presidente Obama.

Se calcula que casi un millón de jóvenes inmigrantes se benefician de esta medida para poder obtener visados temporales para trabajar o estudiar. Todos ellos entraron sin documentos en los Estados Unidos acompañando a adultos y han crecido y estudiado en un país al que consideran suyo.

La decisión del presidente Trump de acabar con el programa DACA no es popular ni entre las filas de los demócratas ni entre los propios republicanos. Trump en principio llegó a un acuerdo con los demócratas para conseguir una extensión, aunque más tarde cambió de opinión y expresó la idea de su intercambio del programa DACA por fondos para construir el muro e incrementar los gastos de seguridad en la zona.

quedaba definitivamente fuera. En esta reforma Puerto Rico ha sido catalogado como país extranjero y por lo tanto la industria que se establezca en la isla deberá pagar un incremento del 12.5%, lo que seguramente provocará la huida de empresas para poder pagar menos. El futuro no parece muy halagüeño ya que se espera una gran pérdida de puestos de trabajo, y el turismo ha bajado debido al huracán María.

Nicaragua: El presidente Ortega está involucrado en diferentes casos de estafa electoral que le valieron el triunfo en las elecciones. Por otra parte, el ejército de Nicaragua está en tela de juicio debido a los asesinatos cometidos contra ciudadanos con total impunidad. El gobierno de Nicaragua en 2018 seguirá en 2018 con su empeño de terminar el Canal de Nicaragua.

República Dominicana: El huracán María afectó el año pasado a la isla compartida con Haití, pero no en la misma medida que

A finales de diciembre el congreso, incluido el voto de los demócratas, dio el visto bueno a un presupuesto en el que no se incluían fondos para DACA. En este momento el programa DACA se encuentra en su cuenta atrás y organizaciones de inmigrantes y de ciudadanos siguen luchando por su renovación ya que no se muestran a favor del intercambio por fondos para el muro de la frontera, lo que consideran un chantaje.

El 19 de enero, el Senado de Estados Unidos votará un proyecto de ley de financiación obligatoria, en este proyecto de ley el partido Republicano ha añadido todos los artículos que querían, pero necesitan ocho votos de los senadores demócratas para aprobarlo. Los demócratas sí quieren salvar el Dream Act, deberían exigirlo a cambio de esos ocho votos que necesitan los republicanos. Han pasado dieciséis años desde que se presentó la primera Ley DREAM y siempre ha sido popular entre los votantes estadounidenses.

En este momento el 75% de los votantes estadounidenses apoya el Dream Act. Solamente el 3% de los votantes apoya un Dream Act que incluya la militarización de la frontera, o el impopular muro.

en Puerto Rico. La corrupción es el principal problema en la política del país caribeño.

Uruguay: El vicepresidente tuvo que dimitir el año pasado después de un escándalo con gastos a tarjetas de crédito oficiales. Le sustituyó en el cargo la esposa del expresidente Mújica, Lucia Topolanski. Uno de los principales problemas al que se enfrenta el presidente Tavaré Vazquez es al reconocimiento por parte del gobierno de las tribus indígenas y el genocidio cometido contra ellas en el pasado.

Venezuela: El principal problema al que se enfrenta Nicolas Maduro es a la escasez de recursos básicos que pueden encontrar los venezolanos en las tiendas, la altísima inflación y las revueltas y protestas de los ciudadanos. El presidente Maduro ha puesto en marcha diversas medidas para frenar sus problemas económicos, entre ellos la emisión de su propia criptomoneda, la llamada petro.

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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 TUESDAY

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAYS

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Franklin County Pool League*. 6 to 11 p.m.

1ST AND 3RD THURSDAYS

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

EVERY THIRD THURSDAY

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

EVERY FRIDAY

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

EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

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

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

EVERY FOURTH FRIDAY

Community Yoga and Wellness

Center, Greenfield: *Greenfield Circle Dance*. 6 to 8 p.m. \$

EXHIBITS:

Arms Library, Shelburne Falls: *Captivating Chaos*. Mixed Media works from random bits of paper, threads, stencils, and other things by Mary Mosley. Scraps become greater than the sum of the parts. Through January 17.

Greenfield Community College, Greenfield: *Danny Cruz Art Show*. Retrospective exhibit of this prolific artist's creative output. Ends with reception on January 18.

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, featuring portraits and landscapes from the artist's previous works. As a photographer with a background in painting, Paul delved into photographs from his previous collections and created new images by digitally layering multiple photos into fresh compositions, putting figures into different surroundings, and creating stunning, unique works of art with new meaning. Opens January 10. Through February 16. There will be an artist reception on Friday January 26 at 6 p.m.

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 embarked upon a journey to illuminate the nineteenth century story of the Dorsey Family, Freedom Seekers from Liberty, Maryland and the Leavitt Family, staunch Abolitionists of Charlemont. Through adapting nineteenth-century documents into a chronological scrapbook, they have crafted a story of the Dorsey and Leavitt Families' connections. Part of the exhibit includes contemporary Underground Railroad quilts created during many quilting bee workshops, historical artifacts and facsimiles. Through February. Reception on Saturday, January 13 at 4 p.m.

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. Angel Doll making workshop with the artist January 28, 2 p.m. Through February.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *"Illumination"* brings light to a time of darkness. Paintings,

prints, photographs, sculpture, fiber art, and glass relate to the theme of illumination in its many symbolic, metaphorical, and literal aspects. Through January.

Whately Library, Whately: *Winter Light: Art Exhibit*. Handmade paper scrolls and origami lanterns by Sheryl Jaffe in the Muse Cafe. Through March 24. Reception January 27, 1 p.m.

CALLS FOR ART:

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: *Small Works Exhibit and Sale*. Non-juried show of 2 and 3 dimensional visual art, any medium. Maximum size: 10" in any direction, including frame. Entry fee: \$5 per artwork. Artists may submit up to two pieces; at least one will be exhibited. The first 80 artists will be included. Exhibit dates: February 1 through 26 with reception February 3. Deliver application and art work between January 13 and 28. Questions? Louise Minks, (413) 367-2800.

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 maximum of two pieces of wall art, no more than 36" by 36". Jury fee of \$20 is due with the application. Deadline for submission is March 15. All work must be submitted digitally. To receive an entry form, for further details on submission requirements, and any questions go to: resistartists2018@gmail.com.

AUDITION:

Belding Library, Ashfield: Sinclair Lewis's "It Can't Happen Here." The play is about the election of a fascist American president (Buzz Windrip), his ensuing crushing of civil rights, and the underground rising against him by a Vermont editor (Doremus Jessup) and his family and friends. Josh Platt of Greenfield is directing. From 3 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, January 28, and from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, January 29. No preparation or experience is necessary. Those unable to make these times can set up another audition by contacting Jackie Walsh at 413-625-9413 or itcanthappenhereashfield@gmail.com.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Shad Ladder Radio Hour*. Com-

munity radio hour with special musical guest Emma Ayres and entertainment by the Plaid Shad Players. 7:30 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Dez Roy, The Green Sisters, Matchsellars*. 8 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

Great Falls Coffeehouse, Turners Falls: *Caleb Wetherbee*. Songs and stories. 7:30 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Dead Collective*. A high-energy Grateful Dead tribute band comprised of local pros putting our own spin on this classic band's catalogue! Dead Collective is Steve "Trembo" Tremblay on bass, Thomas Williams on guitar and vocals, brother-sister team Doug Hegeman & Gail Hegeman on drums, and Mark Kurber on guitar and vocals. 8 p.m. \$

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro: *Open Call NXNE 2018* opening reception 11 a.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague: *Open Mic Night #20*. Featuring *Taylor Hill Duo*. 7 p.m.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne: Reception for *Remembrance of Our Past* art exhibit. 4 p.m. See exhibits listing for details.

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *Do It Now!* Paul Richmond, Tony Vacca, and John Sheldon create a burlesque of poetry, storytelling, political commentary and musical improvisation. Benefit for the Coffeehouse. 7:30 p.m. \$

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Kath Bloom, Ruth Garbus, Donkey No No*, and *Alexander*. All ages, substance free space. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Definite Maybes*. Rock, blues, soul. 8:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Intonation*. Bluesy, soulful roots music. 8:30 p.m.\$

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Country Music Jamboree* featuring *The Nite Caps*, a 5-piece combo serving up a cocktail mix of old-school honky tonk dance music, and *Josh LeVangie and The Pisteleros*, "outlaw country!" 2:30 p.m. \$

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Spontaneous Combustion #8: Night of the Living Drummers*. Sets by Andy Kivela and Max Goldstein/ Dylan Dodson Drum Duo, plus open improv session. Bring an instrument! 8 p.m. Donation.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Young Shakespeare Players East presents *Henry IV Part I*. 6 p.m. Repeats Friday, January 19 at 6 p.m., Saturday, January 20 at 10:30 a.m. and Sunday, Janu-

ary 21 at 1 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *dead prez* with support by local hip-hop artists *Tang Sauce, RiQQY*, and *Don Lox*. *dead prez* are a political and socially conscious hip-hop group. Inspired by the likes of Malcolm X and Public Enemy among others. The groups politically charged lyrics and revolutionary standpoint produce a style that sets them apart from a lot of other hip-hop groups out there. 9:30 p.m. \$




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ARTIFICIAL from page B1

But Siri may one day be out of a job, if or when AI takes the wheel. And should they do so, some developers are suggesting that trust, not just in the technology but in the vehicle itself, is relevant; cars that show us what the vehicle is responding to, or talk with us or greet us by, say, revving the engine, as described in a series of articles focused on autonomous vehicles recently published in *Science Magazine*.

Whether we realize it or not, we are engaging with these “deep neural networks” of AI even when we aren’t turning down the odd side street or crossing our fingers that we won’t end up on the wrong side of town. They engage with us whenever we venture online, including Google search results and movie suggestions on Netflix. They even deduce we might be in need of underwear that promises not to leak. (Not that I’ve ever seen such ads.)

And AI isn’t just for consumers of movies or shoes or whatever pops up on our screens. There are plant pathologists developing apps that can diagnose crop diseases in minutes, anywhere on the planet (within reach of a cell signal), and someday soon there may be apps that recognize skin cancers.

Deep Patient is a program aimed at diagnosis based on medical records. When it was applied to over 700,000 records, the results indicated it boosted the ability to predict disease.

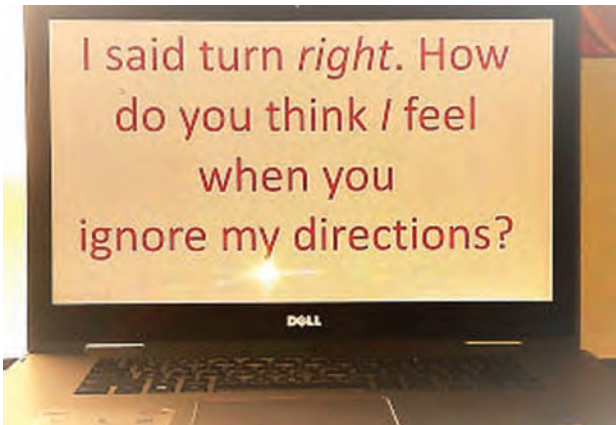
But there is still this issue of trust. Would you trust a computer to diagnose you?

The Black Box

The capacity to trust in something even if a machine is appealing, particularly these days when trust is at a premium. But are these machines trustworthy? And how do we know?

In his article “The Dark Secret at the Heart of AI,” published in the *MIT Technology Review*, Will Knight contemplates the pros and cons of technologies that can not only diagnose disease and send advertisements our way but also drive cars and wield deadly weapons. One of the most disconcerting problems is, as Knight writes, how this AI technology does what it does, is an unknown, a black box. And for now, unknowable.

Additionally, the proprietary nature of the software



often does not permit external scrutiny by outside experts, leaving the results – and the legal liability – in the hands of lawyers, courts, and policy makers. So when something goes wrong, there won’t be an explanation.

Think about it. When there’s an accident, a structural failure, an experiment gone awry, after the initial “Oh Shit” moment, what’s our first question? *How did that happen?*

Take disease prediction. “If something like Deep Patient is actually going to help doctors,” writes Knight, “it will ideally give them the rationale for its prediction, to reassure them that it is accurate and to justify, say, a change in the drugs someone is being prescribed.”

One effort to break open the black box was Google’s “Deep Dream,” developed in June 2015. The algorithm turned image recognition technology on its head, so that instead of recognizing images the algorithm generated images.

Like a surgical procedure, the process provided researchers with clues about the internal mechanics of how the algorithm captures the “essence” of a cat or a cloud or a face, shedding light onto the workings of the computational brain. This electronic dissection may be one method allowing computer engineers, like those at Google Research, greater ability to fine tune their learning models.

For example, when an unsettling melding of the inanimate and the animate occurred: a fusion between a dumbbell and a human arm, engineers concluded that the neural net apparently hadn’t seen enough dumbbells simply resting on the floor.

And therein lies the problem. Knowing what goes into a program is one thing. Knowing what is missing is more difficult.

Going forward, as researchers continue to probe and ask these deep learning algorithms to explain themselves, AI technology will continue maturing. It’s likely that as the technology matures, so, too, the rapport with its creators.

Thank you Shannon Bohle, who is dedicated to AI for a better world, for your review of the technical bits; this all gets very complicated very quickly. Well beyond the capacity of my human brain.



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ON THE ROAD

James Kennedy of Montague (left) and Kevin Brown of Turners Falls (right) brought us along with them to the Bahamas! Here we all are, on the beach in Freeport.

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