



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 16 – NO. 11

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 4, 2018

GMRSD Food Drive ... A Huge Success!



SUBMITTED PHOTO

First-grade helpers from Hillcrest Elementary School.

By IZZY VACHULA-CURTIS

TURNERS FALLS – Gill Montague Regional School District recently had a food drive to help support Montague Catholic Social Ministries, and it was a huge hit at my school, Great Falls Middle School!

My school turned the food drive into a friendly competition between students and staff. If the students won, the staff would have to do the chicken dance at an all-school meeting, and if the staff won, the students would spend a

CPR meeting (a small amount of time we have in the morning with our homeroom) doing community service around the school.

As of press time, I am still awaiting the winner. The winner will be determined by the percent of their goal they have reached. The staff's goal was 200 items, and the students' goal was 500, considering there are around 250 students and only about 40 staff.

Other schools in the district involved in this drive were the Turners Falls High School, see **DRIVE** page A4

US Bankruptcy Court Authorizes Southworth's Sale to Maine Firm

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – The defunct Southworth Company, which filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in September, has been given permission by the federal bankruptcy court to sell its assets, including the paper mill building at 36 Canal Road in Turners Falls for \$4 million. According to a notice published on the Bloomberg website, on December 14 the court granted Southworth permission to negotiate with SBD Greentech, LLC for an "asset purchase agreement."

Filings at the Massachusetts Secretary of State's office list SBD Greentech as located in the Target Technology Center in Orono, Maine. A spokeswoman for the Technology Center, however, said she had not heard of SBD Greentech. The company was first registered in Maine in August, and in this state on December 15.

However, a call to the New York



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Turners Falls' last paper mill closed abruptly, and without warning, last August.

City company listed in the filing as the "Manager" of Greentech, a firm named HS Manufacturing Group LLC, was more fruitful. Simran Malhotra, the marketing director at HS Manufacturing, confirmed that her company was interested in purchasing the Southworth property in

Turners Falls, and was looking toward a closing date "in mid to late January."

On its website, HS Manufacturing bills itself as developing "100% biodegradable and 100% compostable packaging solutions..."

see **SOUTHWORTH** page A7

... Leverett Post Office Also For Sale!

By MIKE JACKSON

"Presently the home of the Leverett Post Office," the listing on the Five College Realtors website reads, "this charming building could also be converted into a single family home."

Leverett post offices have been converted to residences before. In the early 20th century, the town was host to five post offices: Leverett, North Leverett, East Leverett, Moores Corner, and Hillsboro.

Now, the town's last remaining post office, a 1,066-square-foot building on Montague Road that Gregg and Lynn Woodard have been leasing to the United States Postal Service for \$1,056 a month, has been put on the market, and the lease could lapse as early as June 2019.

"That's amazing," Barbara Alfange said when she heard the news.



MARK HUDYMA PHOTO

The building has been the site of Leverett's "main" post office since 1855.

When Barbara and her husband Dean moved to Leverett Center in 1967, the little building between their house and the town hall tripled as a post office, general store, and gas station, under the command of longtime Postmaster Muriel Bourne.

"I don't want to lose the post office!" Alfange added. "It's been kind of a battle to keep these small village post offices open – hopefully the lease will be renewed when it runs out."

see **POST OFFICE** page A7

The Week In TFHS Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – This week, the Turners Falls basketball machine greeted 2018 with gusto. Because there hasn't been a paper for two weeks, I'm also going to review the final two weeks of 2017. Both the boys' and girls' teams are 2-2 over their last four games.

Boys Basketball
TFHS 57 – Hampshire 53
TFHS 65 – Lee 63
Drury 82 – TFHS 45
Ware 68 – TFHS 53

On Tuesday, December 19, the Red Raiders of Hampshire Regional came to town. Turners was cold in the first quarter, and frequent misses gave Red an early 10-point lead, 14-4. But Blue woke up and scored 6 straight, and after one quarter, the score was 14-10 Hampshire.

Powertown scored the first 4 points of the second to knot the game at 14, but pesky fouls gave the momentum back to Red, and they led by 6 at the half, 30-24.

Turners' Defense held the Raiders to just 5 points in the third while their offense chipped in 12 points, giving Turners their first lead of the game, 36-35.

In the fourth, Turners kept their lead, but with 1 minute and 33 seconds left to play, Hampshire tied it at 51-



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Arch Rivals?: Tuesday night, Turners guard Karissa Fleming starts her shot as Pioneer's Paige Loughman and Elizabeth Lambert defend. On right, Turners forward Hailey Bogusz.

all. Big Blue pulled out to a 55-51 lead, but with 25.7 seconds left, Hampshire pulled within 2 points.

Then with 22.9 seconds to go, Red stole the ball. They were unable to score, however, and when Tyler Lavin came up with the ball, he was fouled. Tyler hit both free throws to give Blue a 57-53 victory.

see **TFHS SPORTS** page A5

Chief Dodge's Hearing Set For Friday Morning

By REPORTER STAFF

MONTAGUE – This Friday, January 5 at 9 a.m. is the time set



FILE PHOTO

Montague chief Charles "Chip" Dodge

for an executive session of the Montague selectboard "to discuss complaints and possible disciplinary action against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual; votes may be taken."

Multiple sources confirm that the subject of the closed-door town hall hearing is Montague police chief Charles "Chip" Dodge, who has been suspended since October.

The town hired an outside police internal affairs investigator, APD Management of Tewksbury, MA, to conduct an "internal investigation" in November. On December 18, the selectboard went into executive session to hear the findings of APD's report, and then voted to hold a disciplinary hearing for the chief.

The charges, if there are charges, see **DODGE** page A8

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Depot Road Bridge Work: High Hopes For Summer

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The week between Christmas day and January 1 is often quiet as schools, companies, governments, and people take a vacation, but the Wendell selectboard, even with a short agenda, met on its regularly scheduled Wednesday evening, one half hour early. Board chair Christine Heard was not there, but even without her calm presence, members Daniel Keller and Jeoffrey Pooser

were able to conduct the meeting in an orderly fashion.

Highway commissioners Phil Delorey and Wayne Leonard met the board to report on the progress of the proposed replacement of the bridge on Wendell Depot Road where the road crosses Whetstone Brook in Wendell Depot.

They reported "good successes" with the project, which has been delayed several years by one

see **WENDELL** page A7

The Montague Reporter

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Letter to the Editors

The Name Game

The desperate controversy regarding the Turners Falls High School Indian logo continues as a challenge to establish a new logo.

Yes, it is a LOGO. T.F.H.S. *never* had a mascot.

I offer this for your consideration. This statement has nothing to do with the people themselves.

Let's scrutinize the word Indian. There's nothing wrong with the word Indian. We call a certain group of people Indians, because that's what they are... Indians. For those that would prefer "Native American," I suggest you look deep into history as to who really are, or if there is such a group as "Native Americans." Where did *they* come from?

It's important to understand that the word Indian does not derive from Columbus' mistakenly believing that he reached "India." In

1492 *India* did not exist. It was known as the Persian State of Hindustan.

Columbus (Christoforo Columbo) was an Italian. He was a Genovese (Genoan) explorer, navigator, and colonizer employed by Spain.

More likely the word or name Indian is derived from Columbus' description of the people he found upon his arrival at Hindustan. His command of the Spanish language was weak in regard to speaking or writing.

His written accounts called the inhabitants Indians. "Una gente in Dios." A people in God. In God. In Dios... *Indians*. A noble and respectable word.

Ed Gregory
Greenfield
TFHS '63

We Respond:

With all due respect, Ed, since it was offered for our consideration: This "in Dios" argument is pure urban legend, and it would be irresponsible of us to print it without refutation.

India is derived from *Sindhu*, the Sanskrit name for the Indus River. (So is Hindustan.)

The Europeans' use of this "Ind" name for the subcontinent goes back at least as far as Herodotus (*hē Indikē khōrē*) in 5th-century-BC Greece, and includes Marco Polo, who called it "India" in his 1298 *Travels* – a bunch of times. And yes, I dug out the original Italian: "*Nabascie si è una grandissima provincia, e questa si è la mezzana India...*" He also referred to the Indian Sea: "*al mare d'India.*"

And Columbus himself also *did* in fact use the word "India," in his Spanish-language *Diary*:

"Your Highnesses, as Catholic Christians, and princes who love and promote the holy Christian faith, and are enemies of the doctrine of Mahomet, and of all idolatry and heresy, determined to send me, Christopher Columbus, to the above-mentioned countries of India (*a los países de India*), to see the said princes, people, and territories, and to learn their disposition and the proper method of converting them to our holy faith; and furthermore directed that I should not proceed by land to the East, as is customary, but by a Westerly route, in which direction we have hitherto no certain evidence that any one has gone. So after having expelled the Jews from your dominions, your Highnesses, in the same month of January, ordered me to proceed with a sufficient armament to the said regions of India..."

In his 1493 return letter, Columbus recounted that "in 33 days I went from the islands of Canaria to the Indies" (*en 33 días pasé de las islas de Canaria a las Indias*), and also refers four times to the native people he encountered

on the small islands off the coast of what is now Cuba as *Indios*, which was the established Spanish word for people from India.

Nowhere in any surviving text written by Columbus is there any record of this supposed "*una gente in Dios*" line. If evidence exists to the contrary, I would certainly like to see it.

Of course, the "in" would have been grammatically incorrect, which someone has tried to explain away by claiming Columbus' grasp of Spanish was weak, but even his letters to his own family in Genoa were reportedly written in Castilian, with Portuguese vowels, none of which would have accounted for such an error.

(Credit for some of this debunking goes to the *Chicago Reader's* Straight Dope website.)

So how long has this flat-out urban legend been swirling? In his book *Word Myths*, David Wilton tracks one variation back to Peter Matthiesson's 1984 *Indian Country*, but it was most likely comedian George Carlin's 1997 book *Brain Droppings* that did the most to spread it around.

Let's read from *Brain Droppings*. "There's nothing wrong with the word Indian," Carlin (or his ghostwriter) wrote. "[I]t's important to know that the word Indian does not derive from Columbus mistakenly believing he had reached 'India.' [I]n his written accounts he called the Indians, 'Una gente in Dios.' A people in God. In God. In Dios. Indians. It's a perfectly noble and respectable word."

Hmm.

And then there's this. You can insist to the naïve newcomers that Turners Falls High School never had an Indian mascot, and never dressed up like Indians and danced around on the field. I heard this talking point innumerable times last year, and both the *Reporter* and the *Recorder* allowed ourselves to be censored by

this local political correctness.

But the historical archive shows otherwise. Nearly every TFHS yearbook is available at the library, and online at *archive.org*. Here's what I can see:

1968, page 63: A drum majorette in a Plains headdress.

1969, page 65: Majorette in headdress.

1971, page 75: Color guard in headdresses.

1972, page 10: Someone wearing a gigantic papier-mâché "Indian" head with a giant nose and war paint. Page 73: The head again. Page 98: Cheerleaders emerging from a tipi.

1973, page 67: A girl in a headdress. Page 101: Band conductor in a headdress.

1974, page 69: Two girls with feathers and war paint. Page 70: A cheerleader in a new, giant, grotesque papier-mâché head with a feather and warpaint. Also, another girl in war paint. Page 92: The same giant Indian head costume, being paraded on Booster Day. Page 160: The second head costume again.

1975, page 61: A giant "Indian" statue on a float, holding a hatchet over a baby, with bones and helmets strewn about his feet. (Caption: "Put Mohawk In Their Place.") Page 91: A tipi with "Zywna's Zonkers Super Tribe" written on it. Page 98: The hatchet-statue float being pushed in the streets on Booster Day. Page 125: A girl in a headdress.

1977, page 108: The football team emerges through a tipi on Turkey Day.

1978, page 7: A third giant "Indian head" costume, on the field. Headband, feather and war paint; comical shape, like Mr. Potato Head. Also, a rally MC with a headdress.

1980, page 137: A shirtless boy with a headdress, face paint, chest paint, and a gag arrow through his head.

1982, page 9: Cheerleader in headdress. Page 14: Band conductor in headdress. Page 81: Costumed "Indian" in the Booster Day parade.

1983, page 6: Cheerleader in headdress. (Caption: "Wild Indians Who Roamed the 'Plains.'")

1984, page 14: Shirtless student with paint and headdress. Page 32: Student in Indian costume. Page 84: Two marching band members in headdresses. Page 100: two costumed "Indians" on the field. Page 108: Two more headdressed "Indians" on Booster Day – including a student posing with her

hand over her open mouth.

1985, page 109: Adults wearing headbands and feathers.

1987, page 77: Drum majorette in a headdress. Page 87: Booster Day MC in warpaint and headdress. Page 114: Band member in headdress.

1988, page 4: Shirtless Booster Day MC in warpaint and headdress (Caption: "Jim Brule did a fantastic job getting everyone psyched at the rally.") Page 98: Twirler in headdress. Page 99: Two drum majors in headdresses.

1990, page 47: Booster Day: "B.J. Guerin raises school spirit as the MC at the rally," in face paint, headdress. Float with a sculpture of an Indian throwing a football. Page 84: Turkey Day rally MC Xave Jackman in headdress.

1993, page 43: Two students in face paint and headdresses at the Booster Day rally. Caption refers to them as "spirit-boosting Indians."

1994, page 72: Full-on costumed mascot (fourth mascot costume) on Turkey Day. The head has war paint, feathers and fangs. (Caption: "Right: 'Pesky' – **the TFHS mascot.**")

1995, page 5: The sophomore float at Booster Day was a model of TFHS with a tipi on the roof. Page 32: Life-sized sculpture of Indian with fringe, along with an explanation that the sophomore float was "a reenactment of the Indians at the Great Falls, providing us with the spirit."

1998, page 70: "Pesky," the fanged mascot from 1994, again present on the field.

2004, page 8: "Pesky" again appears on Turkey Day 2003, cheering with pom-poms. Page 82: "Pesky" mascot poses with the entire cheerleading squad.

2005, page 6: Spirit Week display includes a pumpkin with a face, headband and feathers.

2006, page 4: "Pesky" once again. (Caption: "**John Wong as the mascot.**") Page 72: "Pesky," hugging two cheerleaders. (Caption: "What would we do without each other?")

Is any of this actually important? Who knows.

But since you are the chair of the Montague Historical Commission, I *do* hope you are not letting your personal beliefs get in the way of creating a correct and responsible historical record.

Mike Jackson,
Managing Editor



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

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

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

A book sale will be held this Saturday, January 6, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls. All books, DVDs, CDs, and audio books are \$1 or less each. Proceeds benefit the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries.

Then head right across the street to the Greenfield Savings Bank branch in Turners for a **word search challenge**, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Beat the cold in climate control with some friendly camaraderie – bring some friends and see who can solve the search first! Several searches will be available during the hour. Small gag prizes are available for the first of each successfully completed.

This first challenge will be for adults only, but perhaps at another time the bank may offer a similar event for area youngsters. Light refreshments will be provided, courtesy of the bank.

Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution (FCCPR) will host a public forum at Greenfield Middle School from 4 to 6 p.m. this Saturday, January 6 featuring the three candidates vying for the **Democratic gubernatorial nomination**.

The Democratic town committees of Ashfield, Colrain, Erving, Greenfield, Leyden, Montague, New Salem, Shelburne, Shutesbury and Sunderland, as well as Indivisible Noho and Our Revolution Massachusetts, are co-sponsoring this event.

Jay Gonzalez, Bob Massie, and Setti Warren will speak about their campaigns and answer questions from the audience. The Middle School is located at 195 Federal Street, and doors will open at 3:30 p.m.

Twenty-eight Greenfield High School students plan to travel to France and Spain during April vacation. Please join for a **night of Bingo fun** on Saturday, January 6, at the Moose Family Center, 20 School Street, in Greenfield. Bring your friends, family and snacks. All proceeds from the evening will support the students’ travel costs. Doors open at 6 p.m.; first game at 7 p.m.

Next Friday, January 12 starting at 7 p.m., Caleb Wetherbee will perform in the Great Hall at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls.

Wetherbee performs guitar instrumentals, **songs of traditional and contemporary folk music** with intricate bare-finger accompaniment. Audiences can expect a repertoire of original songs, ballads, country-

blues tunes plus older songs in the vein of Fats Waller with a controlled baritone voice. Suggested sliding scale donation, free for children. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Coffee and homemade baked goods are available. The museum will be open during intermission.

And join in at Northfield Mountain Recreation Area, on Route 63 in Northfield, for an illustrated introduction to **winter bird feeding** on Saturday, January 13, from 10 to 11 a.m.

This free indoor program will focus on how to identify birds at your feeder, interesting behavior to look for, where to locate feeders, and which types of seeds attract which birds.

You will also visit a bird feeding station with a warm, indoor view to make our own observations. Bring binoculars if available. This program is most appropriate for adults, although children ages 9 and older are welcome.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

This Saturday: Prison Documentary

GREENFIELD – This Saturday, January 6, at 10:15 a.m., Racial Justice Rising will show the lauded documentary *13th* by filmmaker Ava DuVernay, followed by a facilitated discussion. Light refreshments will be available. The program is free, though donations are most welcome.

In this thought-provoking film, DuVernay analyzes the criminalization of African Americans and the US prison boom. *Teen Vogue* writes: “There’s a great African proverb that states, ‘Until the lions have their own historians, the his-

tory of the hunt will always glorify the hunter.’ *13th’s* importance is derived from its ability to articulate the enduring oppression forced upon African-Americans that typically goes unreported and unseen.”

Childcare is available; RSVP to email@racialjusticerising.org with number and ages of children. For snow cancellations check WHAI radio or the Facebook page www.facebook.com/massslav/

For more information, contact email@racialjusticerising.org or see www.racialjusticerising.org. Doors open at 9:45 a.m.

Rudolph Spotlight

Kudos to the Turners Falls Fire Department on the festive bright lights welcoming all to see at the four-way intersection at the Montague Safety Complex!

I am hoping the welcoming addition was for the Holiday Fire Station Decorating Contest challenge which, although won by the Greenfield Fire

Department this year, gives our station pride in continuing for 2018. I smiled each time I drove by at night and saw the Holiday trees with the “Rudolph nose” at their top.

Nice job, ladies and gentlemen!

Linda Ackerman
Proud Town of Montague Resident

Road Race Thanks

On Monday, January 1, Montague Parks & Recreation held their Annual Sawmill River 10K Run in Montague Center. Approximately 80 runners throughout the entire region participated in this major fundraising event that supports our Sponsor-A-Child Scholarship Program. The race would not have been possible without the investment of time, energy, resources, and funding from many within our fine community.

We would like to thank A.H. Rist Insurance Co., Greenfield Savings Bank, Renaissance Builders, Judd Wire, and Turn It Up Music for their generous financial support; the Montague Common Hall, the Sugarloaf Mountain Athletic Club, and the First Congregational Church of Montague Center for their services; and Marathon Sports for donating most of the prizes.

As many of you know, volunteer assistance is essential to the success of an event of this magnitude. Therefore, considerable appreciation goes out to the Montague Parks & Recreation Commissioners, the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club, the Montague Highway Department, Montague Police, and the countless number of volunteers who spent a good portion of their New Year’s Day helping us out during registration and at the finish line.

Finally, we would like to thank the runners who participated in the Sawmill Run. We appreciate your support of MPRD programs, and look forward to seeing you again on January 1, 2019!

Sincerely,
Jon Dobosz, CPRP
Director of Parks & Recreation
Town of Montague



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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



More Letters
to the Editors

Shine On!

Thank you, *Montague Reporter* and Mike Jackson, for a beautifully written tribute to Danny Monster Cruz.

In these dark political times, reading about the wildly creative and heart-centered community of musicians and artists that grew around Danny’s larger-than-life spirit was

balm for my soul. Doubtful that this phenomenon could have blossomed without the Brick House as an incubator. Let’s keep supporting the Brick House and our local community.

Shine on, Danny Monster Cruz.

Anne Jemas
Turners Falls

Mitten Tree Kudos

On behalf of Toys for Tots and Warm the Children Mitten Tree, I want to thank all those in the community that brought their donations into Greenfield Savings Bank at 282 Avenue A over the past few months!

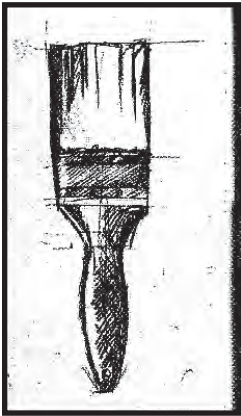
The Marine member who picked up the final toy box, which was yet again overflowing, specifically mentioned to me the donations were amazing! There are folks in the area

who knit or crochet all year long and bring in huge shopping bags of mittens and hats made with love. Thank you so much for the caring, sharing and warmth you continue to show for those folks in need!

Happiest of Holidays to you all,

Linda Ackerman
Branch Manager,
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DRIVE from page A1

Hillcrest Elementary School, Sheffield Elementary School, and Gill Elementary School.

All in all, our district collected 1,500 items for Montague Catholic Social Ministries. The Great Falls Middle School collected the most: a total of 606 items. That is awesome!

As Lesley Cogswell – a parent, a member of the Friends of Sheffield and Friends of Hillcrest, and a very enthusiastic and active member of our community – said, “We chose this time of year because it seems like it is the most important time of need, and a time of giving. All this food will keep their pantry full until March!”

I wondered why they picked Montague Catholic Social Ministries. “Last year we did one with them, but only some local schools contributed,” Cogswell said. “So this year we made it a much bigger thing and we committed to filling the shelves at MCSM for a second year!”

Fun fact: In May 2017, the



Boxes of donated goods.

entire school district was awarded MCSM’s “Volunteer of the Year” award for our contributions to their food pantry.

My little sister Markie goes to Sheffield Elementary School. “I’ll tell you how the food drive worked at Sheffield,” she said. “You bring your food you brought into your classroom, and then you put your food in the box your teacher has in your classroom, and they all collect it on Friday. I brought in food because we’re competing in a competition. It’s grade versus grade.” The student council was a huge help with the drive at Sheffield under the direction of the assistant principal, Mrs. Limoges.

Cogswell said that every Friday at Gill Elementary School, Jen Audley from the Gill-Montague Community School Partnership and her stepson Emmett Larkin-Harmon would go to Gill, check all the food’s expiration dates, and count everything up. They were a tremendous help.

At Hillcrest and Sheffield, Lesley Cogswell and her brother Ryan McCord would gather all the food they had collected that week, and bring it to MCSM. A few first-graders from Hillcrest brought food to the truck each week, too! McCord, GERALYN JOHNSON, Janice George, and Cogswell picked the food up at Great Falls Middle School (GFMS), too.

This food drive was really a fantastic way to bring the community together. The drive lasted for about three weeks: pretty much all schools started around November 20, and ended by December 15. Mary Conway, MCSM’s Basic Needs Coordinator, was very appreciative of the help our school district gave



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The shelves at MCSM, filled by the school’s drive.

to the community.

The way the food drive worked in my CPR is that Mr. Brewster, who taught my CPR, had two cardboard boxes: one that said Students, and one that said Staff. The students brought their donations to the student bin, and the staff put theirs in the staff bin.

The student council at GFMS, led by Ms. Mason and Ms. Krems, was in charge of getting people excited about the food drive and organizing it. “Our Student Council members have been really invested and have expressed how good this type of community work makes them feel,” Ms. Mason said. “They are excited to collect and count all the donations on Friday, and fill out our progress charts, which they have designed to look like Campbell’s Soup cans.”

One of Markie’s best friends at Sheffield, Ethan Damkoehler, was very excited about the food drive. “I was in this grocery store, and I went to an aisle that had mac and cheese and ravioli,” Ethan said.

“So I told my mom that none of the people in my class bring food in for the food drive.

“I wanted to get some macaroni and ravioli because it was a competition – the grades were racing to see which grade could collect the most food, so I wanted to get food so our grade would be winning. So we got two packs of mac and cheese, and two packs of ravioli. My grade [third grade] ended up being in second place!”

The third grade was very close to winning, but the fourth grade ended up pulling ahead in the last week. They will be awarded with the Silver Can Award.

Even though the food drive is over, you can still help! Donate to MCSM, or to the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. These organizations help so many people in need. Who knows – maybe what you donate will go to someone who works with you, or to the person who sits right next to you in school!



NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Single Tax Rate Retained; Sewer Rates Rise 3.4%

By GEORGE BRACE

The Gill selectboard held two rate hearings, and tended to other year-end business, at their final meeting of the year on December 26.

A tax rate classification hearing for FY’18 with the board of assessors was held at 6:30 p.m.

Board of assessors chair Bill Tomb and board member Pam Lester were in attendance, and made the recommendation that a residential factor of 1 be adopted, resulting in a single tax rate, the same as in previous years. The selectboard voted unanimously to adopt their recommendation.

After the tax rate hearing, the board held a rate hearing for the Riverside sewer system. They voted to increase sewer rates by 3.37%.

During discussion of the proposal, selectboard member John Ward cited the desire to bolster the sewer fund to be more in line with past levels. Chairman Randy Crochier expressed the desire to head off the possibility of larger increases in future years.

Gill Elementary

Town administrative assistant Ray Purington reported that discussions were continuing with the state Department of Environmental Protection about changes they may require in some of the equipment planned for the elementary school drinking water treatment. He should have more information soon.

Board members Crochier and Greg Snedeker commented that nothing is essentially wrong, it is just a lengthy process that everyone wants to get right the first time.

The board went on to approve a \$1,100 alarm panel upgrade for the elementary school. The new panel should provide greater functionality, and be consistent with panels being installed in other district schools.

License Renewals

The board voted to renew liquor licenses for Turners Falls Schuetzen Verein, Spirit Shoppe, Wagon Wheel, Oak Ridge Golf Club, and the Gill Tavern.

Motor vehicle dealers’ license

renewals were granted to AJ Cycle Shop, Green River Powersports, Chappell’s Auto Service, Doug’s Auto Body, Riverside Radiator, Town Line Auto Repair, Atlantic Wholesale, and TEK Cycle.

Electricity Aggregation?

The board discussed a letter from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) regarding a regional electricity aggregation project the council is working on.

The letter described the goal of the project as being for “towns to collectively control the electricity supply purchase process, and to take advantage of economies of scale to realize better pricing, and/or encourage the development of renewable energy resources across New England.”

The board decided by consensus to let FRCOG know they are interested in learning more about the project.

Other Business

The board discussed an update

received from Comcast on the broadband buildout project. Purington observed that the letter is the beginning of outreach to Gill and its residents concerning service locations.

The letter stated that Comcast will be holding an informational meeting at some point, as well as sending a sales representative door-to-door to speak with residents.

Gill’s oldest citizen, Angelina Adie, passed away on December 15 at the age of 99. “Wonderful lady, wonderful family,” said Randy Crochier, “Mrs. Adie was much loved, and will be much missed.”

“One of the gems of Gill,” added Ray Purington.

Board members John Ward and Greg Snedeker also expressed their condolences, and shared fond memories of Mrs. Adie.

A vacancy remains on the board of assessors. Interested residents should contact Ray Purington at the town hall for more information.

Trash and recycling day will be January 6 this week.

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TFHS SPORTS from page A1

Jimmy Vaughn paced Powertown with two 3-pointers, three free throws, and four inside the arc for 17 points. Anthony Peterson scored 15 points off four field goals and seven foul shots. Lavin also hit double digits, with 11 points off five freebees and three buckets. Jon Fritz scored 6 points, and Ryan Kucenski had 4, while Jake Dodge and Jaden Whiting contributed 2 points each.

On December 21, the Blue Tribe traveled over the mountain to face the Wild Cats of Lee. In this game, Turners was unable to score double digits in the first quarter, and found themselves down 12 points after a period, 20-8.

Powertown managed to pull within 7 points by the half to make the score 30-23, but Lee put 2 more in the bank in the third to put the score at 47-38 going into the last quarter. That's when Blue went on a tear, outscoring the Cats 27-16 to take the narrow 2-point victory.

Chase Novak was the high scorer for Turners in this game, hitting four 3-pointers and two foul shots for 22 points. Peterson worked the boards nicely, hitting nine buckets from the inside and putting in two from the line for 20 points.

Vaughn got 18 points off five free throws, four baskets inside the arc, and a 3. Lavin got all four of his points from the foul line, and Fritz hit a freebee.

One week later, on Thursday December 28, the team again traveled to the Berkshires. This time it was North Adams, to play the Drury Blue Devils.

The Devils blazed out of the starting gates with fury, outscoring Powertown 28-2 in the first quarter. In the second, Drury continued their barrage and stretched their lead to 33 points, 46-13/ at halftime. In the third, the Devils fired on more points, outscoring Turners by 11 points to take a 70-26 lead.



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners' first-time starter Karissa Fleming takes a shot as Pioneer's Sarah Ellis defends. Powertown tamed the Pioneer Panthers 55-24 at TFHS.

Powertown made it respectable in the fourth by putting up 19 points for a final score of 82-45.

Novak accounted for 22 of the Tribe's 45 points. He hit an incredible six 3-pointers, and two more from the floor. Lavin (6), Fritz (6), Vaughn (5), Peterson (4), and Avias Politas (2) also scored for Turners.

Then on Tuesday, January 2 the Turners Falls boys' basketball team traveled to Ware to challenge the Indians. In the first quarter, Turners led 15-13 and at the half, they were up by one point, 29-28.

But a monster third quarter by the Indians gave Ware the lead 45-37. There was no chance for a late-game comeback for Blue as Ware outscored them 23-16 in the fourth to take the game by 15 points, 68-53.

Novak and Vaughn each scored 11 points in the loss, while Lavin and Peterson put up 8 apiece. Fritz (7), Jovanni Ruggiano (6), and Kucenski (1) also scored for Blue.

Girls Basketball

TFHS 45 – Ware 30

Lenox 34 – TFHS 32

Putnam 33 – TFHS 31

TFHS 55 – Pioneer Valley 24

On Monday December 18, the girls' basketball team hosted the Indians from Ware.

The first quarter in this game was defensive, but Blue managed to hold a 6-4 lead when the buzzer sounded. Powertown outpaced Ware in the second and expanded their lead to 21-13 lead at the half. The Indians hung tough in the third, but Turners took the fourth 14-8 and won the game by 15 points, 45-30.

Taylor Murphy had a stellar night, pumping in 10 points off four baskets and two foul shots. Dabney Rollins and Maddy Chmyzinski had 7 points each. Chloe Ellis added 6 points, and Abby Loynd, Emma Miner and Aliyah Sanders each scored 5.

On December 19, Turners lost a 2-point game against the Lenox

Millionaires. This loss was the first of the season for the Blue Ladies. Sadly, two days later, the Tribe would lose another 2-point game against Putnam.

"Turnovers and bunny shots. That's why we lost," said one of the girls' mothers after the second loss.

In the Lenox game, Turners led 9-4 after one quarter, but the Millionaires came back in the second to tie it at 18 at the half. Lenox crept ahead in the third, 28-26, and in the last quarter, both teams only scored 6 points, giving Lenox the 34-32 victory.

Only five Blue Ladies scored in the game. Rollins was the high scorer with 10 points. Ellis hit four field goals and a foul shot for 9. Chmyzinski hit a 3-pointer and sunk five free throws for 8 points. Sanders hit a 3, and Murphy ended with 2 points.

On December 21, the girls traveled to Springfield to take on the undefeated Putnam Beavers. In this game, Turners shot out to a 14-7 first-quarter lead. But the Beavers gnawed their way back into the game and trailed by only 4 points, 18-14, at halftime.

Turners went on a 6-1 run in the third to take a 9-point lead, 24-15, into the final quarter. But the Beavers outscored the Blue Ladies by 11 points in the final to take the game 33-31.

Again, only five Turners girls scored. Sanders led Powertown with 9 points. Chmyzinski added 8, Loynd scored 7, Rollins put up 3, and Miner had 2.

On Tuesday, January 2, the Turners Falls girls' basketball team defeated the Pioneer Panthers, 55-24, in front of the home crowd.

Turners needed this win. After dropping two consecutive games by the slimmest of margins, they were determined to show they could play consistently for an entire game. They won by contesting every shot and pass, fighting for every rebound and never letting up.

In every game this season, the girls' team has had a strong opening period. They have never trailed after the first quarter. Only Lee managed to tie them, but in every other game, Powertown has won the first period.

In the Pioneer game, Blue continued their first-quarter fortunes, outscoring the Panthers 15-10. But unlike the previous two games, Turners also had a strong second quarter, and led 24-14 at halftime.

Then they opened it up. Blue's best quarter of the night came in the third when they outscored the Pioneers 21-3, ballooning their lead to 45-17 after three. Turners held the lead throughout the fourth and coasted to a 55-24 victory.

Liberal substitutions by Coach Ted Wilcox allowed 10 different players to score points in the game. And when the support players scored buckets, the home crowd went crazy.

Center Chloe Ellis worked the boards, frequently drawing fouls when shooting or going for rebounds. She managed to sink eight buckets from the foul line, and put in four from inside for 16 points. Chmyzinski hit two 3-pointers and finished with 14 points.

Sanders also hit a 3, and made two from inside the arc for 7 points. Rollins sunk three field goals for 6 points, and Murphy, Loynd, Hailley Bogosz, Karissa Fleming, Eliza Johnson, and Sarah Waldron each scored 2 points.

Next week: swimming, and football league selections!



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LOOKING BACK:
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was January 3, 2008: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Anctil Signs P&S On Ste. Anne's Church

John Anctil, of Burlington, MA, one of the principals of the Swift River Group, a film and television production company that has continued to express interest in buying the Strathmore Mill for a future site for a film and television school, said on Wednesday that he has signed a purchase and sale agreement with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield to buy Ste. Anne's Church.

The church closed permanently after a farewell mass on January 8, 2006, when the former parish merged with St. Mary's to form Our Lady of Peace.

Anctil said he planned to establish a concert venue, "mostly catering to folk music, blues and jazz," at the former church. "Nothing that would send a lot of beer drinkers out into the street afterward," he added.

Anctil estimated the seating capacity at Ste. Anne's at "725 upstairs, 325 down." He said the main floor would need to be made handicapped accessible, a sprinkler system installed, and a structural engineer brought in to look at the property.

Wendell Faces School Regionalization

Wendell voters approved the entire warrant of December 19's special town meeting with only one dissenting vote. That vote came on the final article, which authorized the Mahar school committee to study a range of K through 12 regionalization alternatives, including a four-town K through 12 district with New Salem, Petersham, and Orange.

Jim Slavas, who serves on both the finance committee and school committee, emphasized the article did not necessarily show approval of that possible arrangement,

which both Wendell and New Salem have opposed.

Early in the discussions, a hybrid region was proposed, with Swift River School staying in Union 28, but in an October letter, the state Department of Education indicated that they would push for a four-town K through 12 region. The regional school committee would be dominated by representatives from Orange.

What would happen to the other three towns in Union 28 is an unanswered question. The Union 28 agreement requires every town in the district to vote to approve a school leaving the district.

New Director Takes Reins At the Brick House

Enhancing community partnerships, strengthening the local economy and creating diverse opportunities for Montague's youth and children are among the new year's goals of Prakash Laufer, new executive director of the Brick House Community Resource Center.

Laufer, of Northampton, has lived in western Massachusetts since 1986 and with his wife, Jody Wright, raised five daughters in the Valley. He brings a colorful background combining decades of successful entrepreneurship with arts and dance, and believes strongly in investing in the local community.

Eighteen years ago, Laufer and Wright formed Motherwear, a catalogue business for nursing mothers which now employs 65 staff and draws \$11 million in annual sales, he said. Laufer completed graduate work in dance therapy at Antioch New England and now performs with the Dance Generators, a modern and improvisational, intergenerational dance company. He also helped found DanceSpirit, a community dance that happens Sunday mornings in Northampton.

He said he is excited to "partner with people who have a vision of revitalizing the community through local businesses, and working with youth and families."

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ACC 121	Principles of Financial Accounting I	HIS 218	Women and Gender in the American West to 1920 CE
BIO 130	Human Nutrition	MAC 103	Medical Office Procedures
BIO 130L	Human Nutrition Lab	MAC 112	Human Body in Health and Disease
BUS 111	Introduction to Business	MAC 120	Medical Claims Management
BUS 203	Human Resources Management	MAT 096	Intermediate Algebra
CIS 140	Microcomputer Software Tools I	MAT 107	College Algebra
CIS 150	Programming Principles and Concepts	MAT 114	Introduction to Statistics
ECO 101	Principles of Macroeconomics	MAT 117	Mathematical Problem Solving
ECO 102	Principles of Microeconomics	MOM 110	Medical Terminology
ECO 105	Sports and Stadium Economics	PCS 141	Interpersonal Communication
EDU 101	Introduction to Early Childhood Education	PHI 103	Introduction to Philosophy
ENG 090	College Writing Strategies	POL 101	American Politics
ENG 101	English Composition I: Expository Writing	PSY 101	Principles of Psychology
ENG 112	English Composition II: Exploring Literature	PSY 209	Abnormal Psychology
ENG 116	English Composition II: Analysis of Literature and Film	PSY 217	Human Growth and Development
ENG 207	Creative Writing and Literature: Themes and Methods	PSY 225	Psychology of Women and Gender
ENG 248	Women in Literature II	PSY 233	Child Behavior and Development
FST 252	Strategy and Tactics	SCI 117	Meteorology
GEO 108	Global Climate Change	SOC 101	Principles of Sociology
GGY 101	Introduction to Geography	SOC 106	Social Inequality
HIS 102	Western Civilization Since 1500 A.D.	SOC 201	Social Problems
HIS 105	History of the American People to 1865	SOC 210	Drugs and Society
		THE 101	Introduction to Theater

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MONDAY CREDIT

BIO 215	Human Anatomy & 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
ENG 101	English Composition I: Expository Writing
MAT 108	PrecalculusI

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
FST 153	Fire Prevention
MAT 090	Basic Mathematics Skills
MAT 117	Mathematical Problem Solving
PSY 217	Human Growth & Development

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY CREDIT

ASL 102	American Sign Language
BIO 194	Comprehensive Anatomy & Physiology
BIO 205	Microbiology
EMS 203	Mgt of Medical & Shock Trauma Emergencies
ESL 114	Spoken English-High Intermediate Level
MAT 096	Intermediate Algebra
MAT 107	College Algebra
MAT 116	Mathematics for Early Childhood & Elementary Educators

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY CREDIT

AGR 110	Beekeeping
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WEDNESDAY CREDIT

BIO 216	Human Anatomy & Physiology II
CMN 201	Social Impact of Mass Media
CRJ 110	Contemporary Operational and Inmate Treatment Practices
EGT 110	Print Reading
ENG 101	English Composition I: Expository Writing
HIS 134	World History II
HSV 141	Substance Abuse Disorders
MAT 095	Introductory Algebra
PSY 101	Principles of Psychology

THURSDAY CREDIT

ACC 121	Principles of Financial Accounting
BUS 105	Personal Financial Literacy
BUS 205	Principles of Management
EGT 111	CNC Programming with G code
EGT 123	Introduction to Material Science: Metals
ENG 204	American Literature II
FST 156	Hazardous Materials Chemistry
HIS 105	History of the American People Since 1865
PCS 101	Public Speaking
POL 101	American Politics

MONDAY AND SATURDAY CREDIT

REE 227	Sustainable Design/Green Building Practices
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TUESDAY, SATURDAY/SUNDAY CREDIT

EVS 153	Ancient Wilderness Living Skills
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- African Dance (starts 1/30/2018)
- The Sacerd Art of Painting on Glass (starts 2/6/2018)
- Introduction to Weaving (starts 2/6/2018)
- Ceramics:Throwing 101 (starts 2/6/2018)
- Carving Wooden Spoons and Utensils (starts 2/6/2018)
- Felting:The Basics and Beyond (starts 2/7/2018)
- Jewelry Bootcamp (starts 2/8/2018)
- HeartCode® ACLS Skills Session (starts 2/13 or 4/18)
- Coding for Beginnners (starts 2/28/2018)
- Intermediate Tap Dance: Technique and Repertory (starts 3/1/2018)
- Managing a Business with QuickBooks (starts 3/14/2018)
- Advanced Beginner Waltz (starts 4/2/2018)
- Excel Tips and Tricks (starts 4/3/2018)
- Learn to Square Dance (starts 4/12/2018)
- Hidden Cave of Mount Toby (starts 4/14/2018)
- Pillow Mania (starts 4/19/2018)
- Automate Tasks with Excel Macros (starts 4/24/2018)
- Microsoft Word Tips and Tricks (starts 5/1/2018)
- Collage (starts 5/5/2018)

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SOUTHWORTH from page A1

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However, Malhotra said the company would initially reopen Southworth to make “what they used to manufacture,” with a focus on “nanocellular technology.” Beyond this, she would not comment on future plans for the paper mill, or speculate on the outcome of the bankruptcy process.

Southworth, founded in the 1830s, bought the Turners plant, long known as Esleek Paper, in 2006. In the final years of their operation of the facility, the company attempted to adapt to the decline of the traditional paper-making industry by adopting new technologies. The products envisioned included paper that could withstand the heat of ovens, paper farmers could put on their vegetable fields, and paper painters could use for watercolors.

The company briefly changed the official name of the Turners facility to Paperlogic, and developed a relationship with an institute at the University of Maine called the Forest Products Research Institute.

A December 2015 article in the industry journal *Surface & Panel* describes the company’s attempts to incorporate cellulose nano fibrils (CNFs) in its processes. The article quotes Michael Bilodeau, director of the Maine institute’s “Process Development Center”: “We’re helping them develop new paper grades.... Some applications require a very fine product, and other applications a very coarse product.”

Michael Bilodeau is still listed on the Forest Products Research Institute’s website as the Process Development Center’s director.

But Bilodeau, who did not respond to attempts by this newspaper

to contact him by phone and email, left the Maine institute in November, according to an employee there. And on December 4, the Manhattan-based HS Manufacturing Group sent out a press release announcing that they had hired him as their president.

The company wrote that it “hopes to utilize Mr. Bilodeau’s leadership, extensive experience and knowledge of the paper and pulp industry to strengthen the company’s present and future offerings.”

Montague town administrator Steve Ellis said he felt the developments in the bankruptcy proceedings were “hopeful,” but “I have not made any public comment on the community impact [of the potential sale of the plant], because we don’t have anything to go on yet.” Ellis said that a central priority was that the town was reimbursed for back taxes and sewer fees.

According to *MassLive.com*, the bankruptcy court has given Southworth permission to pay its former employees approximately \$445,000 in back wages and benefits. The company was the subject of a class action suit by employees at several facilities after it abruptly closed them in August.

In its filing with the court, Southworth claimed \$16.3 million in total assets, which included warehouses and offices in Agawam, and \$17.84 million in debt.

The Montague assessors’ office lists the estimated 2018 value of the Canal Road factory building and land at \$833,800. An adjacent water treatment plant also owned by Southworth is valued at \$1.6 million, while three other adjoining parcels total \$41,500 in assessed valuation.

The company, in its court filing, claimed that the Turners Falls facility is worth \$2.24 million.

Additional reporting was contributed by Nina Rossi.



POST OFFICE from page A1

The Alfanges’ own home was the post office from 1842 to 1855, when a two-story post office and general store was built next door. One man, Bradford Field, served as postmaster for a half-century term from 1863 until 1913. In 1931, the building burned down and the smaller single-level store was built.

The next year, Muriel Ashley assumed command; she would become Muriel Bourne, and run the office until her death in 1971. Terry and Phyllis Glazier, Bourne’s granddaughter and daughter, took turns as postmaster in the 1970s. The Woodards are relatives, too, which means the building has been in the family for 85 years.

Gregg Woodard, until recently of the town’s finance committee, notified the selectboard last month that he intended to sell the building. “It sounds like he’s trying to simplify his life,” chair Peter d’Errico explained. (As of press time, Woodard himself had not responded to requests for an interview.)

Planning board chair Ken Kahn said he was not sure how difficult it would be for a potential buyer to convert the building, which sits on a .47-acre parcel, to residential use. “The preliminary questions would be for the zoning enforcement officer,” he said, indicating that building commissioner Jim Hawkins would need to review the building’s history of use.

In 1972, according to a report prepared for the Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program, an apartment was added to the building, and its era as a general store ended, though Shively, too, recalls gas pumps out front when she moved to town in the 1970s.

A renovation in 1984 removed the apartment, according to the report. The realtor’s listing notes that the site’s septic system was

built to accommodate a three-bedroom home.

“I’m going to assume it very likely could be converted to a single family,” Kahn said. “I’m not sure it needs to go to the ZBA. It might be grandfathered as a legal one-family house lot, though it’s not conforming.”

According to the real estate listing, there is an existing lease with the United States Post Office until June 30, 2019, with an option to extend for another 5 years.

Zillow.com reports that the median home value in Leverett is \$315,400. The asking price for the post office building, \$189,900, is significantly lower than that, and is also below the caps set for two town programs intended to assist moderate-income homebuyers: the Down Payment Assistance Program (\$280,000) and Buy Down Program (\$270,000).

Meanwhile, gross rent from the postal service only amounts to \$12,672 per year, with a 6% increase if the lease is extended until 2024. It is unclear what would happen to Leverett’s postal customers if a buyer were to take the realtor’s hint and let the lease lapse.

“We will be discussing it – first order of business – at our selectboard meeting next Tuesday,” said member Tom Hankinson.

“There may be other income sources that might be able to flow from that building, other than the post office,” he pointed out.

“I kind of wish the town could buy it, to keep the post office, but I don’t know how feasible that is,” selectboard member Julie Shively said. “We haven’t talked about what we would do.

“Keeping the post office in town is pretty important,” she continued. “I don’t know if that’s eligible to be a CPA [Community Preservation Act] project – I doubt it. I’m not so versed in the law to know if we can even do that.”

“I think everyone would appre-

ciate having the post office stay there, and I don’t know what a new owner would do with that place,” said d’Errico. “Maybe someone wants to do a café.... there’s so many people in town who’ve said, ‘It’s too bad we don’t have a coffee shop in the Center!’”

“From a planning position, it’s nice to see towns have a cohesive center,” said Kahn. “We have a little bit of a spread-out center, but you have the highway department, the school, the police department, town hall, and the post office – that’s the town center, which is an important thing for small New England towns.”

“There are building lots available, so I don’t know why someone would want to start off with something they’d have to gut and start over with,” d’Errico said. “My sense of the demand, in terms of what the community needs, is the post office is still at the top of the list.”

“There was talk of expanding the post office there recently, because Leverett might be a focal point for Amazon deliveries,” Shively added. She recalled the most recent time the office was threatened with closure, in 2011.

“[USPS] started this whole slew of ideas of closing [small post offices]. We were one of the first ones,” she remembers. “We got a letter, and they said, well, your alternative post office could be Sunderland! For me it would have to be Montague [Center], since I’m in North Leverett.... We put up a fight, and we succeeded in stopping it.”

“They’d have to do a lot of renovating to make it into a ‘charming’ house,” Barbara Alfange observed.

“It would be nice to have a little general store there. We don’t have any businesses in town. It was nice to have Muriel next door, with eggs and milk and cream!”



WENDELL from page A1

consideration after another.

State rules require that construction is done in July and August because the work involves water. The existing bridge will have to be taken down, and Wendell Depot Road will be closed, creating a long detour for travelers – including school buses, if work extends into the school year.

The commissioners said they hope to avoid having to reschedule bus routes for the construction. The plans, drawn by Stantec Engineering, had the pieces formed and poured ahead of time and then fitted into place on site to minimize the time that Wendell Depot Road is closed.

Wendell had a good relationship with Stantec, but that company had a large personnel turnover since the plans were drawn, and the relationship is not as cooperative now. Construction did not happen in 2017 because the plans did not have DOT approval early enough for bids to go out for that construction season.

The town now has DOT approval for the plans, but those plans were stamped “Not for Construction” by Stantec. How that “Not for Construction” fits with DOT approval is an unanswered question.

The highway commission got two responses to their request for proposals, one from Tighe & Bond, and the other from a private engineer named Sara Campbell. The two proposals dovetail well, and the two are willing to work together. Tighe & Bond can look at the plans and approve or improve them for construction, and Campbell, whose home is in Erving, can oversee construction with minimal travel expense.

For a fee that is less than the town would pay on its own, FRCOG will cover the bidding process. Leonard said that construction companies are looking for work now, and bids are likely to be at their lowest.

One utility pole must be moved for the bridge work, and National Grid gave an estimate for that of \$43,000. Verizon now owns the pole, and agreed to give a new estimate for a fee of \$1,000. Verizon has the \$1,000 but has not produced an estimate.

When she met with town officials to congratulate them for the town’s decreased energy use, lieutenant governor Karen Polito said she would try to help find a way to make the pole-moving fee more reasonable. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said she would call Polito.

Keller suggested that, if nothing else works,

a spending article on the upcoming, but not yet scheduled, special town meeting might pay for moving the pole, which would allow bids to go out in January or February, and the construction to take place in summer 2018.

While they were there, the commissioners also said that the main issue of people taking sand from the sand shed was that some were in the way of the bucket loader as it filled town trucks for sanding.

Delorey suggested building a smaller shed of 2’ x 4’s, a distance from the large salt and sand shed, where residents could collect a bucket or two of sand for use on their properties without getting in the way of highway workers.

Other Business

Keller reported that Ray and Laurie DiDonato plan to buy from the Trousdale Trust the dam and the land around it that create and maintain McAvoy’s Pond in south Wendell. They hope to keep the pond as a pond.

Keller said that the town would pay for removing the trees that Massachusetts dam safety wants removed, and the DiDonatos would pay for dam engineering. Long-term responsibilities will still need to be resolved.

Myron Becker came and asked about using the town hall kitchen for a series of four cooking classes, for people who want to cook like a chef at home. Each class would be followed by a good meal. The fifth class would be a field trip to Asian markets in Chinatown, Boston.

Becker said that tuition would not be cheap – \$80 to \$100 per class, including ingredients – and he thought that kitchen rental would be around \$50 a session. Becker was on the kitchen committee during construction, and he was aware that the vision does not allow commercial use. He admitted that his plan was the start of a “slippery slope” that leads to commercial use, but argued it still fit within the vision.

Pooser and Keller wanted to wait until the full board was present to discuss and decide.

Pooser brought up the topic of newly legalized recreational marijuana, the state’s draft regulations that just came out, and his concern about the impact of those changes on Wendell.

He has proposed and scheduled an informal information session at the town hall for 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 27 to get opinions of town residents, and give residents information about what is happening at the state level. He said he hopes for input from board of health, police, and the planning board.



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DODGE from page A1

are not known publicly, and town hall remains tight-lipped. “The hearing is not a commitment to discipline, in one way or another way, or at all,” said town administrator Steve Ellis.

Ellis characterized Friday’s hearing as “a venue for consideration of findings of the investigation.”

Montague’s chief serves under the statewide Civil Service system, and can only be terminated “for cause.” Dodge can also appeal any potential disciplinary action the town might take to the state Civil Service Commission.

The chain of events that apparently resulted in Dodge’s suspension began with an investigation by state police of the Montague department’s handling of medicines left by the public in a prescription drug disposal box.

Dodge was briefly suspended in June 2016, but reinstated after another executive-session discussion with the selectboard. The public would not learn the content of that initial investigation until an October 2017 expose in the *Greenfield Recorder*, in the course of which the chief acknowledged he is in recovery from opioid addiction.

Dodge’s implication that other members of the department may have accessed his office and stolen medication resulted in a public rebuke signed by the entire rank and file of the department.

Their letter also accused Dodge of retaliating against officers while scheduling shifts, following his first suspension.



Saturday, January 6: Winning Medicare For All, with Tim Faust

HOLYOKE – This Saturday, January 6, from 3 to 5 p.m., at Gateway City Arts in Holyoke, Pioneer Valley Democratic Socialists of America (PVDSA) will host a discussion with Tim Faust on winning Medicare for All.

Faust is a subject matter expert on healthcare. He has written for *Jacobin Magazine* and serves as a healthcare correspondent for the podcast *Chapo Trap House*.

A member of Democratic Socialists of America, Faust has spoken to a number of chapters as well as at the DSA National Convention this past August. He currently attends NYU’s Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, where he is pursuing an MPA in health policy and finance.

The event will be co-sponsored by Western Mass. Medicare for All, Western Mass. Neighbor to Neighbor, and Our Revolution Massachusetts. It will kick off a year of organizing locally in the Pioneer Valley to provide for improved and expanded Medicare for All through national as well as state-level legislation.

The United States has the highest healthcare costs in the world, and nearly 28 million Americans have no health insurance coverage at all. PVDSA will take a variety of actions in 2018 to advance the



Tim Faust (artist's rendering)

cause of improved and expanded Medicare for All, including lobbying elected officials, canvassing, and passing city and town resolutions.

“As a regional network promoting health care as a human right, Western Mass. Medicare for All is proud to co-sponsor this event with PVDSA,” says Deborah Levenson, the group’s chairperson. “The campaign for single-payer is a fight for fairness, human dignity, and common sense.”

PVDSA meets monthly to organize around issues that affect the lives of everyday people, for a society and economy that provide for human needs rather than profits for a few. Contact co-chairs Amy Borezo or Ted McCoy at pvdem-soc@gmail.com to get involved.

Gateway City Arts is located at 92-114 Race Street in Holyoke.

Now Through January 18: The Art of Danny Cruz

GREENFIELD – Hundreds of pieces of visual art – drawings, paintings, and even some sculptures – created by Greenfield musician Danny “Monster” Cruz (1992-2017) are on exhibit at Greenfield Community College, from now until a closing reception, 5 to 10 p.m. on Thursday, January 18.

Cruz, a Turners Falls High School alum best known as the lead singer of the mud-lightning metal band Flaming Dragons of Middle Earth, died in December from complications of Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

He was a prolific visual artist and aspiring fashion designer who

developed a dense, wild style that combined line art, solid vibrant colors, and text. “Art’s a hobby, and a lifelong career that makes me happy,” Cruz said in 2015.

The exhibit is in the college’s South Gallery (S258), located on the second floor of the main campus building, on the far south side (the left side, if you’re looking at the building from the front doors).

GCC is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., so the public is invited to stop by any time before the 18th to view the art.

(See the “Danny Cruz Art Show” event page on Facebook for more information.)



JEREMY LATCH PHOTO

Hundreds of Cruz’s pieces are on exhibit in GCC’s South Gallery.

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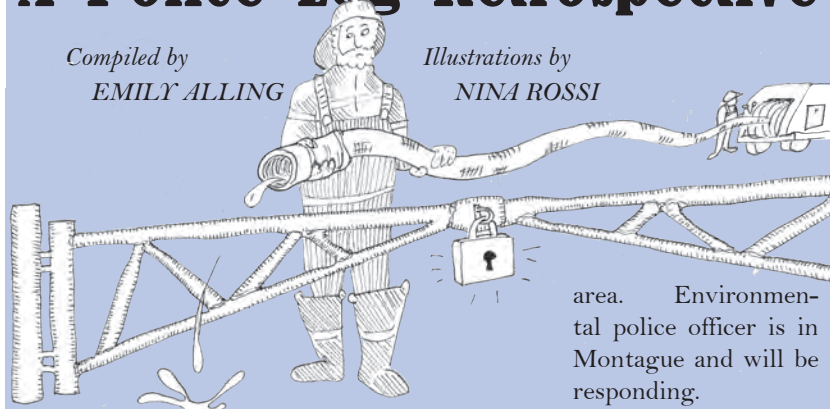
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On The Montague Plains: A Police Log Retrospective

Compiled by
EMILY ALLING

Illustrations by
NINA ROSSI



Friday, 6/28/13

9:26 p.m. A caller from Lake Pleasant warned that there was supposed to be a large party on the Montague Plains starting at around 10 p.m. Area checked; no party located. A second caller reported many vehicles going into Montague Plains and loud music coming from the same area. Area checked twice more; no signs of anyone.

Thursday, 9/26/13

10:25 a.m. Illegal dumping reported in the plains off Old Northfield Road. Suspect identified. Investigated.

Tuesday, 5/20/14

2:34 p.m. Caller reported seeing black smoke north of her residence on Turners Falls Road. TFFD contacted; advised that this was a controlled burn on the Montague Plains.

Monday, 4/13/15

7:34 p.m. Report of brush fire on Turners Falls Road. Officer advises that MCFD had to break through a locked set of gates

into the plains to gain access. Contact made with owners of gates, who will make sure that the police and fire chiefs get keys for them.

Tuesday, 5/26/15

12:03 p.m. Bird researcher working in wildlife management area on Plains Road reports that there has been shooting in the area during the last couple of days. Caller has already contacted environmental police. Advised of options.

Thursday, 6/4/15

1:33 p.m. Report of subjects target shooting in the Montague Plains near the sandpits. Caller expresses concern for the safety of his workers in the

area. Environmental police officer is in Montague and will be responding.

Friday, 6/26/15

4:51 p.m. Report of 2 or more subjects target shooting in the sand pits off of Plains Road. Officer spoke with involved parties, who will be picking up and moving along.

Monday, 7/6/15

4:03 p.m. Caller from Plains Road reports two 11 or 12-year-old males operating four wheelers on her property in an unsafe manner. Referred to environmental police.

8:56 p.m. Officer off with vehicle parked near entrance to Plains. Male and female just walked back to vehicle. They were picking berries in the plains.

see PLAINS pg. B4



A Disappointing End to a Career in the Mill

In our November 30 issue, we published an interview with **David Hawkins** that took place in 1995. At that time, the Gill resident was 36, and working at Esleek Paper Company in Turners Falls, where he was the foreman in the rag room.

The interview was part of a project that became the Historical Walking Tour of Turners Falls, incorporating excerpts from oral histories taken from old and new downtown residents with a tour of historic buildings in the downtown.

Hawkins continued to work for the mill in various capacities until its closure in August 2017. **Nina Rossi** met with him again recently to talk about his experiences there since their initial 1995 interview. Here are Hawkins' own remembrances and reflections, which have been edited for continuity.

GILL – The rag room shut down years ago, before 2006, when it was still Esleek. They didn't need the cotton t-shirts to make the premium papers anymore.

Back when it was Esleek we made 300,000 pounds of vellum, blueprint first copy paper, and second copy-papers. That all went away with computers, and the market went down so much they couldn't justify the rag room anymore. They had pulp, but it was wood pulp or already ground up cotton pulp from Canada or Minnesota.

I went to the finishing depart-

ment for a little while, then the beater room for a bit. I never did go back on swing shift. I stayed on days. It's a young man's job in the beater room, though: you're making the pulp that makes the paper, adding pulp, chemical, colorants. It used to be a real lot of manual labor, and it's still a lot of work, cutting rolls and going faster to keep up with the machines.

I ended up doing the water: monitoring the clarity of the water, all the internal chemicals, cleaning a bunch of filters for those chemicals. I called myself a "water boy," you know?



The beater room at Southworth Paper Company, circa 2011.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

David Hawkins' hat tells his story of 38 years in the paper mill at Turners Falls. He left the hat behind in the building when Turners Falls Paper Company closed suddenly this past year.

From being in the beater or finishing rooms, that was an advancement.

Southworth tried to get into the color niches, but we are not a color plant. They have a wastewater treatment plant that cannot violate all that. My boss, when I did the water thing, was the boss of the water treatment plant, and he knew all these things, but they told him: "We don't care, we will pay the fine." But he said, "My name is on these permits, I am the one who goes to jail for violating this."

They didn't like that. Southworth wanted these violations. When it was Esleek, everyone thought it sucked but, Southworth... Huh.

I had that job until 2014, when I broke my leg. First day of two weeks of vacation, broke my right leg right at the ankle, both fibula and tibia. It was Southworth by then. I kept hounding my doc, "when can I go back, when can I go back?" because I really like to work. I liked the job.

He finally cleared me to go back, and the day he cleared me, I got a call from HR, going "We need to see **MILL** page B5

Feathered Friends, Past and Present

By **JEFFREY WEBSTER**

ARIZONA – When I was a kid living in downtown Turners, I had a heightened awareness of birds, thanks to my brother-in-law, Gerry Bozzo, a science teacher at Amherst Junior High School. He gave me my first book about birds (*Our Amazing Birds*) and I still have it. Either he or my sister also made sure I had coloring books featuring birds, so I knew common birds by name at a young age.

I didn't become serious about birding until the mid-1970s when a rare Ross's gull – an Arctic species – was sighted in Newburyport, Mass. It made the national news, including a mention in *Time Magazine*. My wife, Sue, and I joined my brother, Russ, and we ventured to the North Shore to see it. I was able to glimpse it briefly. Not a satisfying look, but enough to spark an interest.

A couple of years after seeing the Ross's gull, Gerry, Russ and I drove back to Newburyport on one of the coldest February days in memory to see an uncommon Ivory gull, a pure white bird native to frigid northern regions. We parked and stepped out ten feet from where it was pecking at a frozen fish another birder had put on the dock.

After watching it for five minutes, Gerry said, "They're seeing a smew," a duck that normally ranges from Scandinavia to Siberia, "down in Newport." Without another word, we piled back in the still-warm car and headed for Rhode Island. Again, we were able to spot it right away, thanks to dozens of birders with binoculars and spotting scopes. It was a long day, but we checked off two rarities.

Third Street was not ground-zero for much more than pigeons and house sparrows – we called them English sparrows back then. But I do remember common nighthawks flitting over downtown on summer evenings, gulping down insects on the wing. They were joined by chimney swifts, with their absurdly frenetic wingbeats.

Not far from home, I could listen to the buzzy, bell-like call of a blue jay; admire crimson cardinals (fire



JEFFREY WEBSTER PHOTOS

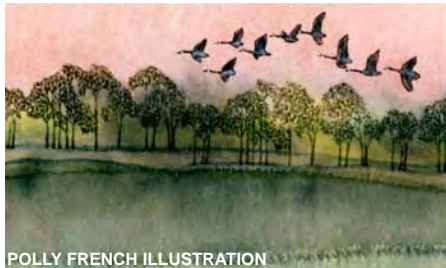
Adult male Gambel's quail.

engines of the bird world); and hear the descending two-note calls of the Massachusetts state bird, the hard-core-cute black-capped chickadee.

Common grackles were, well... common, as were American crows. Of course, mourning doves mourned incessantly. Every spring, the harsh screech of the red-winged blackbird signaled warmer weather ahead. And I never tired of sighting a jaunty gray catbird with its black yarmulke-like cap. Scaring up a brown thrasher was a treat.

Taking a hint from the birds, we migrated to Northern California to escape New England winters. Some birds – northern mockingbirds, American robins, red-tailed hawks, mourning doves and more – were familiar, but a great many were new to me.

A permanent resident in my backyard was the western scrub jay. Non-birders often refer to it as a blue jay. Yes, see **FEATHERS** page B8



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

WEST ALONG THE RIVER

TWILIGHT WALK AT 5 BELOW

By **DAVID BRULE**

ALONG THE MILLERS RIVER – January 2. Twilight time it is, and a chance to step away from the steady drumbeat of relentless breaking news, and the whirlwind of holiday responsibilities. Myself and dog need to get out of doors to see what's happening along the hushed river. And for you who don't venture out at 5 below zero just before dark, just leave it to us, we'll be your legs, eyes and ears.

We step out into a pale blue world of snow glades among the bare

trees. Following the frozen path, we criss-cross foxtrot tracks that lead under the sheltering pine grove. On hot summer days, this is a place to sling a hammock, and listen to the breeze slipping through fragrant pine branches. In early January however these tall white pines lofting upwards provide a snow break. Below the sweeping branches the snow is more shallow and squirrels have been digging little potholes seeking pine nuts in fallen cones.

The treetops are silhouetted against a salmon pink sky with

see **WEST ALONG** page B3



LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES ILLUSTRATION

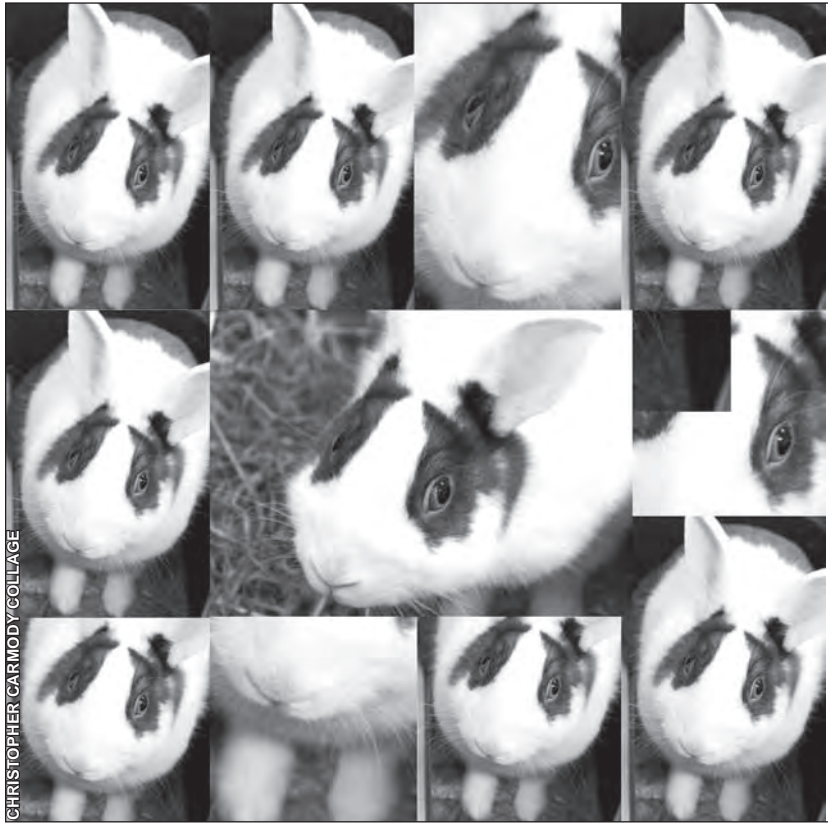
Bobcat – *Lynx rufus*.

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Senior Center Activities

JANUARY 8 to 12

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: 1/8
8 to 9:15 a.m. Foot Clinic appts.
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday: 1/9
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
Wednesday: 1/10
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday: 1/11
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Cards & Games
Friday: 1/12
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 Better, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.
Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.
Monday: 1/8 (No Lunch)
9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi
Tuesday: 1/9
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch
9:30 a.m. COA Meeting
Wednesday: 1/10
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo, Snacks, Laughs
Thursday: 1/11
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
Prepare Floor
Friday: 1/12 CLOSED FOR FLOOR WAXING!

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

JANUARY LIBRARY LISTING

Weather, etc., sometimes causes changes in library events; you may want to call ahead to confirm.

Montague Public Libraries
Turners Falls: Carnegie (413) 863-3214
Montague Center (413) 367-2852
Millers Falls (413) 659-3801

Erving Public Library (413) 423-3348
Gill: Slate Library (413) 863-2591
Leverett Public Library (413) 548-9220
Wendell Free Library (978) 544-3559
Northfield: Dickinson Library (413) 498-2455

ONGOING EVENTS

EVERY TUESDAY
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Craft Time w/Angela*. Children, all ages. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Leverett Library: *Spanish Conversation Group*, 4 to 5 p.m.; *Qigong with Dvora Eisenstein*. 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.
Wendell Free Library: *Adult Watercolor Art Group*. Call Rosie for details. 6 p.m.

2ND TUESDAYS
Dickinson Library: *I'd Rather Be Reading Group*. 7 p.m.

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Wendell Free Library: *Sylvia's Awesome Play Group*, a sand table and lots of activities for newborn to 5 years old and their guardians, 10 to 11:30 a.m. *Healthy Bones & Balance for Seniors* with Marianne Vinal, 10 to 11 a.m. *Adult Strength Training with Rosie Heidkamp*, 5:30 to 6 p.m. *Self Breema/Mindful Stretching with Luc Bodin & Trudy Smith*, 6 to 6:45 p.m.
Carnegie Library: *Story Time w/Karen*, story, project, snacks. Young children w/caregivers, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. *Homeschool Science. Hands-on STEM*. All age homeschoolers. (No session scheduled for January 17.) 1 to 2:30 p.m.
Leverett Library: *Tales and Tunes Story Time w/Heleen Cardinaux*. 10:30 a.m. to noon. *Advanced Tai Chi class*. 1:45 to 2:45 p.m.

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

2ND WEDNESDAYS
Dickinson Library: *Readings: Nonfiction, Fiction & Poetry* with Nick Fleck. 3 p.m.

EVERY THURSDAY
Wendell Free Library: *Pilates with Kim Sobieski*. 9:30 a.m.
Millers Falls: *Music and Movement* with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson, for children. 10 to 10:45 a.m.
Dickinson Library: *Knit With Us*. All levels welcome. 6 to 8 p.m.

1ST THURSDAYS
Carnegie Library: *Adult Coloring*, 10 to 11 a.m. *Genealogy Gathering*, 6 to 7:45 p.m.
Leverett Library: *Lego Club*. Open to elementary school children. 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.
Dickinson Library: *Environmental Awareness Group*. Discuss the monthly topic facilitated by Emily Koester. 6:30 p.m.

2ND THURSDAYS
Leverett Library: *Knit for Charity*. Your own work or try the monthly project, some supplies provided. 6:30 p.m.

3RD THURSDAYS
Dickinson Library: *Rep. Paul Mark: Office Hours*. 1 to 4 p.m.

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

EVERY FRIDAY
Dickinson Library: *Story Hour*. Stories, crafts, music and movement with Dana Lee. Preschoolers and their caregivers, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. *Kids' Friday*: When Northfield Elementary gets out early, come across the street to the library. Sometimes we have a program, or just hang out, 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Wendell Free Library: *Explore Yoga with Shay Cooper*. Mixed levels. 10 a.m. \$ or barter.

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

EVERY SATURDAY
Wendell Free Library: *Adult Strength Training with Rosie Heidkamp*, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. *AA Open Meeting*, 6 to 7 p.m.
Leverett Library: *Advanced Tai Chi*, 10 a.m. *Beginning Tai Chi*, 11 a.m.

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

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

EVERY SUNDAY
Wendell Free Library: *Yoga*. Advanced beginning level. *Christine Texiera* is the instructor for January. 10 a.m. \$. *AA Open Meeting*, 6 to 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7
Leverett Library: *Memoir and Fiction Writing Workshop with Mara Bright*. Last meeting of series. 3 to 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9
Dickinson Library: *Owls with John Wansleben*. The cultural and natural history of owls. 5 to 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10
Dickinson Library: *Readings: Nonfiction, Fiction & Poetry Group*: The month's selection is *Proust Was a Neuroscientist* by Johan Lehrer. 3 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12
Dickinson Library: *Kids' Friday*. Make valentines for Meals on Wheels. 2 to 3:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17
Wendell Free Library: *Handmade Jewelry Classes for 4th grade and older* with Gail Krutka. Sign up required. Limited to 10 participants. Homeschoolers are encouraged to attend. Repeats January 24. 1:30 to 3:30 pm.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18
Wendell Free Library: *Internet Medical Research* with Margot Malachowski, MLS. Powerpoint talk. Tea provided. 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19
Dickinson Library: *Kids' Friday*: Legos. 2 to 3:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20
Wendell Free Library: *Healthy Gut Bacteria* with Alicia Walters, MS, RDN LDN. Presentation on emerging science in the field of microbiome, diet and health. 10 a.m. to noon.
Carnegie Library: *Pirate Party*. Play games, make booty (crafts), and eat grub! Designed for children of all ages and families. Costumes encouraged but not required. 10:30 a.m. to noon.
Leverett Library: *New Tai Chi class for beginners*. 11 a.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21
Leverett Library: *Embodying Creativity* with Lorelei Bond. 12 to 1:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24
Wendell Free Library: *Handmade Jewelry Classes*. (See January 17.) 1:30 to 3:30 pm.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25
Leverett Library: *Ukulele Play-Along* with Julie Stepanek. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27
Carnegie Library: *Lego Club*. Children of all ages and caregivers invited to come build. Children's creations will be displayed in the program space. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Wendell Free Library: *Lacto-Fermented Foods* with Luc Bodin and Trudy Smith. 10 a.m. to noon.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28
Wendell Free Library: *Sci Fi Book Discussion: Timewise*, by Wendell author Bob Leet. Discussion with the author. 3 to 4 p.m.

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WEST ALONG from page B1
shades of pale yellow, Maxfield Parish could have found new tones for his palette just standing here in this New England winter sunset.

The river beyond moves by, ferrying small rounded ice floes that raft the rapids then bob and swirl in counter currents. Small globes of ice, hardly bigger than teardrops, encircle branch stems of birch and winterberry that dip rhythmically into the water under the slight icy weight.

The Dog, having turned two years old recently, is a bit wiser, but still not so obedient. He’s a sled dog in his element. He tugs and pulls from time to time as his breed is supposed to do. Now he’s interested in seeking out grass stems along the shore to munch. But winter grass is bleached out and dry, not too tasty.

Once or twice we hear a strange popping of a tree, like the crack of a bat. Is it the tree splitting under this cold?

I’ve been counting bird nests, now exposed in the leafless branches along our trail. A number of nests are within a yard or two of the summer path, and yet we never guessed there was a new generation of summer birds just near us, so well concealed.

There’s the bulky nest of the sassy catbird, the discrete low nest of the song sparrow, the lofty neat cup of the vireo, the swinging cradle of the oriole’s woven basket, fifty feet up. These nests now have little igloo crowns of snow, making them easy to spot.

In the lee of the rapids at the bend of the river, a lone hooded merganser keeps herself busy trying to fish and to keep those life fires burning in her breast, getting her through the winter. She’ll do fine here in the open rushing water, safe from the ice that would trap her in its grip if it could. A mile away, the mighty Connecticut River is frozen solid.

The dog tugs the leash and wants to keep moving, impatient with my ruminations on the frailty

and capacity to resist of yonder merganser. But he does stop, alert and sensing something else moving along the ice shelf at the edge of the river, coming towards us.

Out from our woods has stepped a large cat. Lynx-like, the same size as the husky, tense on the end of his tether. The bobcat, two hundred yards away, pads slowly upriver in our direction. Then behind her out from the woods tumble her two kittens, likely a year old, not quite as big as their mother. They play, jostle, sit on the ice, look at the sky and river, then decide to follow her along.

They pause, not yet noticing us, then turn and glide into our woods, perhaps sensing a late afternoon squirrel supper in the offing. Mother and kits vanish like swirls of smoke.

Minutes later, dog and man resume their walk along the frozen river bank. Those twilight hunters have disappeared; were they ever there?

Heading home in the glow of that privileged sighting of such wild creatures, knowing that they are able to safely live, hunt and have young in the woods and rocky crags near us, gives a faint hope that life will go on, in spite of all.

The January full Wolf Moon rises enormous on the northeastern horizon, flooding the woods with brilliant light and long moon shadows. This has been a twilight respite from the darkness that the world has been thrown into. The exhilaration of seeing the wild cats puts pessimism about the new year far from our thoughts if only for a brief time.

Then, my foot on the first step of the back porch, there’s the last white throated sparrow, often a quiet messenger, lingering in the dusk over a few sparse seeds left on the deck. He waits and then shares this thought with me:

*Darkness will lose,
Sunlight will win,
Don’t worry.*



THEATER REVIEW

New Vaudeville Holiday Spectacular 2017

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

TURNERS FALLS – Last year, I went to see the show called Welcome Yule at the Shea Theater. This year, I decided to go to the Shea to see the New Vaudeville Holiday Spectacular on December 16.

I liked it somewhat better than the annual Welcome Yule show. The show featured a variety of types of performances, including poetry reading, a ballet number, comedy, singing, and a couple scenes where acting was done. I just really liked some of that.

The various acts were introduced by a couple of individuals who acted like Laurel and Hardy. That is the best way I can come up with to describe them.

Getting to what I liked exactly about the show: One of the two individuals who hosted the show was a man in drag who lip synced to a couple of Christmas songs very well. One was Mariah Carey’s “All I Want for Christmas.”

My top favorite thing about the show was scenes with songs in them from a musical called *Savage*, about a real-life Native American stunt-woman. The woman who played this part had a great voice. (I told her so after the show when I saw

her. I complimented the man in drag about doing well with his performance too.)

What I liked next about the show was the comedy piece by Ellen Villani, “13 Ways of Looking at a Black Dog” – basically someone reading a poem while a man dressed like a dog did movements to it – and a reenactment of the speech scene from the Charlie Chaplin movie *The Great Dictator*, acted by a man named Alex DeMelo. DeMelo acted that scene out all right, and a woman played a saw like a musical instrument as he was talking.

The ballet number was okay, and the singing was too. I would say something about the acting that was a part of the show, but I didn’t really understand what was going on with either the piece called “The Blue Moon” or something called “John Berryman Read My Poems, feat. a Bottle of Whiskey.” If I did, I probably could give you a really good appraisal of the acting.

Several of these performers are from areas in Massachusetts. We have quite a lot of talent coming out of Massachusetts!

All in all, I would give the show four stars. It was not boring by any means. People would definitely come back for more!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Ice Testing; Porch Hawk; Elk Popcorn; Trouble At Wentworth; ATVs on Bike Path

Monday, 12/18

3:24 p.m. Caller reports that he was parked in his space in a lot on L Street overnight and when he went out this morning, it appeared that someone had backed into his vehicle and left the scene. Report taken.

4:23 p.m. Caller reporting that a tractor trailer accidentally took out the sign on the island in front of the Farren Care Center. Sign no longer disrupting traffic. Message left for DPW.

Tuesday, 12/19

9:02 a.m. Report of four or five youths playing on the ice below the dam on the Turners Falls side. Officer observed three subjects ice fishing, spoke with one subject who advised that he was fishing in the same spot yesterday and the ice was four inches thick. Relay same to TFFD.

12:05 p.m. Caller from Chestnut Hill Loop reporting that he heard 13 gunshots from the hill/wooded area behind his residence. Land behind residence is in the towns of Montague, Leverett, and Wendell. Conferred with Environmental Police, who will be notifying their units.

12:13 p.m. Report of two subjects on ice behind former Southworth Paper Mill. Subjects do not appear to be in distress, but caller is concerned that the ice may not be thick enough to be safe. TFFD and MPD officer advised; two subjects located north of reported area.

12:39 p.m. Report of unshoveled sidewalk on Bridge Street. Officer advised homeowner to clear front and side sidewalks.

5:53 p.m. Car vs. pedestrian on West Main Street. Pedestrian is breathing but is not up off the ground. Vehicle remaining on scene. Patient conscious and alert; transported to hospital.

Wednesday, 12/20

11:51 a.m. Report of possible breaking and entering in progress on G Street. Caller observed male using a screwdriver to gain access through a window. Officers spoke with male, who stated he was there doing repairs for the owner. Officer will follow up.

1:28 p.m. Caller requesting assistance with a hawk that is stuck in her enclosed porch, possibly injured. Provided number for Environmental Police.

Thursday, 12/21

[gap from 6 a.m. 12/21 to 6 a.m. 12/22 in the logs provided to the Reporter]

Friday, 12/22

12:05 p.m. Fire alarm activation at Elks Lodge. TFFD

received call from Elks advising the source was burnt popcorn. TFFD en route to help reset alarm.

10:13 p.m. Caller from K Street states that a plow truck sideswiped his vehicle, scratching the side of his car and breaking off the mirror. DPW supervisor advised. Caller will drive car to PD station tomorrow morning so that damage can be documented.

Saturday, 12/23

3:40 a.m. Caller from Oakman Street reporting barking dogs at a neighboring residence; says that dogs have been “howling” for six to eight hours. Officer clear, will follow up with dog owner later today.

9:19 a.m. Off-duty officer reporting a stop sign has been knocked down at Dell Street and Turners Falls Road. Piece of vehicle is still there with the sign. DPW notified.

8:18 p.m. Report of relatively fresh tire tracks in field at Unity Park. Report taken.

8:22 p.m. Caller reports that the roads in town have not been plowed and advised that roads are becoming a hazard, specifically Millers Falls Road. Officer contacted that Millers Falls Road is becoming slippery. Call placed to DPW.

8:22 p.m. Second call regarding road conditions, specifically Millers Falls Road. DPW is currently out treating/plowing roads. Officer spoke with caller.

Sunday, 12/24

8:56 a.m. 911 caller reporting being followed from Gill to Aubuchon Hardware by a man who he thought might want to start trouble with him. All parties advised to contact Gill PD if they want to file any charges. Parties sent on way. One party advised not to follow people around.

12:45 p.m. 911 call reporting that one resident assaulted another at Wentworth Congregate Housing. Peace restored; parties advised of options.

8:18 p.m. Multiple reports of fireworks being set off in area of Sheffield Elementary School. Complaint addressed; residents done for night.

11:04 p.m. Caller from Montague City Road requesting assistance dispatching and disposing of an opossum on his porch. Caller advises that opossum got aggressive with him and he fought it off with a broom, but now it is injured. Unable to put down due to its location. Advised of options.

Monday, 12/25

12:35 a.m. Caller from J Street reporting loud music in downstairs apartment. Officer clear; TV in common room was left on.

2:01 a.m. 911 caller from

Griswold Street reporting loud music and singing from apartment next door. Caller advises that he spoke with someone in that apartment around midnight; male acknowledged complaint, but music and singing have continued. Officer spoke to parties; they were advised of complaint and will quiet for night.

5:43 p.m. Caller reports that there is a meter-type box on the left side of her house and a red light is flashing on it. Caller recently purchased house and does not know what the box is for but believes it is owned by the Town of Montague. MCFD chief advises that box would not be anything owned by Town of Montague and suggested that it could either be a meter from the electric company or an alarm for a septic system or sump pump. Advised caller of findings.

9:13 p.m. 911 caller reporting assault/battery at Wentworth Congregate Housing. Units clear; parties separated upon arrival and agreed to stay in respective apartments for night.

10:05 p.m. Caller from High Street reports that her two vehicles were entered last night. No damage; one older GPS appears to have been taken. Advised caller that it is best to lock vehicles at all times. Officer advised caller of options.

Tuesday, 12/26

10:37 a.m. Report of hit and run in the parking lot of F.L. Roberts. Offending vehicle believed to be on surveillance tape. Report taken.

12:17 p.m. Report of vandalism to door screen and outside light on Fourth Street. Advised of options.

1:45 p.m. Report of past hit and run accident on Dell Street. Report taken.

9 p.m. Report of four youths, approximately 11 years old, screaming in front of a house on Fourth Street. Had been going on for roughly an hour. Caller asked them to stop, but they continue to scream. Area search negative.

Wednesday, 12/27

2:23 p.m. Set of sheets reported stolen from package on porch on Avenue A.

2:54 p.m. Caller reports that last night, people were riding snowmobiles and ATVs up and down the bike path until 10:30 p.m. Advised to call when in progress. Environmental Police dispatch number provided.

3 p.m. Report of kids tearing up yard on Turners Falls Road with snowmobiles. Caller has spoken with their father, who said he would talk to them, but issue has recurred. Advised of options.

4:21 p.m. Caller states that

his girlfriend took the key to his snowmobile and won’t return it. He does not know why.

9:44 p.m. Report of suspicious Jeep parked near basketball courts at Unity Park for several hours. Parties inside vehicle were watching a movie. Same moved along.

Thursday, 12/28

8:47 a.m. 911 call reporting assault at Wentworth Congregate Housing. Officer spoke with involved parties as well as with building manager, who is working on a mediation solution due to ongoing issues.

Friday, 12/29

10:02 a.m. 911 call reporting two-car accident on Old Stage Road: airbag deployment, unknown injuries. MCFD, MedCare, and PD responding. Officer requesting second ambulance. Both vehicles towed. Officer requesting DPW respond with sander due to icy road conditions.

10:22 a.m. Report of hit and run accident on Park Street early this morning. Report taken.

Saturday, 12/30

9:04 p.m. 911 call reporting female screaming from outside a vehicle on Montague City Road. Two occupants out of vehicle, one appears to be looking for something with a flashlight. Officer advises operator will be all set. Operator was driving on a temporary axle and was told it was OK to drive on; pulled over to check on it. Vehicle is operable.

Sunday, 12/31

4:05 a.m. Fire alarm at Wentworth Congregate Housing. Officer advises female pulled alarm because of heat problem in building and no cell phone available. Officer later reported no heat issue. Female party provided options and warned about activity.

10:50 a.m. TFFD took call reporting propane leak at Aubuchon Hardware. Engines en route. Leak stopped; scene under control.

11:59 a.m. Walk-in party reporting stolen vehicle. Investigated.

12:24 p.m. Caller from Third Street reports that flames are coming from a second-floor window in a house across the street. Officers on scene reporting grill fire. FD on scene.

9:36 p.m. Property manager on J Street receiving multiple calls from tenants in building reporting that a female who resides there has all the windows open and is yelling out the windows and at people outside. Same female also pulled fire alarm at 4 a.m. claiming there was no heat. Windows closed upon arrival, but female had locked herself out of apartment; awaiting arrival of maintenance.

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JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

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!

Our Place In The Sun

As more light returns to our earth after the winter solstice (December 22) the sunrise at the Breakfast Club horizon stops moving too far south to be seen from my window, and starts returning north. Solstice means ‘sun stands still,’ and indeed sunrise this day (7:10 a.m.) is only a minute earlier than it was at the beginning of winter. However, sunset is twenty-five minutes later, at 4:40 p.m., and gives us shoppers time to get home before dark.

The good *Old Farmers Almanac*, a true “calendar of the heavens” in its own words, alerts us to coming celestial events, gives us specific times of each sun and moon rising and setting and the widely varying periods of the visibility of the planets and other astronomical data. The Almanac is based in Boston, and here in New England we don’t have to adjust its tables for time and location.

To equate the sun moving north from its position over the Tropic of

Cancer with the changing ecliptic (sun’s apparent path across the sky) never gave me pause until it affected areas of light and shadow on the ponds and garden. With the sun shining down over the south pond, the ducks in the north pond can revel in the shade undetected.

My little tree sparrows can hide in the dark rhododendron, only brought to attention because the flashy cardinal feeds near them.

As spring equinox approaches, and the sun’s path is approaching midpoint, the bushes and the north pond will light up, and my favorite little hooded merganser who has stopped here some years will be apparent, if we are still on her itinerary. One year she brought a drake for a few days.

And so the Breakfast Club sightings are partly dependent on the specific spot on the forty-six degrees of my eastern horizon that launches the sun’s apparent journey for the day.



Hooded Merganser.

It’s a shorter trip to sunset when the ecliptic is to our south. As the path moves north, the trip, and our daylight, grows longer.

Right now, we’ve gained almost half an hour from the nine hours and four minutes of the shortest day of the year. We cheer the coming of brighter days and warmer sun from a prosaic world. Our own “where and when” determine the light and shadow in our lives. The sun is the constant.

Helios drives his chariot, the sustainer of light and life, as he has for eons. And we appreciate and adjust to the benefits and conditions of the eternal as we have the wit. (January 18, 2007)

Winter Visitors

Who would believe that ‘south for the winter’ means coming to New England? We are hosts to birds who nest and bring up their families in northern Canada and above the tree line to the Arctic, but come here for vacation time.

This open winter a new group of customers has found the Breakfast Club to their liking. In addition to our native chickadees and titmice, the American tree sparrows have become regular attendants.

They are lively little sparrows with a bright rusty cap on their head, and a dark spot on a clear breast. Two white wing bars complete a neat appearance for these ‘Winter Chippies,’ socalled because their rusty cap recalls the smaller chipping sparrow, whose busy ways and constant chip makes him a cherished part of the summer scene. The real chipping sparrow has gone further south.

The small flock of tree sparrows generally shares the flat feeder with the juncos and cardinals, and leaves the round feeder that requires small size and precision perching to the chickadees who deign to get seed without some flashy acrobatics.

The sparrows like weed seeds and seem content to enjoy the mix that the Breakfast Club offers. Last year a few of them stopped by, and the word seems to have spread.

The juncos, too, are birds that spend their summers in the North. However, they do make the Vermont hills a good nesting place among the many warblers that really go south for the winter. Juncos are such good basic birds. They show up nicely against the snow with their dark gray head and back, their white belly and light bill, which is often pinkish. White tail feathers announce them when they fly in and join the cardinal in checking the ground under the feeder for stray seed before they hop around in the rhododendron and wait for a spot in the tray.

Some years ago, accidental juncos from the west that



A pair of Juncos.

have brownish black and rusty sides were called Oregon juncos, but apparently now they are called northern juncos. The “Oregons” have been rare, and the slate-colored are fine, without ornament.

Another winter visitor that is sometimes spotted in the Montague meadows is the snow bunting. They come down from the arctic regions in flocks some winters and subsist on weed seeds in open areas. Flying over they look something like a flock of fat white sparrows, but on the ground their brownish backs and white wings blend in. It is worth checking out a flock of small whitish birds flying over or feeding in a country meadow.

The Breakfast Club has a 1973 record of snow buntings sighted here in the Center, and among early 1900s snapshots from the farm is the picture of a feeding flock of the winter visitors in the field in back of the house. We’re vacationland for the northerners. (February 8, 2007)

PLAINS from p. B1

Monday, 8/31/15

4:53 p.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant reports that her 12-year-old son left a note saying that he was running away. Boy last seen walking into the Plains. Officers on scene. Family able to make some contact with the child, who refused to come out of the woods. Child found and returned to parent.

Saturday, 5/7/16

10:50 a.m. Caller reports that while driving southbound on Turners Falls Road by the second entrance to the Montague Plains, he observed what appeared to be a human head on a stake on the side of the road. Officers checked area; object determined not to be a human head, was a Frankenstein mask on a stick.

Saturday, 6/11/16

10:13 p.m. Caller from Cumberland Farms requesting assistance for a highly intoxicated female who was just in the store, reportedly now headed over the Eleventh Street bridge. 911 call received from woman on Eleventh Street requesting assistance with her disabled vehicle that is in the Montague Plains; concerned that vehicle would be burned if it stayed in the Plains overnight. Responding officer advises that female is highly intoxicated; female’s boyfriend advises that vehicle is not in Plains, but is parked in the lot at the Mohawk Ramblers. Vehicle located in poor condition in parking lot; had obviously been used to go mudding. Officer will make contact with female to advise.

Friday, 4/7/17

1:34 p.m. Party into station inquiring about



which other agencies she could speak to: poaching concerns in the Plains and standing pools of water (manmade) that may attract mosquitoes come spring/summer. Caller provided with numbers for Environmental Police dispatch and Board of Health. 1:46 p.m. Report of white van stuck in mud and hung up on some trees on the access road to the Plains off of Millers Falls Road. Driver claimed that he was following his GPS and drove a good distance through the woods before coming to his current location. Vehicle winched out by Rau’s. Officer viewed operator’s GPS with his permission and verified his account.

Saturday, 5/6/17

11:54 a.m. Caller requesting to speak with Environmental Police re: violations involving ATVs and dirt bikes in the Montague Plains. Information relayed to EP dispatch.

Friday, 5/12/17

9:51 a.m. Report of dirt bike dumped in the Plains. Unable to trace VIN. Bike secured at Rau’s.

Saturday, 6/17/17

2:12 p.m. Report of several subjects tar-

get shooting in the Montague Plains in or in the vicinity of the sand pits. Conferenced with Environmental Police Dispatch. EPO will be responding.

Sunday, 6/25/17

8:03 p.m. 911 caller reporting that he can see a brush fire off in the distance behind his home. Fire is on border to Montague Plains. MCFD en route. Road to access location of brush fire blocked by locked gate; officer able to get combination to lock from an Ever-source employee. All PD units clear; MCFD remaining on scene extinguishing fire.

Sunday, 9/17/17

1:32 p.m. Caller requesting assistance getting out of the Plains; was trying to find a location in Lake Pleasant and followed her GPS, but is now stuck behind a locked gate. Caller advises that in process of getting where she is now, she sustained damage to her vehicle. Officer located vehicle; advises that dispatch key did not open lock. Environmental police and TFFD contacted for another key; while contacting same, advised by officer to disregard; access gained.



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MILL from page B1

talk to you. Your job is being changed. We are not sure what you will be doing yet, you will have to talk to the mill manager and personnel manager.”

I had a sit down with them and then they said, “We’ve eliminated that job; we don’t think there is a need for it.” All the internal chemicals... Are you kidding me? Yup. They said, “You are going to be like a high-end utility person.”

I said, “What? I have been here 28 years, and you want me to be a walk-in-the-door utility-type person? I’m not doing that.”

The mill manager said, “We are not union, we are a non-union shop, and I can make anybody do anything I want.” I thought, *you rotten bastard*. He was really cocky like that.

I did some of that job for a little bit, and they basically then put me in facility maintenance for the same rate of pay. I was making \$18 an hour. They can’t cut my pay, so it was okay, but it wasn’t doing what I wanted to do.

Then, a month or so before they closed, they had a new mill manager and personnel manager, because those two left – they had been two of the worst people there. And they said, “We kind of want you to take care of the water again, and also take care of all the color filters, too.”



A portion of the paper making machine at Southworth Paper Company, circa 2011.

I said, “You don’t have any filters for your color.”

They said, “Well, we are going to buy those little l’Egg pantyhose and try to strain it through there.”

I said, “You’re going to strain 50 gallons of thick soup through a pair of pantyhose? That’s not going to work!”

There are certain things down there that very few people know. Like that they have a heat exchanger – my old boss and I are the only ones that know that. It takes the effluent water from the treatment plant that’s going to the town, and runs it through this box.

On one side the water from the treatment plant runs through, and on the other side the water from our clean well runs through, the water for the paper machines. There are these little fins that go back and forth, so the warm water heats up the cold water 5 or 10 degrees, which is a huge savings. They got that in a grant from the gas company, which I am sure they lost their shirt on, because it wasn’t paid off.

They had a lot of government grants that – I don’t know, the government ate the money because it didn’t come to fruition.

Like, we had this nanofibers thing. We were supposedly getting rid of 14,000 pounds a week of this stuff! But they never did. They moved a few 50-gallon drums and a few totes of it. Cellulose nanofibers, is what it was. It doesn’t even feel like regular pulp, because the fibers are so small. They had the University of Maine in to develop



this product, but they couldn’t keep their head above water: there was no money in the bank, and our vendors couldn’t deliver.

One time I went to Food City to get twelve gallons of distilled water at \$1.39 a gallon, and I brought it to the register, and the company credit card was denied. I paid for it out of my pocket and handed the card back to the manager.

I wasn’t born yesterday! That was within the last six months of the closing. We knew it wasn’t going well, but still we didn’t know it was that bad.

company, and those little companies didn’t prosper like they thought they were going to. David Southworth had half the company, but he was forced out. It was him that decided to sell the name: he sold 60% of the company, made \$7 million for shareholders to line their pockets, or somebody did.

All the employees wanted to know, where did the money go? How did you get millions of dollars in debt in two months? Total mismanagement, or something. It was bad.

I made out better than some of the people there. I mean, I am old enough so that I am right on the edge of retirement. These guys, they had brand new houses, car payments, kids, wives – they are basically screwed. I can’t imagine being 25, with a brand new house and wife and kid, and suddenly you got nothing? Some of them probably lost their shirt.

Thank God I am on my wife’s health insurance. Come to find out, we were working for Southworth, but getting paid through this other company, and we actually had no insurance on that Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, because they cancelled the insurance the Saturday before they let us go. Say someone was on the floor and slipped and fell? They didn’t have insurance, so we basically worked for two and a half days without insurance whatsoever. And they kept saying “we aren’t going to close!”

The day it closed, we asked, “Why didn’t you tell us?”

And they said, “We didn’t want you guys going through what we been going through, getting turned down everywhere, getting jerked around by the banks...” But, huh. They were all swearing it would never close. We never thought we would have no notice.

I’m collecting unemployment now, but it took me three months to get my first unemployment check. I’m working, and kind of looking for work, and trying to figure out if I even have to work. I have my mother’s father living with us, and I am his personal care assistant. My wife started back teaching again, subbing part time in the Greenfield schools. She worked with the SPED kids.

Rumor has it they are going to open it back up. I would go back and show them what I know, but it wouldn’t be cheap, and I wouldn’t go back to being the facility maintenance person. I didn’t have any morale the way I was treated, with no respect. If somebody wants to reopen, I’ll go back in that door for X amount of money: you want water in there? I’ll figure it out... Run the filters? There is stuff in there that is shut off that me and my old boss are about the only ones that know about.

Whoever gets it, I hope they make a go of it.



ArtWeek Festival Presents Opportunities This Spring

From combined sources

FRANKLIN COUNTY – A statewide arts festival called ArtWeek will be coming this spring to Franklin County, and the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce has just announced they are official collaborators on this venture. The Chamber writes that ArtWeek is an “award-winning innovative festival featuring hundreds of unique and creative experiences that are hands-on, interactive or offer behind-the-scenes access to arts, culture, and the creative process.” The festival is slated for ten days, from April 27 to May 7.

“One of Franklin County’s greatest economic drivers is our creative economy. ArtWeek provides an excellent opportunity for our creative communities to shine,” said Natalie Blais, executive director of the Chamber. “With three official cultural districts and scores of artists and creative organizations in our area, we are looking forward to a concentrated week of festivities that highlight the creative industry that helps to fuel the quality of life in our region.”

Applications for the festival are now available at artweekma.org. The “early bird” deadline to submit an ArtWeek event is January 8, and the final deadline is February 28. Individuals or groups may apply to offer free, or for-a-fee, experiences that visitors may enjoy. The Chamber and ArtWeek work to promote all events.

ArtWeek was created in Boston in 2013 by the Boch Center, one of the nation’s leading nonprofit performing arts institutions, and a guardian of the historic Wang and Shubert Theaters in Boston. This year marks the first expansion across the Commonwealth.

Josiah A. Spaulding, Jr., president & CEO of the Boch Center, claims “ArtWeek is an innovative festival that works to spotlight how the creative economy is thriving in Massachusetts. Each year ArtWeek showcases unique experiences spanning dance, fashion, media arts, spoken-word, poetry, writing, culinary, visual arts, music, opera, theater, design, film, and more. And the best part is that many of the events are free, making it affordable and accessible to everyone!”

Experience tourism has become the “new thing” sending people to destinations. Prime examples of this is the “experiences” that are now available through the giant hosting site AirBnB. These “experiences,” as yet only available in a handful of major cities worldwide through AirBnB, offer a glimpse of the future. Experts and not-so-experts share their knowledge in a wide variety of fields, including cheese mak-

ing, wine tasting, niche shopping, art making, music, dancing, hiking and outdoor sports, local history, etc.

Certainly Franklin County has many experiences that visitors could immerse themselves in with a talented population that is active creatively in agriculture, fine arts, crafts, dance, music, theater and other cultural activities.

ArtWeek received several awards already including “Best of the New” from the *Boston Globe* and “Fifty on Fire” by BostInno. ArtWeek was also a finalist for the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network 2016 Excellence Award in Collaboration. It has been spotlighted in airline magazines, as well as Expedia, Forbes and USA Today’s “Go Escape” magazines.

A look at previous events hosted during ArtWeek in Boston reveal a wide variety of offerings: groups making public art; open mic events; hip-hop lessons on Boston Common; jazz scene immersions; a Jedi Lego tournament; exclusive museum tours; tiny home tours; etc. Most were offered for free or under \$25.

A peek at the application: it seems relatively easy to apply, with a short description and a few pictures.

Time to put on the collective brainstorming session and see how to jump on this very large bandwagon. Tie-ins and partnerships within individuals, organizations and villages, or between artists working in complementary media, or between artists/musicians and chefs/bnb’s, could make Franklin County a very popular destination.

Lisa Davol, marketing and membership manager at the Chamber, says that they are planning a session on how Western Mass can tie in to this event on January 11 at noon at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst. It will be a webinar with Sue Sullivan, chief of staff at Citi Performing Arts Center, the producer of ArtWeek. “People who can’t make it down there can join the webinar. I will have details on that soon,” Lisa promised. To check up on details, call her at the Chamber: (413) 773-5463.

Apply through the artweekma.org website before February 28 for inclusion in the ArtWeek 2018 festival, which takes place April 27 through May 7.

Statewide partners for ArtWeek include the Mass Cultural Council, Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism as well as Mass Center for the Book, MASSCreative, MassHumanities, MassPoetry, New England Foundation for the Arts, New England Museum Association, Young Audiences of Massachusetts, and VSA Massachusetts.

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Interview with an Activist on Climate Science

By LISA McLOUGHLIN

This is the first in a series of articles about how non-scientists use science in what they love to do.

NORTHFIELD – Cate Woolner is a local environmental activist who is one of the original conveners of the Sugar Shack Alliance that was formed in response to the proposed NED pipeline. She trains people who are considering participating in non-violent civil disobedience, and also prepares individuals to be peacekeepers at actions and demonstrations.

Cate has also been a mediator and ombudsperson, and is an amateur photographer. She firmly believes that environmental justice and racial justice do, and must, go hand-in-hand. For instance, communities of color and other marginalized groups are most often the targets of environmental degradation, as in Flint, Michigan, which still does not have adequate clean water.

Cate got her start as an activist protesting the Vietnam War, and as an environmental activist on the first Earth Day in the 1970s. Her activism led her to the anti-nuclear movement, trying to stop the construction of the Seabrook nuclear power plant. On the heels of the oil crisis, nuclear power was being touted as both clean and safe.

Science helps us parse those arguments more clearly. While nuclear power does not put smoke into the atmosphere while it is producing power, the processes by which its raw materials are extracted from the earth are themselves energy-intensive and heavily reliant on fossil fuels. Nuclear power produces excess heat which requires cooling, often using a nearby river.

Since Vermont Yankee closed, the Connecticut River is cooler, which is healthier for fish, since cooler water contains more oxygen for them to breathe.

As for safety, after the Fukushima disaster in 2011, the UK newspaper *The Guardian* identified 33 serious incidents and accidents at nuclear power stations since the first one was recorded in 1952, with Chernobyl in 1986 being the worst ever.

Even without accidents, nuclear waste stays hazardous to life for mil-



Tailings pond and debris pile left over from uranium mining adjacent to the Colorado River.

lions of years. The half-life of nuclear waste was an especially important issue to Cate. There is no safe place, no place outside Earth to store it safely, it remains a problem for our environment forever. For example, Vermont Yankee is leaking radioactive waste into our river still, even though it's not operating, and the legacy of uranium mining is ruin and waste.

Cate's scientific outlook leads her to take a holistic view that links multiple issues: non-industrial agriculture, elimination of fossil fuels, and less urban sprawl. All have the goal of preserving the land in as natural a state as possible, and avoiding harming the environment with chemicals, radiation, and other pollutants.

Her political and environmental stance rejects profit-over-people and the associated drive for increasing speed and convenience at the expense of meeting basic needs for all. "We've lost sight of the difference between 'need' and 'want,' as well as the ability to figure out long term effects," she says.

Her call for further analysis of both the cycle and the inputs, is scientific too. Cate points out that US culture exports both the good and the bad in our way of life, and now other countries emulate: e.g. the over-use of plastic and our throwaway practices to the detriment of the entire planet. A systemic approach to production, utilization, and disposal/re-utilization is needed, as well as an overall reduction in the amount of stuff we have. Less greed, more green.

I asked Cate what people who want to help the environment could do. She suggests starting out by educating yourself about an issue using good solid sources: scientific journal articles, websites of reputable scientific organizations, and talking to your peers are places to start. Then, move into action.

Action can be a range of things, and people can do whatever in that range appeals to them. Direct action, such as participating in a protest, is one way to make your cause more visible. Or you can start small, e.g. with letters to the editor of your local paper (the *Montague Reporter* would love to hear from you). Cate is also a big fan of using art, music, and literature to bring people together around an issue. Students can consider interning.

Don't be disappointed if things don't change right away. Change takes a long time, and lots of organizing and work. Joining an activist or environmental group helps to create community. Many existing organizations combine both science and activism to various degrees and range from policy advisors to non-violent direct activists. Climate Action Now, the Connecticut River Conservancy, your local land trust, and the Sugar Shack Alliance are just a few of the many excellent environmental organizations in our region.

Cate is heartened to see many college-age people coming up in the ranks. "Science is the best tool to persuade people," she says, and raw data, photos (e.g. the glaciers and how they shrink from year to year), and data-driven arguments are powerful and will change people's minds.

I asked Cate why the environment is so important to her. "There is no Planet B," she says. "It's all we have here. Science won't save us if we stay on the path we're on; I hope the earth is here long after we're dead, it's a magnificent planet – in and of itself, it's a magnificent orb and evolution is fascinating, and we have a capacity to mess it up: why throw it away, destroy it?"

WEBSITE REVIEW Tools for Conservation: i-Tree (itreetools.org)

By LISA McLOUGHLIN

i-Tree is a suite of free, public domain applications and desktop programs from the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service. They quantify the economic and environmental benefits of trees, and help with tree-related decisions, such as what species will do well in a certain place based on the desired benefits from the tree.

While it looks most useful for urban foresters and homeowners with landscaping who have decisions to make about plantings, the website stresses that this set of programs has something for everyone: designers, planners, and citizen-scientists: "By understanding the local, tangible ecosystem services that trees provide, i-Tree users can link forest management activities with environmental quality and community livability. Whether your interest is a single tree or an entire forest, i-Tree provides baseline data that you can use to demonstrate value and set priorities for more effective decision-making."

For example, i-Tree's ECO application is useful to look up the benefits being provided by any given tree. Pollution removal and human health impacts; carbon sequestration and storage; avoided runoff; and building energy effects can all be calculated



for one or more trees.

You input specifics (such as the species, its size, its health, what type of land it's on) into an electronic form in the field, and the program calculates and produces an analysis about the value of that tree, and other factors such as its vulnerability to injury.

The i-Tree Streets application does something similar, but is set up for suburban and urban trees alongside streets. i-Tree Hydro offers analysis that focus on water quality and runoff based on proposed changes in the tree cover (e.g. logging).

Very unfortunately, this program is not compatible with Mac/Apple operating systems, but Apple devices can still be used to collect information in the field using the web.

Moon Calendar for January 2018:

Monday, January 1:
Full Moon

Monday, January 8:
Last Quarter

Wednesday,
January 31:
Full Moon

Wednesday,
January 24:
First Quarter

Tuesday,
January 16:
New Moon

Note: Two full moons this month. On Monday, January 1 the full moon rises at 4:22 p.m., and on Wednesday, January 31 the full moon rises at 5:24 p.m. (if you have a clear horizon line, which not many of us do, so be patient as the moon comes up over the hills).

The Great Falls Discovery Center is now on winter hours, open 5 days a week, Wednesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All programs are free to the public unless otherwise noted. Free admission. Facilities are accessible. Check out events at www.greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org.



The Sugar Shack Alliance and friends, protesting the Kinder Morgan Pipeline in Sandisfield in 2017.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ONGOING EVENTS:

EVERY SUNDAY

McCusker's Co-op Market, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*. Musicians, all levels, traditional Irish music. 10:30 a.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.

FIRST SUNDAY MONTHLY

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

EVERY MONDAY

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

2ND AND 4TH MONDAYS

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

EVERY TUESDAY

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAYS

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

EVERY THIRD THURSDAY

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

EVERY FRIDAY

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

EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

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

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

EVERY FOURTH FRIDAY

Community Yoga and Wellness Center, Greenfield: *Greenfield Circle Dance*. 6 to 8 p.m. \$

EXHIBITS:

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*



On Saturday, January 6, Great Falls Creative Movement will host its annual winter open house offering a day of free creative dance classes for children of all ages: come see what creative dance is all about! Learn about the winter programs and check the beautiful space. A Free Class for 3- to 6-year-olds will be held at 10 a.m. and free class for 6- to 12-year-olds will be held 11:30 a.m. At the Movement Studio, located on the 2nd floor of The Brick House Community Resource Center, 24 Third St. in downtown Turners Falls.

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 Ly-

ons 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.

CALL 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.

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *One Time Weekend* features funky, jazzy, rock, soul, rap, and reggae. *The Diamondstones* are a five piece rock and roll group. *Ginja Low Main* is a progressive funk rock band knocking on the doors of fusion. 9 p.m. \$

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Joe Belmont Experience*. Accomplished veterans of the Northeast music scene Joe Belmont (guitars), Rudi Weeks (bass) and Eliezar Martinez (drums). They play a blend of jazz, original compositions, funk, classic songs, Chicago blues, and jamming. 6 p.m. \$

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

New Salem Library, New Salem: *Reading Aloud for Grownups* program begins with Deb and Andy Lichtenberg of Pelham, veteran readers who both have MFAs from the UMass theater department. Wine, cheese, coffee, tea and desserts will be offered during the program. 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Shad Ladder Radio Hour*. Community 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*. Grateful Dead cover band. 8 p.m. \$

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *Do It Now!* Paul Richmond, Tony Vacca, and John Sheldon create a burlesque of poetry, storytelling, political com-

mentary and musical improvisation. Richmond was recently named Beat Poet Laureate by the National Beat Poetry Foundation. 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. \$

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




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JEFFREY WEBSTER PHOTOS

Quoth the raven, "Nevermore!"

FEATHERS from page B1

it is a jay that is blue, but it is definitely not a true crested blue jay. Blue jays that can legitimately claim the name occur primarily east of the Rockies, except in Canada. Florida also has a scrub jay, which is a separate species from its Western cousin.

Other daily sightings in our suburban Sacramento neighborhood included clown-like yellow-billed magpies, Brewer’s blackbirds, black phoebes, lesser goldfinches, Nuttall’s woodpeckers, plus Anna’s hummingbirds at my feeders. The only hummingbird seen in New England is the ruby-throated.

Day trips to nearby foothill regions brought sightings of mountain and chestnut-backed chickadees, California quail (the state bird), California thrashers and the vibrant, crayon-colored western tanager. Two swift species were white-throated and Vaux’s.

Now we live in the Sonoran Desert, flocking together with snowbirds of the human variety, and permanent residents like us who prefer heat to cold. We are happy to once again host cardinals in our backyard – and I’m not talking about the football team that lives a couple of hours up the interstate.

The jays here are Mexican jays. They look like scrub jays on steroids. Gambel’s quail are prolific. One evening, we counted 35 adults and juve-

niles flying, one by one, up into our olive tree to roost for the night.

Common nighthawks have been replaced by their cousins, the lesser nighthawks. We sit on our patio on summer evenings and watch them flit like moths as they feast on flying insects.

As I was working on this piece, I was listening to quail chatting with one another out front, while a cactus wren was preening itself in the back. The cactus wren is Arizona’s state bird, and a pair nests in a cholla cactus just behind our back wall.

Curved-billed thrashers are ubiquitous, sitting on roofs and saguaros whistling their presence.

We still have mourning doves, but in summer they must compete with larger white-winged doves. Surprisingly, we do not have crows here, but ravens are everywhere – both the common and Chihuahuan varieties. Grackles here are the long-tailed species. The cardinal-like pyrrhuloxia and the glossy-black phainopepla, both sporting chic crests, are weirdly-named Southwestern birds that I never tire of seeing.

And, of course, you can’t think of desert birds without roadrunners coming to mind. Yes, we have plenty of “Wiley Coyotes,” too!

When I reflect on the places we’ve called home, I conjure up images of some of my favorite birds of those areas. I can still clearly see those common nighthawks darting above Third Street on warm evenings. I wonder if they’re still there.

Jeffrey Webster (TFHS ‘65: “Go...” – insert new team name here) hopes to see 600 North American bird species in his lifetime. His North American list currently numbers 538. He’ll need a trip to Alaska and another trip to Texas to even come close.



A thirsty roadrunner at the writer’s birdbath.

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MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Happy 2018! We hope you had a good holiday season and that you stay safe in the cold days to come.

We appreciate your viewership over the past year, and here at Montague Community television, we’re looking forward to an exciting year for video production and local programming.

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

Contact us at (413) 863-9200, infomontaguetv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners Falls between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We’d love to work with you!

January 13: Fourth Annual Vermont Crankie Fest!

BRATTLEBORO, VT – Celebrate the magic and diversity of “crankies” at New England Youth Theater at 7:30 p.m. this January 13 with a vibrant collection of artists presenting their work.

Sweeping the nation, crankies are illustrated scrolls that are hand-cranked within a small wooden theater, accompanying songs and stories. This show will bring together artists from far and wide, with crankies that accompany Scottish stories, original poems, Appalachian ballads, and even a barn quilt trail.

In the afternoon at 3 p.m., there

will be a community crankie-making workshop where everyone will have a chance to work on one giant crankie for Si Kahn’s classic song, “Here is My Home”, reflecting on what we value about our community.

At the end of the evening performance, local legend Tony Barand will lead the audience in the song while the group crankie is performed. (Suggested donation for the community workshop is \$5 to \$20.)

NEYT is located at 100 Flat Street in Brattleboro. Tickets are \$18 in advance (vtcrankiefest.brownpapertickets.com); \$20 at the door.

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