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YEAR 16 – NO. 17

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 15, 2018

Family Displaced by Fire Begins to Rebuild Home, But Faces Major Challenges



Left to right: Pat Gates-Tetreault, Jeremy and Wayne Tetreault, on the front steps of their Barney Hale Road home. The red sign beside them reads "Unsafe Building."

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL – "The first day was the easiest day, believe it or not," Pat Gates-Tetreault says, moving a panel of insulation to reveal the burnt-out cellar of her small house on Barney Hale Road. "Because nobody died, nobody got hurt, and that's all that mattered."

Last Tuesday morning, Pat and her husband, Wayne Tetreault, had just woken up, fed the woodstove, and put on coffee when their smoke detector went off. Within minutes, their life had changed. The cause of the fire that engulfed their basement has still not been determined, but the damage it caused was extensive, and they and their two adult sons

are currently homeless.

To make matters worse, the family was among the estimated 3.5 to 4 million uninsured American homeowners. Though firefighters worked hard to save the house, the Tetreaults don't know how they will afford the extensive repairs required to make the building habitable again.

Every day for the last week, with some help from their sons' friends, the family has been hauling out debris. Burnt sheetrock mixed with water from the battle and refroze, leaving eight inches of dense, toxic muck on the cellar floor. They are chipping it off the ground and loading it into barrels in Wayne's pickup truck in order to bring it, along

see **DISPLACED** page A5

Weekly Lunches Help Veterans "Build Bridges"

By KAREN SHAPIRO MILLER

GREENFIELD – By a quarter to twelve, the vets crowded the room – mostly Vietnam vets, a few from World War II, a few from Korea – mostly men. They clapped each other on the shoulder, and called greetings across the room. Folding tables, covered in white paper cloths, lined the walls; in the middle of the room, a banquet table, bearing warming trays, flowers, and American flags.

These vets gather weekly at the Greenfield Elks Club to share a meal, but this snowy day in January was special: the first anniversary

of their group, Building Bridges' Greenfield chapter.

Building Bridges is a part of an effort started three years ago by the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts to support veterans. It offers lunches to vets in Northampton, Worcester, West Springfield, South Deerfield, Florence, and Greenfield. "When we started the program here in Greenfield, a year ago, we had 17 veterans," said Chad Wright, Building Bridges' associate director. "Now, we're over 70 veterans every week."

"I started doing outreach [for the group] last April," recalls Maria

see **LUNCHES** page A6



MILLER PHOTO

Each week, local vets gather at the Greenfield Elks to share lunch and "build bridges." The program, sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese, has been successful in its turnout.

WENDELL SELECTBOARD International School Shows Interest in Lot Sought for Solar Project

By JOSH HEINEMANN

By postponing their meeting, regularly scheduled for Wednesday February 7, by one day, the Wendell selectboard members sidestepped the need to drive through snow that changed to rain and ice. By Thursday evening roads were cleared and sanded and the selectboard could meet without additional risk.

That agenda was long and included discussion of the warrant for the special town meeting, scheduled for February 27, and a possible wrinkle in the plan for a community solar farm.

That wrinkle came in the form of Brandon Stack, representing Kemsley Academy, who told the selectboard that Kemsley has interest in the town-owned property at 97 Wendell Depot Road, the same property that the community solar project has been considering. The solar project has worked with the conservation commission, worked on setbacks, and made a site plan that would allow an array with up to 250 kW of generating capacity.

Stack said that the school would use the land for playing fields, and that they have interest in the house on the lot as an example of early New England construction and architecture. (In summers, Kemsley holds sessions for middle school students from Beijing, many of whom have little experience with early American architecture and construction methods.)

Stack said that Kemsley has little interest in the land across the street, which the town also owns as part of the same property, for unpaid taxes. Selectboard chair Christine Heard invited Stack to the February 27 town meeting to speak about this proposal.

see **WENDELL** page A5

UPHILL BOTH WAYS



CHRISTINE LIMOGES PHOTO

On Wednesday morning, ten students from Sheffield and Hillcrest schools, joined by parents, administrators and other staff members, and two police escorts, gathered at 2nd Street Baking Co. at 7:45 in the morning to make the trek to school on foot. The walk was held in conjunction with a statewide "Winter Walk and Roll to School" event, sponsored by MassDOT's "Safe Routes to School" project.

Rep. Kulik Will Pass on Reelection Bid

By REPORTER STAFF

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Steve Kulik, who has served as the state House representative for the First Franklin district since 1993, announced earlier this week that he will not seek reelection in the fall.

Kulik serves as vice-chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, and sits on the powerful conference committee that reconciles the House and Senate versions of the annual state budget.

Kulik, a Worthington resident and a one-time member of that town's selectboard, was first elected to the House in a 1993 midterm election. At that time, the district ran along a thin line from Worthington to Athol, including Montague, Leverett and

see **KULIK** page A7

G-M SCHOOL COMMITTEE Logo Taskforce Hands List to School Board

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – Tuesday's meeting of the regional school committee included a formal hearing on next year's budget, word of a local filmmaker's plans to document the softball team this spring, and the receipt of a list of nearly 60 names the "logo/nickname taskforce" believes meet the criteria set for a new team identity at the high school.

Superintendent Michael Sullivan ran through the \$21,733,440 budget his administration is proposing for FY'19. State aid now accounts for under one-third of anticipated revenue, and \$11,232,240 would be charged to the towns.

"Since we spoke last, I shifted the

see **GMRSD** page A6

TFHS Sports: The Week In Review

By MATT ROBINSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – This week, the Turners Falls High School cheerleaders hit the road dancing, the girls' basketball team lost a slugfest to Putnam, the boys' basketball team dropped two, and the swim teams hung up their towels.

The school celebrated and acknowledged nine student athletes it will lose to graduation. On Friday, February 9, the home crowd cheered Maddy Chmyzinski, Chloe Ellis, Abby Loynd, Emma Miner, and Aliyah Sanders as they got their pictures taken and received flowers.

And on Monday, the boys' basketball seniors, David Tricolici, Jimmy Vaughn, and Javoni Williams got their accolades, as well as Kayli Messinger, the only senior on the cheer squad. Her teammates chanted, "Give that girl a hand!" as she tearfully smiled for the cameras.

Coach Sarah Underwood reported that the squad had a very successful weekend. "We did well," she said in a hoarse voice, "Better than we've done in previous competitions."

On Saturday in Chicopee, her ladies finished third, just 6 points out of second. Then on Sunday at Holyoke High School, the girls mixed it up and danced a completely different routine. In the Holyoke contest, only

see **TFHS SPORTS** page A4



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners senior David Tricolici drives the ball to hoop as Pioneer's Jordan Loughman defends on Senior Night at TFHS.

The Montague Reporter

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Kulik Decision Compounds Western MA Leadership Void

By JEFF SINGLETON

This week Steve Kulik, who has long served as state representative for the First Franklin District, announced he'll leave the legislature this year. "I've enjoyed the work," he told the press. "I really love my district. The issues I have been able to work on, the people I have been able to work with. But I felt like I was getting to the point of 25 years where you reflect a bit and think about other things you want to do with your time."

Media reports focused on the issues important to small towns Kulik has dealt with over the years—regional school transportation, broadband, and community preservation. Kulik, by all counts, is a tireless legislator who built a strong base among his colleagues in recent years. He has fought hard for his "progressive" beliefs, but is also a nice guy who knows how to get things done.

The former Worthington selectboard member has worked his way into a leadership position on Beacon Hill, serving as vice-chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, which oversees the state budget in collaboration with the Senate and Governor's office.

We are now knee deep in that budget process, which has an enormous impact on every city and town in the state, the environment, and human services programs. So it's hard not to notice Kulik's decision comes on the heels of Stan Rosenberg stepping down, in theory temporarily, as president of the state Senate.

Rosenberg has served in the Senate since 1991 and was unanimously elected as its president in 1995. Last November, the *Boston Globe* reported that his husband, Bryon Hefner, had been accused of sexual assault by at least four men. The *Globe* also reported Hefner had bragged he had influence over Senate policy decisions. The latter seemed to be linked to the former. The Senate ethics committee, state Attorney General, Suffolk County DA, and even the FBI are all reportedly investigating Hefner.

The media and political fallout has focused as much on Rosenberg as his partner. Whether this is fair or not is a topic for another editorial. On December 4, Rosenberg announced he would temporarily step down as Senate president. "I want to ensure that the investigation is fully independent and credible, and that anyone who wishes to come forward will feel confident

that there will be no retaliation," he wrote in a letter to colleagues.

Democrats elected Harriette Chandler, the Senate majority leader from Worcester, as "interim" president. But almost immediately it was reported that at least four candidates were considering running for president, in theory Rosenberg's job through 2018. These rumors became so ubiquitous that Chandler, who expressed no interest in the job, announced that Democrats considering replacing Rosenberg had agreed to run "low key" campaigns.

In early January, *Globe* reporter Yvonne Abraham reported Rosenberg had directed his staff to grant Hefner access to his emails, contacts, and calendar. Rosenberg told the *Hampshire Gazette* this report contained "significant factual inaccuracies," and that "I will have further comment once the [Senate] investigation is complete."

On February 7 the Senate unanimously approved a motion removing the word "acting" from Chandler's title for the duration of 2018. Chandler justified the change by stressing the upcoming state budget: "We have work to do for the people who elected us... 'acting' does not quite do it any more." The jury remains out on whether Rosenberg will be able to resume his duties as Senate president, or even wants to, under the present circumstances.

There's little evidence Rosenberg's troubles influenced Steve Kulik's decision. Kulik has been spending large amounts of time in Boston for 25 years. All signs indicate he likes living in western Mass, and he hardly strikes one as a man wedded to power.

Still, it's hard not to feel that our region has been subjected to an odd double whammy. Western Mass has a kind of inferiority complex when it comes to state politics. It's assumed Beacon Hill is controlled by people who think the world ends at Route 495: they don't realize that rural schools need lots of expensive bus transportation; they drowned bucolic small towns to build the Quabbin. Every crumbling bridge – and there are many – is blamed on the Big Dig.

But then, miraculously, the President of the Senate and the vice-chair of House Ways and Means were from our region. Men in power understood the importance of UMass and small farms.

It was a dream come true – until we awoke, abruptly, in the cold winter of 2017-18.



Lenore Morimoto, a frequent customer at the Wendell Post Office, enjoys a laugh with Dave Jarvis, the "kinda postmaster and chief village stamp licker."

Letter to the Editors

Eyes on Janus

On February 26, 2018, the US Supreme Court will hear the case *Janus v. AFSCME*. Mark Janus, an Illinois social worker, is suing his union because he doesn't want to pay dues or fees.

Mr. Janus objects to paying for the union benefits he receives, and he represents the interests of those corporations and billionaires who want to weaken public-sector unions, the strongest unions remaining in this country.

Why is this case important to us in western Massachusetts?

The University of Massachusetts Amherst is the largest employer in western Massachusetts, and its employees are the largest unionized workforce in New England.

Our wages and benefits, contractually protected and negotiated by the many unions who represent us, provide us with the living wages that underpin our local economy. Wisconsin is a case in point. Since public employee unions were gutted in 2011, median pay and benefits for teachers has declined by \$10,842.

At a time when workers and the middle class in America are under siege, we need the organized power of unions more than ever. Unions give every member an opportunity to actively engage with management to improve their working conditions and compensation. Unions protect and advocate for employees, and at UMass, for students too.

For a stronger western Massachusetts, and country, support your union and your union members.

Christine Turner Montague
Librarian, UMass-Amherst
Vice President, Massachusetts Society of Professors

GUEST EDITORIAL

Solar Companies Call for Real Leadership From State House

This editorial, submitted by Vote Solar (votesolar.org), was signed by **Greg Garrison** (Northeast Solar, Hatfield), **Bill Stillinger** (PV Squared Solar, Greenfield), and **Claire Chang** (Solar Store of Greenfield, Greenfield), in addition to 12 other solar energy business owners around the state.

BOSTON – For years Massachusetts has proudly led our nation's growing solar energy economy, harnessing local sunshine and local innovation to create jobs and lower energy bills in communities across the Commonwealth. But today that leadership is at risk, and we need Governor Baker and our state legislators to take bold action.

Our locally-owned and operated solar installation companies are located statewide, from Martha's Vineyard to the Berkshires, and range in size from eight to 80 employees. Collectively, we employ more than 400 solar workers who installed 1,500 solar systems for nearly 20 megawatts of solar power capacity just last year. Our organizations have been in business for 15 years on average, so we have seen the Massachusetts solar market grow from its very beginning.

This week, we learned that the number of solar workers in Massachusetts dropped by 21%, the second largest decline of any state in the nation, from the Solar Foundation's 2017 Solar Jobs Census. Massachusetts lost more solar jobs – 3,000 – than were *gained* by 20 other states combined.

This marks the second year in a row of job losses in what should be, and has been for the past decade, a bright spot in our local economy. The Commonwealth still ranks among the leading solar employers in the U.S., but the fact that new residential solar installations declined by half – from over 23,000 in 2016 to approximately 10,000 in 2017 – is a worrying trend from a state that claims to be leading the nation on clean energy and climate.

The decline in last year's solar installation and employment numbers was caused by a combination of national market trends, state policy uncertainty – including a long running and frustratingly intermittent cap on

one of Massachusetts' most successful solar programs (net metering), and a much-longer-than-expected development effort for the state's next solar compensation program.

And already in the first month of 2018, Massachusetts regulators rubber-stamped an unfair new charge that will hike bills for future solar customers of the Commonwealth's largest utility, Eversource. The only other time a utility has imposed this type of confusing and costly "demand charge" on residential customers was in Arizona in 2015, and it resulted in an astounding 95% decrease in solar adoption by the utility's customers.

Adding insult to injury, President Trump approved an additional misguided 30% tariff on imported solar panels, which puts even more of our solar installation jobs at risk as federal uncertainty turns to outright hostility.

Given the assault on solar in Massachusetts, our local green economy cannot afford anything less than bold leadership from Massachusetts policymakers to get us through this troubled time. State leaders have the power to raise the restrictive net metering cap, reverse the Eversource solar tax, thoughtfully implement the new SMART compensation program, and require an independent Value of Solar study to inform future policy that will allow communities, businesses and families of all income levels to go solar.

When it comes to healthy, job-creating, affordable clean energy, we need Massachusetts to be leading the charge, not taking steps backward. And we need that leadership to come right from the top.

Now is the time for Governor Baker and our Legislature to work together to overcome these headwinds with strong solar policy so businesses like ours can keep investing, creating jobs and serving the people of Massachusetts.

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The **Wendell Democratic Committee** will be holding its caucus for the 2018 Convention on Saturday, February 17, at 10 a.m. in the Town Office Meeting Room, at 9 Morse Village Road.

The meeting is open to the public, and all registered Democrats are eligible to vote for Wendell's one delegate and one alternate to the Convention. Committee chair Dan Keller can be contacted at (978) 544-2857.

The Great Falls Discovery Center is **open all week for school vacation week**, February 17 to 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit www.greatfalls-discoverycenter.org or the "Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center" Facebook page for a complete listing of the week's activities.

An opening event will be held this February 17, from 1 to 4 p.m. for "Reading the Rocky Book of the

Past: **Dinosaur Footprints in the Connecticut River Valley**" in the Great Hall of the Discovery Center.

The exhibit includes a variety of learning stations for all generations to enjoy: "meet" Orra White Hitchcock, and try your hand at botanical drawing and painting; make an imitation fossil out of clay; see and learn about real fossils; make your own small collection of gems and shells; or relax with dinosaur books and puzzles and enjoy dino-themed refreshments.

Sponsored in part by Massachusetts Cultural Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the members and donors of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association. The art work and educational material will be on display through March 31.

The Friends of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter are holding the **6th Annual Midwinter Doggy Day** on Saturday, February

17 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the shelter, located at 10 Sandy Lane in Turners Falls.

Is it time for a "pet"icure? Come get your dog's nails cut for only \$11 by Megan from Mighty Clean Mutt. All proceeds benefit Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter. All dogs must be leashed. Contact the shelter at (413) 676-9182.

New Salem Public Library is offering a free, five-week **"Introduction to Astrology"** series with Mara Bright. You will explore what planets, signs and houses mean in a chart and how to interpret their placements, looking at your own birth charts for practice.

The series starts next Tuesday, February 20, from 6 to 8 p.m. and continues on February 27 and March 6, 13, and 20 at the New Salem Library. All levels are welcome. Please register at the library. Call (978) 544-6334 for more details.

Tom Ricardi will bring his famous **Birds of Prey Presentation** to the Wendell Town Hall next Thursday, February 22 from 6 to 7 p.m. Ricardi's presentation includes a number of live birds of prey. Weather permitting, Tom will release an owl outside of the town hall. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Learn how simple it is to grow

mushrooms at home. Julia Coffey of Mycoterra Farm will talk about growing mushrooms at her facility and strategies you can use to grow mushrooms at home. The talk will include an overview of the mushroom life cycle and the basic ecology of saprophytic fungi. She'll cover basic DIY mushroom growing techniques using a variety of species of mushroom growing kits and an in-depth introduction into mushroom log culture.

Suggested donation \$10 to \$20, but no one will be turned away. Mushroom growing kits will be available for purchase. Thursday, February 22, at 6 p.m., at the New Salem Public Library, 23 South Main Street in New Salem. RSVP to: nsagcommission@gmail.com.

A panel discussion on **food insecurity in Franklin County** will be held at the Shea Theater, Avenue A, Turners Falls on Thursday evening, February 22 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Featured panelists will include Congressman Jim McGovern; Andrea Leibson, executive director of Community Meals; Justin Costa of Community Action's Hunger Task Force, and LifePath executive director Roseann Martoccia. Free and open to the public.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

Point/Counterpoint Wendell's Municipal Light Plant Article

These "public statements," concerning two competing articles that will be debated at the Wendell special town meeting on February 27, were sent out over the Wendell Townsfolk listserv this week. Wendell is in the early construction stages of a long-planned town-wide fiber-optic broadband network. We are printing them here because we think this debate touches on issues that may be of interest even to readers in other towns. — Eds.

Statement of the Selectboard:

The Wendell Selectboard has received a petition to place an article on the upcoming Special Town Meeting warrant, scheduled for February 27, calling for an election of board members to our Municipal Lighting Plant (or MLP), which is responsible for the operation of a Town broadband system.

The petition calls for the election to take place in May of this year (2018). The Selectboard is now the MLP and the proposed election would shift the MLP responsibilities to a new, as yet unnamed board.

The first steps in the construction of a broadband system in Wendell have already been taken. It is the unanimous belief of the current Selectboard that the MLP responsibilities should remain with Selectboard until construction is complete.

We believe making a change in our organizational structure, in the midst of a complicated and expensive construction project, especially to an unknown new structure, could be problematic. Therefore the Selectboard is proposing a second MLP article which changes the date of the election to May 2019. We recommend voting against the petitioned article, and voting for essentially the same article with a later date for the election.

The Selectboard, acting as the

MLP, has been working closely with the Broadband Committees to plan the project and negotiate initial agreements. One agreement was signed with Westfield Gas and Electric, another MLP, to be our project manager – to design a system and put it out to bid – and WGE has already begun this work.

The Town has also begun payments to secure the rights to hang cable on telephone poles, a first step in the process. The money for these payments has come out of the first allocation of a grant the Town is receiving from the state, something over \$300,000 received a few months ago.

We also feel it is the job of the Selectboard, which has been elected to oversee the Town's finances, to act as the fiduciary agent of the Town and guide this major investment as best we can.

We have also heard from the state, our partner in the project and the supervisor of many such projects in our area, that Selectboards should remain as MLPs during the construction phase. We hope Wendell voters will agree.

**Christine Heard, Chair
Dan Keller
Jeff Pooser**

Statement of Robert Heller:

I, Robert Heller, was the person who brought the petition for the MLB (Municipal Light Board) article to be placed on the upcoming special town meeting. I would like to thank all of the people who signed the petition.

In this message I will explain why I did this.

First of all I have been involved in the broadband process since August of 2005, that is, I have been involved with this project for more than 13 years. I have learned many things about how the Internet and telecommunication industry works and how exactly the Internet actually gets into your computer and other devices, both from a technical perspective and from how the business of the Internet works.

The original goal of the broadband process has always been to bring *affordable* and *sustainable* broadband Internet service to the maximum number of residents of the town (preferably to any and *all* residents that want it).

I have been on the Wendell Broadband Committee since its inception in August of 2005, up until July 1, 2016, when the selectboard re-organized the Wendell Broadband Committee into two committees, one for construction and one for operations (very much against the recommendation of the then Wendell Broadband Committee).

At the time I felt that the two committee approach was a bad idea, and I still think so. As a compromise, the two committees meet jointly, so *effectively* there is only one committee, although there are two committees *on paper*. This is in some ways, even stranger.

I have been going to the *joint* Broadband Committees meetings, as simply a member of the public, from July of 2016 up to last December (2017), when I decided that my presence at these meetings was a futile waste of my time. Since

the selectboard appointed themselves to one or the other of the two Broadband Committees, every Joint Broadband Committees meeting is also posted as a selectboard meeting as well, so almost every meeting had at least one and often all three members of the selectboard in attendance.

Over the 18 months' worth of meetings, I have been able to observe how the Broadband Committees and the selectboard operate and interact and I have become less and less confident that the selectboard is, or will be, able to make the decisions needed to actually bring *affordable* and *sustainable* broadband Internet service to the maximum number of residents of the town.

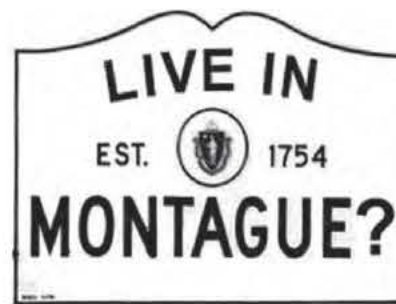
I fear that at the end of the process, if left entirely up to the selectboard, we will have a system that is *not* affordable, and probably not even sustainable, and almost certainly not available to more than a small fraction of the town's residents, mainly due to the excessive cost. Pretty much the complete *opposite* of all of the originally stated goals.

I believe it is time for the selectboard to step aside and let the town elect a group of people who have the knowledge, expertise, experience, and time to get this project done and done right.

If the *original* article passes, I intend to take out nomination papers and run for a seat on the Municipal Light Board. I know of one other towns person who has also stated an interest in running for a seat, and who has been involved in the process as long as I have been. And I have in mind several other people who I believe I can convince to also run who would be valuable assets as members of the Municipal Light Board.

Thank you for your attention.

Robert Heller



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Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Week ending February 9:

Grade 6
Megan Leveille

Grade 7
Kaylee Moore

Grade 8
Laura Ciocela
Jacob Lyons

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Call for takeouts

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Enrollment Up At EES, Down at Tech School

By KATIE NOLAN

On February 12, Union 28 superintendent Jennifer Haggerty and finance and operations director Bruce Turner presented a FY'19 Erving Elementary School (EES) budget to the town's selectboard and finance committee, with a proposed 4.4% increase over the current year.

Haggerty said that Erving's Union 28 dues have increased because of increased enrollment at EES relative to other Union 28 schools. She said that revenues will decrease in FY'19 because several state grants have been reduced or are no longer available.

School committee chair Erik Semb said he has spent time at EES and met with parents, and hears "what a wonderful job they're doing – not one negative comment! It's a great school, and teachers and staff are doing a great job." The finance committee voted to recommend the FY'19 EES budget.

The FY'19 tuition for Erving students at the Gill-Montague Regional School District is estimated

to increase by \$132,000 to \$1 million. The increase is based on the assumption that all EES 6th graders will attend GMRSD for 7th grade, resulting in nine additional Erving students in FY'19.

Franklin County Technical School superintendent Richard Martin and business manager Russell Kaubris presented a FY'19 assessment of \$578,828 for Erving, a decrease of \$69,000 compared to the current year. Kaubris said that FCTS has been "shrinking the budget to reality over last year."

Martin detailed reductions in the culinary arts program, the librarian position, math, English and guidance staff, and closing of the business technology program as the overall technical school population has decreased. He said the cooperative education coordinator was increased to a full-time position, and "now fifty students are on coop," where they work part-time in their chosen field as well as attend FCTS.

Martin told the board and finance committee that they are projecting a larger number of Erving students at FCTS in FY'20, based on applica-

tions they have already received.

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache said that Union 28 joint supervisory committee chair Dan Hayes had asked about upgrades to the town-owned 18 Pleasant Street building, which Union 28 rents for administrative offices. Bastarache said that Erving's capital planning committee will be considering the request along with other capital projects at their February 21 meeting.

Haggerty commented, "I'm glad you're still keeping that in mind."

Other Business

The board approved painting the traffic pattern onto the roadway on North Street to improve safety at the North Street and Church Street intersection. Highway foreman Glenn McCrory said that painting could be done once the temperature reaches 50 degrees F. He said he has a "No Trucks" sign he could place on the southbound section of North Street.

The board recommended painting the traffic pattern to see if that is effective in promoting safety at the intersection.

The board signed the contract with the Massachusetts Library Building Commission for the \$2.7 million grant to construct a new library on Northfield Road.

The board reviewed the draft warrant for the March 27 special town meeting. Bastarache said he was "displeased" with the article outlining the procedure for appointing associate planning board members, who could vote when a quorum is not available. Bastarache noted that there are no vacancies on the five-member planning board, and if all of the elected board members were attending meetings regularly, the warrant article would not be necessary.

The board revised and approved the job description for recreation commission assistant, and considered the composition of the recreation assistant hiring committee. Current assistant Alison Rollins has informed the board that she plans to resign.

The board decided to survey town departments to find out their specific information technology needs.

TFHS SPORTS from pg A1

first place was announced; the other schools weren't told their scores.

The cheer squad doesn't participate in spring sports, but will be back for the winter playoffs.

Swimming

On Sunday, February 11, the Turners Falls swim teams competed in the Central-Western championship at Springfield College.

None of the swimmers qualified for the Massachusetts State Meet, but Olivia Whittier completed the breast stroke in 1:16:23, earning her half a point.

Boys Basketball

Mahar 66 – TFHS 37

Pioneer Valley 75 – TFHS 57

Last Thursday, February 8, the Turners boys lost against the Senators of Mahar, 66-37.

Turners only scored three points in the opening period, and for the rest of the game, they were forced to play catchup ball. In the second, they shaved 8 points off the Senate's lead but still found themselves down 30-18 at the half.

Mahar opened up their lead in the second half, and won the game going away, 66-37. Jimmy Vaughn led Blue with 9 points, followed by Anthony Peterson (7), Jake Dodge and Chace Novak (5), Tyler Lavin (4), Javoni Williams (3), and Jon Fritz and Giovanni Ruggiano (2).

Then on Senior Night, February 12, Turners hosted the Pioneer Black Panthers.

The opening period was gold for Powertown. Wonderful rebounds and smart passes gave Blue an 11-point cushion, 17-6, with two minutes left in the first. But then the Panthers clawed their way back into it, and at halftime they led Powertown 31-27.

In the early minutes of the third, the Cats exploded, and soon that lead was 41-29. Blue throwaways and Black Panther 3-pointers helped Pioneer finish off Powertown 75-57.

Peterson was the high scorer for Blue, with



Turners senior Aliyah Sanders takes a foul shot from the free-throw line during Senior Night at TFHS.

17. Most of his points went in from the outside, two of which were a toe away from a 3-pointer.

Lavin played strong in the lanes and frequently set up plays for the offense, finishing with 9 points. Vaughn sunk two 3-pointers on his way to 12 points. Kyle Dodge also put up 9 points, while Ruggiano scored 8 and Ryan Kucenski added 2.

The two losses give Turners a 5-13 overall record, with a 0-7 record in the Hampshire South Conference. They have one game left, this Thursday, February 15, against HSC leaders Hopkins.

Girls Basketball

Putnam 60 – TFHS 27

On February 9, the Turners girls celebrated Senior Night against the conference-leading

Putnam Beavers.

Three days later, I watched women's Ice Hockey. Sweden was playing the United Koreans. Early in the game, a player was sent to the penalty box for roughing. The Putnam game reminded me of that match.

Friday's game was fraught with fouls and infractions, and the Blue Ladies quickly found themselves on the short end of the penalty count. Just 3 minutes into the contest, five fouls had been called on Turners. This was a tough adjustment for Blue, as Coach Ted Wilcox was forced to bench some of his starters.

Putnam seemed content on trading fouls, especially when they began hitting 3's. The Blue ladies did well at the line, but it was difficult trading foul shots with 2's and 3's, and at halftime, Turners was down by double digits, 31-14.

In the second half, the True Blue Faithful grew outraged. They began to loudly point out every elbow and push the refs didn't call. Then, when a player threw the ball out of the gym into the corridor, the crowd protested even louder. And on the court, the Beavers stretched their lead.

In the fourth, a Putnam player got a dead ball rebound off a foul shot. They put the ball in play and scored a basket. The fans informed the refs of the infraction, and soon the Turners shooter was back at the line and the 2 points were subtracted from Putnam's score. However, before she could shoot, the Beaver Coach walked on the court and addressed the refs.

This was too much for the Blue Fans. They began chanting that a technical should be called for delay of game.

On the court, the exhausted Blue Girls could only muster 5 points in the final stanza, and fell to the Beavers, 60-27. Scoring for Turners were Maddy Chmyzinski (9), Taylor Murphy (6), Ellis Chloe and Aliyah Sanders (5), Hailey Bogosz (2), and Abby Loynd (1) – with 11 out of their 27 total points coming off foul shots.

The loss gave Turners a 10-7 record, with three games remaining.



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DISPLACED from page A1

with smoke-damaged furniture and other debris, down the steep, ice-slicked driveway. Dick French, who owns conservation land across the street, allowed them to place a dumpster on his property.

The house's main structural beams and many of its joists are charred and must be replaced; a number of sills and windows burned or blew out. The septic drainage pipe and plumbing to the kitchen melted. The cold water used to fight the fire also caused the central chimney to crack and split, and it is unknown whether the well pump will work when electricity is restored.

"If I had all the resources and the time, it wouldn't take me that long," Wayne says. "I'm going to replace the joists leaving that [main] beam there, and then I'm going to jack up the whole middle of the house and put in a new beam. It's kind of what I do."

But as of now, the family does not have the resources. Renting a dumpster and propane generator for the clean-out, Pat says, left them with about \$30 in the bank. And though various friends and extended family have been able to put them up for a night or two, no one has offered a place for the family of four, and their dog, to stay together.

Pat describes the emotional toll the upheaval has taken on their son Jeremy, who Wayne had to drag out of bed as smoke filled the house. Jeremy is, Pat puts it humorously, "what's the current politically correct term? Developmentally delayed? He's my Jeremy to me – he's smarter than the rest of us, except when it comes to fires."

Since the blaze, Jeremy has often become overcome with anxiety

when his mother is out of his sight, which hasn't made the work of hauling out debris any easier. He greets this reporter with a strong hug. Jeremy participates in an adult day program, Milestones, at the Whole Children school in Hadley; a staff member there helped the family by setting up a GoFundMe site to raise money. "I don't really know much about social media," Pat says, noting that the initial fundraising goal listed on the site is nowhere near what it will cost to get the family back into their home. As of press time, the page had garnered \$1,720 in donations from supporters.

On Tuesday, Pat and Wayne met with the Western Massachusetts Chapter of the American Red Cross, who were able to offer them another \$500. "They said, 'do what you want with it – you can buy building materials, rent a motel, whatever – but that's what you get, 500 bucks,'" Pat says with a sigh.

She adds she has been given some leads for other support services, but so far, nothing has panned out. Friends of their sons have been talking about organizing a benefit concert.

"I bought the land in '74," Pat remembers, with her first husband. "Eight acres, just a cabin with an outhouse, and no running water... The town kept trying to throw me out!" After a stint in Oregon, she moved back in the early '80s, planning to build a house to live in with her mother. "I came back, got a septic, got a well, and then I built the house," she said. "We built the forms for the foundation out of boards..."

That's when she and Wayne met. "I was the \$5 an hour laborer!" Wayne says. "I was the fat little kid



Among the ash, debris and wiring in the Tetreault's basement. Neither the fire marshal nor the family has been able to determine the cause of the fire, and Pat says the family will likely rip out all the sheetrock and re-wire the house entirely to be on the safe side.

up the street, and I just showed up as labor."

The modest house was soon full: Pat says her mother, Wayne's father, their own two children, and foster children were all in the picture at various points. Outdoors, they raise rabbits and chickens – three roosters and a hen guard the house's partially charred entrance – and a cat, un-

perturbed, continues to live on the property, though the family's dog has joined them in couch-surfing.

Wayne says that the building inspector condemned the residence before the fire was fully out, and that he himself and the fire marshal worked together unsuccessfully to try to figure out how it began. "I guess every fire he goes to, he fig-

ures the homeowner burned it down for the insurance money," he says. "'Don't have insurance' – then he became nice!"

Both Pat and Wayne stress that they want to thank all the firefighters who salvaged their house.

Wayne fishes a piece of paper out of his pocket listing the responding departments: Gill; Erving; Montague Center; Turners Falls; Greenfield; Northfield; Bernardston; South Deerfield; Warwick; Hinsdale, NH; Winchester, NH; Orange; Deerfield; and Northfield Ambulance. Many of those companies provided tankers.

Erving, the couple says, responded within four minutes of Wayne's 911 call.

"They closed down both ends of the road," Wayne recalls. "It was incredible." He didn't want to watch his house burn down, so he drove the family to get coffee, and was amazed when he returned to find the fire had been tamed.

"When I went down cellar, that thing was fully engulfed, man," he says. "We've been really lucky nobody got hurt. House could have been a lot worse than what it is."

"I just want to say to any firefighter, I wouldn't want anyone to risk their life for my house," Pat says. It's not worth anybody's life – I would rather they let it burn to the ground than someone got hurt."

Readers wishing to contribute to help the Tetreaults rebuild their home can do so online at www.gofundme.com/HelpTetreaults.

If you are aware of any area resources that might connect them with temporary lodging, contact editor@montaguereporter.org.

**WENDELL** from page A1

Article 8 on that meeting's warrant, as written, would transfer ownership of the property from the treasurer to the selectboard, "for the purpose of hosting a community shared solar energy facility; and to authorize the selectboard to execute all documents and take all actions necessary to accomplish such project, or take any other action relative thereto." Article 9 would transfer the house itself from the treasurer to the selectboard, while Article 10 would allow the selectboard to enter into a PILOT agreement with the developers of the community solar project.

There was some question about whether Article 8 could be amended at the town meeting to allow other possibilities.

An elusive goal of former and long-serving selectboard member Ted Lewis was to create playing fields for the town. Stack said the school-owned fields would be open for town citizens' use, just as the basketball court on the present school property is used by town residents now.

Without wanting to seem too mercenary, selectboard member Geoffrey Pooser asked about the financial consequence of the Academy proposal, and how it would compare with the \$4,000 or \$5,000 that the solar project would give the town yearly in PILOT money for the 20-year expected life of the solar farm. He said that the community solar project still has other obstacles to overcome, and hoops to pass through, before construction begins.

Selectboard member Dan Keller suggested that Kemsley consider

the section of the land across the street for its playing fields.

Polar Shift

Another significant item on the warrant is Article 5, which would allow the use \$45,000 from available funds to relocate poles as necessary for the replacement of the bridge over Osgood Brook in Wendell Depot.

Lietenant Governor Karen Polito said she would look into ways the town can avoid the extra cost, but calls to her office since her visit to Wendell have been fruitless so far.

The town has saved Chapter 90 money for that project, and was granted money from the state's small bridge repair and replacement program, but none of it may be used to move poles. Lieutenant Governor Karen Polito said she would look into ways that the town can avoid the extra cost, but calls to her office since her visit to Wendell have been fruitless so far.

National Grid originally gave an estimate of \$43,000 to move the poles. A recent call to National Grid reduced that cost to \$0, because the poles are now the responsibility of Verizon. Wendell paid Verizon \$1,000 for the privilege of getting a pole moving estimate from them, but as of February 8, the town had received no answer. National Grid

had said there would be no charge for moving the wires.

The bridge project has been held up for years, and in order to get the bid process started now, the highway commission supports having the money available to get the poles moved, so that the construction estimates are still valid, the bids can be requested, and the bridge can be replaced in the summer of 2018.

Light Plant Dispute

Article 11 on the warrant is a citizen petition to elect a three-member Municipal Light Plant (MLP) at the May 7, 2018 town election. Article 12, supported by the selectboard, would instead have that elected MLP created and voted at the May 6, 2019 town election.

The selectboard wrote a public statement to explain their reasoning: that the construction process is just starting, with selectboard input as members of the broadband construction committee, and creating a different MLP now would be equivalent to changing horses mid-stream.

Former broadband committee member Robert Heller, author of the citizen petition, also wrote a public statement explaining his thinking. Heller has been involved in the effort to get high speed internet connections into Wendell homes since 2003. He removed himself from the broadband committee when, in 2016, the selectboard made two committees for the effort, one for construction and one for operation. The two committees have been meeting jointly, and Heller attended those meetings as an ordinary citizen through December 2017.

Acting as the MLP, board mem-

bers signed an intergovernmental agreement with Holyoke Gas and Electric for broadband consulting.

Other Warrant Articles

Articles 1,2, and 3 on the warrant would give authority to pay bills of prior years. Article 4 would transfer \$5,000 to the legal expense account. Wendell's legal expenses have been higher than anticipated for fiscal 2018 when the budget was created.

Article 6 would create the position of deputy town moderator who would serve when the elected moderator is not available for a town meeting, or if the elected moderator has a conflict of interest in a specific warrant article. Article 7 would allow the moderator to accept a voice vote in a case when a 2/3, 4/5, or 9/10 vote is not unanimous, but clearly favors one outcome. Seven or more citizens at the meeting may contest that choice.

Other Business

FRCOG offered Wendell a list of available "Local Technical Assistance Projects" many of which are irrelevant for Wendell, but board members prioritized the first three as follows: succession planning for police and fire department heads, continuing workshops for public officials, and networking training. FRCOG's help in succession planning was very helpful when fire chief Everett Ricketts approached retirement, and now police chief Ed Chase is getting close.

Pooser reported that at an informal opinion-gathering meeting, he saw little citizen enthusiasm for a moratorium on legal recreational marijuana facilities in the town. At that gathering, planning board chair

Nan Rietschlaeger said the town's zoning bylaws already protect the town from uncontrolled growing and processing, and that Wendell, being somewhat hard to get to, is not a likely location for a retail store.

Pooser said he felt the draft regulations that the state cannabis control commission created are pretty intense, even draconian. Among other things, they require 24-hour surveillance with backup, with a five-minute police response time.

The board approved a tax collector request to include in the tax bills, a notice that states it is now possible to pay taxes on line.

Fire chief Joe Cuneo came in because the internet service at the fire station "is not that good." The fire station and highway garage service is piggybacked from the library's middle-mile service, and when several citizens are using the library internet service, the library capacity is shared between the fire station and the citizens' use. Pooser said that increasing the library's internet capacity is a way to provide faster internet service at the fire station. When the fiber-optic system is built the fire station can be connected directly, as can any household.

Heard said that the fiber-optic network is no longer required to use the "middle mile."

Wanita Sears resigned her position as energy committee clerk, and the selectboard appointed Amy Palmer in her place.

National Grid asked to submit written requests for pole hearings and not send a representative. Pole hearings have seldom had objections, and Heard said the town can try that approach for a year.



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LUNCHES from page A1

Burge, a community liaison for Building Bridges and other Franklin County veterans' groups. She publicized the group, bringing information to the Great Falls Pumpkinfest and Franklin County Fair, buttonholing passersby. But she was surprised at how fast the group grew. It's still growing. Clearly, there is a need.

The growth of Building Bridges is, in some ways, something of an anomaly. Many organizations offer services to vets, but the service men and women are often reluctant to participate. "Sometimes it's difficult to get vets in the door," Wright says. "A lot of the veteran service organizations and agencies have trouble reaching out to get the veterans."

"The veterans I know," said the Rev. Christopher Carlisle, Building Bridges' director, "prefer not to have an agenda imposed on them. What we try to do here is simply create a venue for them to coalesce as a community. It becomes their turf, rather than someone else's."

Becoming a community, forming alliances, is a skill that veterans learn

during their service, Carlisle believes. "Veterans know what it means to be a team. It [becomes] a natural instinct." When military personnel come home, he says, they tend to experience enormous isolation and alienation, in part because the team they've come to rely on is no longer there. But on the other hand, while they were in the military, they did learn how to build teams, how to be part of one, says Carlisle.

Building Bridges, he thinks, is able to help vets because it has been able to take advantage of that training. Here in Greenfield, the vets "really have coalesced into a marvelous community of their own. We get out of the way, and let that happen."

Most Thursdays, a few of the veterans, led by Chad Wright, prepare the meal, which varies depending on what's available. Today, though, as an anniversary treat, the meal is being catered, and it's roast pork, applesauce, mashed potatoes and gravy, and carrots. For dessert, there's apple crisp with whipped cream.

When everyone's seated, Wright picks up a microphone. "Hello everyone!" he says. "Welcome to our one-year anniversary here at the Elks Lodge!" They cheer, clap and whistle their approval.

"We have people to thank, and announcements, but we'll do that afterwards. For now, grab a plate, and make two lines, like we normally do."

The vets grab plates and form lines on either side of the hot trays. They chat as the lines inch forward. They could almost be back in the military.

After they leave the service, vets often struggle with homelessness, PTSD, health issues, and unemployment. Suicide is substantially higher among vets than among civilians. Here in Greenfield, many of the homeless are vets, says Burge.

Although services are available to vets, for a variety of reasons — including transportation issues, emotional trauma, and logistical complexity — many do not use the services that are offered. Yet, a 2014 study shows that vets who reach out for help fare substantially better than those who do not.

While veterans still commit suicide at far higher rates than civilians, with recent spikes among both newly discharged and aging vets, the report also showed that suicide rates decreased among vets who accessed VA services, and increased among those who did not, in the period it analyzed (1999 to 2010). In fact, during those years, suicide rates rose by 27.3% among civilian men 35 to 64 years old. But for vets who got treatment, suicide rates dropped by 16.1%.

(This difference, however, does not apply to female veterans. For women in that age group, suicide rates increased by 31% during those



Left to right: Chad Wright, Wanda Muszyka-Pyfrom, and Building Bridges' director, Rev. Christopher Carlisle.

years for both civilians and VHA-user vets.)

Building Bridges helps vets access the services they need. "We try and offer programming here," says Wright. "Every few weeks we'll have guest speakers, with different organizations and explaining what they have to offer — insurance, or medical benefits for vets. We have all different types of organizations that want to connect with veterans, and with our meals, it's a way of getting a large concentration of veterans together."

"You have these organizations that may have a problem reaching out to a large group of veterans at once, and here's a place that they can do it."

At Building Bridges, vets can share information with each other. For example, says Wright, a vet might find out that the drinking water at a particular base was harmful during a certain year, and that vets who were stationed there are eligible for increased benefits. Building Bridges offers an easy way for them to spread

the word. "That's one of the best parts of the program," says Wright. "Community announcements. The vets will stand up and say what going on. It gets the news out there."

The group helps vets negotiate the systems. "If you need help, they'll put you in touch with the right person," says Hank Pydych. "If there's something you need, if you need help with paperwork, or if you have a specific problem," they'll work with you.

Wright and Carlisle are working on rolling out Building Bridges groups throughout the state. And in Greenfield, the vets have their own ideas. They're talking about expanding the group's activities. They want to take a few day trips together — perhaps to New York City. They'll get together in the summer, for a barbecue.

Building Bridges in Greenfield offers lunches at the Elks Lodge, 2 Church Street, Greenfield, from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Thursdays. For more information, contact Chad Wright at chadericwright@gmail.com.



Veterans plate up at the chapter's first anniversary meal last month. (Al Cummings of Montague's soldiers memorial committee, at center.)

GMRS from page A1

component of [the towns' assessment] that goes to Montague up, and the component of that assigned to Gill down," Sullivan said. In the last two weeks, the state has released the "minimum contribution" figures each town must pay according to Chapter 70 formula; when Montague's share of the district enrollment (88%) and high school debt (93%) are figured in, that town is expected to pay \$9,811,160, more than what it calculates is its "affordable" assessment of \$9,745,317.

The current budget requires four faculty positions be cut. Sullivan said one would be a Sheffield special ed teacher, retiring without replacement; a second would be a life-skills teacher at the middle school, where no life-skills students are expected next year. The other two would come from the middle or high school.

If Montague insists on seeing the budget come in line with its affordable assessment, the district will need to make a further \$74,627 in cuts. "Once we vote the budget, a couple meetings away, that sets the

ceiling," committee chair Timmie Smith reminded her colleagues. After that, the committee would legally be able to reduce, but not increase, the budget.

Documentary in the Works

Richard Widmer of Millers Falls, a parent, substitute teacher and coach in the district, came to the meeting to share his plans to film a documentary on the softball team.

Widmer had originally conceived of making a film focused on coach Gary Mullins, but "true to his character, [Mullins] says he doesn't want it to be about him — he wants it to be about the team, the girls."

Widmer has been awarded some funding from the Montague Cultural Council for the project, and says he plans to film over the course of the four-month season, taking an "ethnographic filmmaking approach," spend a couple more months editing it, and shop the final product to film festivals by the fall.

Gill member Shawn Hubert suggested that the committee should "possibly name something after Mr. Mullins," such as an athletic field.

"So often, it's easy for people to focus on negative things," Montague member Cassie Damkoehler said. "The high school softball team — they're real heroes.... It's not ver often that these opportunities get captured in that way, so thank you."

Fifty-Eight Possibilities

The public committee delegated to select a new logo and nickname for the high school, following the committee's decision to eliminate the longstanding "Indian" mascot last year, has heard over 389 suggestions, some redundant.

Of the 129 unique name suggestions, the task force apparently eliminated 71 it felt did not meet the criteria set by the school committee last spring — including one name that had been suggested 197 times — leaving a list of 58 it shared with the school committee Tuesday.

Those names were the Armored Mudballs, Bears, Beavers, Blue Blazers, Blue Herons, Blue Jays, Bluebirds, Blues, Bobcats, Captains, Champions, Chargers, Chiefs, Cougars, Coyotes, Dominators, Falcons, Fighting Fish, Fisher

Cats, Fury, Great Blue Herons, Hornets, Hydros, Invaders, Millwrights, Mudpuppies, Natives, Nut Crackers, Osprey, Paper Makers, Participants, Powertown, Pride, Raiders, Rapids, Raptors, River Raptors, Rattlers, Shad, Snappers, Tardigrades, Terminators, Thunder, Thunderbirds, Thunderbolts, Titans, Tomahawk, Tornados, Torrents, Trailblazers, Tribe, Turbines, Turbos, Twisters, Wild Cats, Wildcats, "Wolfs," and Yellow Jackets.

Montague's Heather Katsoulis recommended the taskforce consult *urbandictionary.com* because she believed at least one of these names was an inappropriate slang term.

"Anything that you have questions about, we probably had questions about," said Alana Martineau, who serves on the taskforce. She said the group had seen "clear Yeses, clear Nos, and then there were some that maybe needed a little more explanation."

The full taskforce will be invited to the next meeting to "check in" about the list before winnowing it down to a handful of final recommendations.

Other Business

TFHS student council advisors Beth Fortin and Megan Bendiksen sought, and received, the committee's approval for a trip with 13 students to the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils' annual conference in Hyannis next month.

A fundraiser will be held Thursday, February 22 at Hubie's Tavern, owned by school committee member Shawn Hubert, to help defray student expenses for the trip.

The committee voted to set money aside to settle an unpaid invoice from Bulkley, Richardson, and Gelinas, a specialist law firm the district has retained after revelations last spring it had overbilled the state for years on Medicaid reimbursements.

The firm's itemized work included a "[c]onference... regarding claims against billing company," namely New England Medical Billing, which processed the reimbursements for the duration of the error.

"The things that the lawyers are talking about are getting narrower," Sullivan reassured the obliquely impatient committee members.



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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Planned Southworth Sale Falls Through; Strathmore Demolition Study’s Scope Expanded

By JEFF SINGLETON

Members of the Montague select-board reacted Monday night to the news that the sale of the Southworth plant in Turners Falls has fallen through. The plant closed last August, and the parent company filed for bankruptcy with the S.S. Bankruptcy court in September. In December the company informed the court that it had a potential buyer, SBD Greentech in Orono, Maine.

Now, Southworth has told the court that the deal has fallen through, and has requested approval for an auction in March. The court will hold a hearing on that request on February 15. “We will be there,” said town administrator Steve Ellis.

“Let’s hope that somebody interested comes to that auction,” said selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz. “Who knows,” said Ellis. “It could be that the party is seeking different terms – the same people might move to purchase it.”

The original sale price to SBD Greentech had been projected at approximately \$4 million. Southworth owes Montague \$275,000 in back taxes and fees.

On a related issue, Ellis told the board that the town wished to expand the scope of a study of the town-owned Strathmore Mill complex, which sits next to the Southworth plant. The study had been designed to evaluate the cost and feasibility of a “partial demolition” involving the north portion of the complex. But, Ellis said, adjacent buildings not part of the original plan were also in danger of collapse under a partial demolition. “We thought it important to expand the scope of the study,” he told the board.

Ellis also said that the town would be trying “to get this demolition work into an environmental bond bill that our legislators inform us is likely to be developed this summer... if we have only a partial demolition plan, it would be more difficult because we would not have a full figure to work with.”

Ellis did say that the projected demolition would still be “selective” because it would not include Building 9, which houses a hydro-electric plant, or Building 11, a free-standing structure which is slated for renovation through the town’s urban homesteading program.

KULIK from page A1

Wendell. Subsequent rounds of redistricting shifted his territory slowly westward; Wendell was traded away to the Second Franklin in 2012.

The first Democrat to occupy the seat in 90 years, Kulik is viewed as a pragmatic, progressive bureaucrat and an advocate for rural interests on Beacon Hill, and has proven broadly popular.

He ran unopposed in 1994, 1996, 1998, and 2000, defeating Republican challengers in the next two cycles by margins of 79% and 71%. He also ran unopposed in 2006, 2008, 2010, and 2012.

In 2014, he was reelected with 70% of the vote over Deerfield Republican Dylan Korpita. During that race he told the *Montague Reporter* that he would prioritize last-mile broadband funding, Chapter 70 education reform, and opposition to a then-planned natural gas transmission pipeline if restored to office. He ran unopposed a final time in 2016.

“Working with my constituents and my rural colleagues in the legislature has been both rewarding

The board approved the request to change the scope of the evaluation.

Dangerous Bridge

Department of public works superintendent Tom Bergeron came before the board to discuss the condition of a bridge over the Sawmill River on Center Street in Montague Center. He said an engineer from the state Department of Transportation, Mark Banasieski, had reported that two of the “stringer” beams stabilizing the structure were “basically gone.”

“He gave us two options,” said Bergeron. “One is to completely close it down. Or... to put barriers up and stop signs... stating it is a two-way bridge, with one lane.” He also said the bridge had to be posted to carry only three tons.

Bergeron said that he would prefer to go with the two-way, one-lane option because a nearby bridge over the Sawmill, the South Street Bridge, “is not in much better condition.” As far as the state replacing the bridge, Bergeron said Banasieski told him “it would be at least five years before it got on their list of things to do.”

Bergeron also said that signal lights would “cost \$800,000, if you really want to get into it.”

Ellis asked if there was anything the town could do to prevent further deterioration, to which Bergeron responded, “It’s going to happen.” He stressed the frequent flooding of the river. As far as a timeline for making the proposed change to one lane, Bergeron said “it won’t happen tomorrow. I’ve got to get the letter from the state, and it’s a process now.”

Opening Doors

Library director Linda Hickman requested that the board appoint Melinda Georgeson to a part-time position at the Millers Falls branch library. Hickman said the library had interviewed a number of candidates, but has had very good experience with Georgeson, who has been a volunteer for the past four years. “It is a position where we feel we need a very reliable, prompt employee,” she said.

The board approved the appointment. The position is for twelve hours per week, so the town will not provide benefits.

Roberta Potter, director of the

town Council on Aging, came before the board to request funds for an automatic door at the top of the handicapped ramp at the senior center. Potter said that currently, handicapped people using the ramp have to knock on the window to be let into the center.

The board approved the request, which will be financed from \$8,000 in program income funds.

They also approved \$7,194.78 from the same fund for housing rehabilitation.

Other Business

The selectboard approved a waiver for land currently under the state’s Chapter 61 restriction at 158 Old Sunderland Road. Chapter 61 provides for lower property taxes for land that is kept in a forested state rather than being developed. The town has the right of first refusal if the property goes up for sale.

John Laprade, who plans to buy the property and convert some of the land into house lots, came before the board. The waiver was supported by the town planning board.

The selectboard voted to begin the process of changing health care benefits for town employees, who belong to the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust. The Trust has recently voted to raise its copayments and deductibles for certain health services. Ellis said town officials must meet with its Public Employee Committee and its Insurance Advisory Committee, both of which have employee representation.

The board executed two agreements with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for assistance with sidewalk planning under the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Ellis reviewed a proposed “exit interview protocol” for employees leaving town employment.

At 8:10 p.m., the selectboard moved into two non-public executive sessions to discuss potential disciplinary action involving an employee, and to discuss contract negotiations with the police chief.

The board emerged from that session with no news to report. “We are continuing our discussions,” said Kuklewicz.

The continuation may take place in two weeks on February 26, which is the next scheduled selectboard meeting.



Steve Kulik speaks at a ceremony at Turners Falls’ Unity Park.

and productive,” Kulik’s official announcement read this week. It added that he has “championed issues of importance to small towns and rural communities” while in office.

As of press time, no one has publicly thrown their hat into the ring.



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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was February 14, 2008: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive

Gill Store May Reopen With Restaurant Focus

Owners Alden Booth and Lisa Greenough closed down the Gill Store last year toward the end of July, frustrated by endless detours during the reconstruction of Main Road that interrupted traffic to the Center of Gill from the north and south. With the loss of the only commercial establishment in the center of town – the place where for decades people had greeted one another and exchanged the news of the day as they bought newspapers, coffee, or necessary groceries – locals were left feeling a void had opened in the middle of their community.

Now, with the extensive Main Road reconstruction project more or less complete, Booth and Greenough are considering reopening the Gill Store, and have asked the zoning board of appeals to allow them to expand the store’s restaurant section. The ZBA will hold a hearing on that request next Tuesday at town hall.

Montague Estimates \$1.5 Million Budget Shortfall

“At this point, the picture does not look pretty. We are looking at a shortfall of one and a half million dollars,” said Montague finance committee chair John Hanold.

Reached at home on a slushy, sleety day, Hanold spoke of the challenges ahead, as the budget making cycle ramps up over the next few months for the town and for the Gill Montague schools. The Gill-Montague Regional School District recently approved a preliminary FY’09 operating budget of about \$17 million. On the town side, the finance committee is looking at an estimated 8.7% budget increase for ‘09, up from last year’s approximately \$6.5 million town operating budget, to more than \$7 million this year.

To offset the nearly \$900,000 increase expected in this year’s school budget, coupled with the nearly \$600,000 increase in town operating expenses, Hanold said the schools could anticipate an increase in revenue (exclusive of town assessments) of merely 0.2%, or \$17,000, according to an initial calculation

performed by town accountant Carolyn Olsen. Most years, the town sees growth of about \$300,000 in tax revenue, Hanold said.

Singleton Sole Bidder on Five-Year Budget Study

At Montague’s special town meeting in October, Article 16, introduced by finance committee member Jeff Singleton, asked to raise and appropriate \$10,000 “for the purpose of funding an analysis and five year financial plan for the town of Montague and Gill-Montague Regional School District.” During discussion Singleton himself and several town meeting members referred to the hiring of an “outside consultant.” Despite opposition from members of the selectboard and the chair of the finance committee, the article passed.

Four months later, an oversight committee of school and municipal officials issued a request for proposals, sent to a dozen consultants in the area who do this kind of work. None replied, due to time constraints, travel expense, and the dollar amount of the contract, according to town administrator Frank Abbondanzio.

In fact, by last Thursday’s deadline, the committee received only one proposal for the \$10,000 contract, from Jeff Singleton. In this proposal, \$6,000 would go to Singleton himself as the study’s lead, with the other \$4,000 split between two subcontractors.

Anticipating questions, Singleton’s proposal included a “Note to Bias,” which acknowledges his “strong opinions over years about local budget issues,” and that, “There will be issues, interpretations of the data, about which we disagree. The report, like all good research, should also reflect those points of disagreement. There is nothing wrong with that if it is done in a professional and collegial manner.”

“We are deep in debt,” said capital improvements chair Les Cromack, who opposed the article at town meeting. “My feeling is, at this point, a \$10,000 study isn’t going to solve the problem.” Cromack also said he did not think Singleton’s proposal would provide the town with “unbiased or outside expertise.”

Next, the study’s oversight committee will review and vote on the proposal.

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Celebrating 15 years as a resident of Montague, MA!

Reading The Rocky Book of the Past: History and Discovery at the Great Falls Discovery Center

TURNERS FALLS – The Great Falls Discovery Center and Deerfield's Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (PVMA) are hosting an opening event for a family learning exhibit in the Discovery Center's Great Hall. "Reading the Rocky Book of the Past – Dinosaur Footprints in the Connecticut River Valley" focuses on the 19th-century discovery of dinosaur footprints in the Connecticut River Valley and the local people, especially Dexter Marsh and Edward Hitchcock, who played starring roles in the story.

In 1835, Dexter Marsh was laying stone sidewalks in Greenfield when he noticed turkey-like tracks in the rock slabs. The footprints were actually made by dinosaurs, but his discovery was before the word dinosaur was even invented. Before his death in 1853, Marsh built a small museum to house his ever-expanding collection of dinosaur tracks and other curiosities. It included rocks, a whale's tooth, shells, boa skins, fish fossils, Indian arrowheads, rare coins, an alligator and much more.

The *Vermont Phoenix* reprinted information from the *National Magazine* in 1855 about Marsh's museum: "...leaning against the side of the cottage, and in every noticeable position, are slabs of stone, with curious configurations upon their surfaces.... Let the traveler pass into the yard, and enter the door from beneath the piazza, into a sort of hall, on the north of the cottage,



*Painting by Monica Vachula,
"Greenfield's Dexter Marsh
discovers tracks in 1835"*

and he is in the best cabinet of fossil footprints in the world."

Edward and Orra White Hitchcock met at Deerfield Academy in 1813, where their shared love of the natural sciences brought them together. Edward became our first State Geologist and a professor at Amherst College. An accomplished artist, Orra provided scientific illustrations for her husband's work. Edward created "books" of fossil footprints for a "stony library" which he exhibited in the college's new Ichneological Cabinet.

The term *cabinet* originally described a room that housed curiosities and works of art collected by European nobility, wealthy merchants, and those who practiced science. Today we find these types of objects – from the fields of art, history, geology, archaeology, and ethnography – exhibited in famous museums around the world.

Dexter Marsh and Edward Hitchcock were innovators of their times. When they opened their cabinets in

the mid-1800s, only a small number of museums as we think of them today existed in our country.

The opening event on Saturday, February 17, from 1 until 4 p.m. includes a variety of learning stations for all generations to enjoy: "meet" Orra White Hitchcock and try your hand at botanical drawing and painting; make an imitation fossil out of clay; see and learn about real fossils; make your own small collection of gems and shells; or relax with dinosaur books and puzzles and enjoy dino-themed refreshments.

PVMA designed the traveling exhibit for fun family learning, but with something of interest for everyone, whether part of a group or not. It features two simulated 19th-century cabinets of curiosities, a "make your own collection" takeaway activity, dinosaur track reproductions and other "touch-its" and learning opportunities. The exhibit is in conjunction with the recent launch of PVMA's educational website, "Impressions from a Lost World" (dinotracksdiscovery.org).

The exhibit runs through March 31. The Discovery Center is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. through 4 p.m.

These programs and exhibits have been sponsored in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and members and donors of the PVMA.

FACES & PLACES



"At 8:41 yesterday morning, we got a call from dispatch saying there was a car fire down in the parking lot of Connecticut River Internists," Captain Brian McCarthy of the Turners Falls Fire Department told us Wednesday.

"You could see a pretty good column of black smoke coming out, even before we reached Park Villa, coming down Turnpike Road. When we got there, it was fully engulfed. No one was around, and no structures in the area were affected. We were able to quickly put it out."

Capt. McCarthy said it took about 300 gallons of water, and an ABC dry chemical extinguisher, to do the job. The car was totaled, and Rau's came to tow it away. "From what I gather, there was smoke coming out of the vents, and the heat hadn't been working properly," he explained, "so when they parked the car, they called and said, 'I'm having an issue...'"

Big thanks to reader Levi Kelley for sending in this photograph! We're glad everyone was safe. If you ever encounter something of interest out in the world, feel free to send pics to editor@montaguerreporter.org.

LEVI KELLEY PHOTO

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MOVIE REVIEW

Food Evolution (2016)



Vintage food stamps.

By EMILY MONOSSON

MONTAGUE CENTER – Last fall, I invited friends and neighbors for a potluck and viewing of the movie *Food Evolution* narrated by Neil deGrasse Tyson. Its tagline: “Amongst all this conflict and confusion around food, how do we make the best decisions about how we feed ourselves?”

The movie had been making its way around the country, showing in smaller theaters where discussion might follow. Brilliant. Maybe this, I thought, will cut through the black and white to reveal the underlying gray matter.

So as the table filled with risotto, cassoulet and chicken biryani, I had high hopes – tempered by skepticism.

The first I’d heard of *Food Evolution* was from a listserv of policy-oriented scientists. One member suggested that those in the DC area might attend as a group. As the group is prone to do, discussion followed. And then one member

shot back with a letter authored by students, faculty and community members following a showing at the University of California, Berkeley. Michael Pollan and Marion Nestle, two respected voices when it comes to food, were among those who signed on.

Both were interviewed for the film; neither was happy with the final product. Just before its release, Nestle writes that she had asked to have her clip removed from the final cut, but the directors didn’t budge. Below is an excerpt from the UC Berkeley letter:

“... this particular film – *Food Evolution* – deserves to be called out for what it is: a piece of propaganda. We write as scholars and researchers who have long been working with issues of plant biotechnology, sustainable agriculture, the media, and food justice. Some of us were also interviewed for the film. We thus have some insight into the history, funding, and politics of expertise surrounding the film’s topics.”

For a fraction of a second I wondered, had I duped my neighbors into an hour or so of corporate propaganda? But then as Neil deGrasse Tyson’s authoritative and trustworthy voice filled the room, I relaxed into the couch. Perhaps our so-often reasonable

see **FOOD MOVIE** page B4

Ingredients At The Doorstep

Our features editor gives two “meal kit services” a test run.

By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS – I was introduced to the meal kit delivery phenomenon recently, thanks to a friend who gave me a couple of free introductory meals from the companies HelloFresh and Blue Apron.

I had heard of these popular services, but did not know anyone who was using them until my friend started receiving them, thanks to an introductory week of free meals that she received from someone else. Once she subscribed, she received a coupon to pass on and lucky me: it’s a \$70 value, and a try-out I would not have done otherwise.

I’m not sure who delivered the extremely sturdy and surprisingly heavy cardboard meal box from HelloFresh. I saw a large, white Sprinter van in my driveway with no lettering on it, and then heard the loud thud of a package hitting my porch.

Feeling rather like a mouse darting out of its hole, I didn’t waste any time bringing the package inside.

First, the Apron Wringing...

I felt a little embarrassed to be receiving what I was thinking was a luxury service or, at the very least, one that made me feel a tad lazy or even pretentious. I’m forced to consider why this food service, and food in general, stirs so many strong and conflicting emotions.

Shopping and cooking is an essential piece of the work that I do, day in and day out. It is also an aspirational economic activity; a labor of love; a link to location and season; a morality play; a personal test of will power, and source of shame and anxiety; a memorial to the past; a source of comfort; a reward for my labors; a tempting indulgence; a class signifier; and the second-biggest item in my budget besides housing.

I was raised by Depression-era parents who seemed to have many contradictory moral judgments about food and eating, and things have only gotten more complicated. For instance, our household did not consider



The ingredients shipped for HelloFresh’s burger meal included several cute – and wasteful! – mini-bottles.

the ecological consequences of consumption back in the ‘60s and ‘70s, but now that, too, becomes a good or a bad choice for us to make, something we can feel virtuous about or feel ashamed of.

Are we too frugal to buy organic vegetables for our kids, too forgetful to wash the piece of fruit we just cut up and ate, too tired to sort out the plastic bits from some package in order to recycle it? Have we eaten some Oscar Meyer thing we need to atone for? There are more and more things to feel guilty about.

OK, What’s in the Box?

The HelloFresh box was the first one I got, weighing about 15 pounds. Opening it up, I found an insulating bag made out of mylar bubble sheeting. Inside were two brown paper bags holding ingredients for two meals that would serve four people. Beneath those were the plastic vacuum sealed meat packages for those meals, chilling on two large gel packs, which still felt very solid. Several large, full color recipe cards wee tucked inside the box, including one card listing detailed ingredients and nutritional info – something I would not see in the Blue Apron box.

When I opened up the meal bags, I was taken aback at the individual packaging. A tiny bottle of vinegar and two wee ones of ketchup have a cute factor, as well as an ough one (the waste!); individual zip-lock baggies enclosed the broccoli florets and cheese. The whole veggies – a pepper, a lime, two tomatoes, onions, and shallots –

see **MEAL KITS** page B4



Blue Apron actually sent more ingredients than the recipes called for. I never used the egg noodles for the beef stroganoff recipe, and the head of lettuce was much more than was needed for the Jerk Shrimp Taco meal.

Get Extra SNAP Dollars While Buying Local Fruits and Vegetables!

By VANESSA QUERY

FRANKLIN COUNTY – If you receive SNAP benefits and shop for local food, either at farm stands or at farmers markets, you’ve probably noticed a new way DTA offers incentives for buying local food – specifically fruits and vegetables.

It’s called HIP, or the Healthy Incentives Program. First introduced as a pilot in 2011, it’s now a three-year program that was launched in April of last year. All SNAP households are automatically registered in the



A customer at the Greenfield Winter Farmers Market, 2016.



program; you may have received a welcome letter.

How does it work?

HIP is essentially extra money in your SNAP account. It works as a reimbursement: Use your SNAP dollars to buy local fruits and vegetables at a HIP-approved retailer, and that money will instantly go back onto your EBT card.

Some things to note:

- It only works when you have the money in your SNAP account, because the money gets taken out and then returned.
- It only works when you buy fruits and vegetables, and only at local vendors that have been approved by the program: farmers markets, farm stands, mobile markets, or community-support agriculture (CSA) farm share programs.
- You will get reimbursement up to a monthly limit that is dependent upon your household size: \$40 for 1 to 2 people, \$60 for 3 to 5 people, or \$80 for 6 or more people.

Where can I use HIP this winter?

Winter can be a tough time of year to eat locally, but there are now many options pretty close by. This winter, stop by a HIP-approved farmers market or

see **HIP** page B5



BY DAVID BRULE

The author is taking a week off, and suggested we re-publish this favorite “Village Sketchbook” column of his from March 2006.

MILLERS FALLS – Thank Heavens for Harold Fugere! His notebook was placed in my hands a few weeks ago by Sue SanSoucie at the Carnegie Public Library.

Many of us knew Harold as the good-natured gym teacher with the whistle around his neck who listened patiently to every excuse in the book for us not wanting to go outdoors in late November to do calisthenics on Sheff Field, or for not wanting to jump into the slimy communal shower afterwards.

He taught hundreds of TFHS students to drive, always with quiet amusement and a gentle firmness



Harold Fugere

WEST ALONG THE RIVER

WHAT’S YOUR MONIKER?

like he was everybody’s ideal uncle.

But he did something else before he passed away a few years ago.

Turners Falls is the town of a thousand nicknames, and Harold set out to record as many as he could in his notebook, which he left to the library.

Apparently, his inspiration to do this was sparked after Foggy Bourdeau’s funeral in 1993 when Harold realized that a lot of people in town are known solely by their nickname, with hardly anyone knowing their real names.

For example, Harold’s classmate at St. Anne’s School, Telesphore Ryan, was known as “Tutu,” and you can see why. It would seem that hundreds of Turners Falls natives had the luck, or the curse, of being known by a nickname.

Looking over Harold’s lists, you’re astounded by the variety and lyrical descriptive process at work. I suppose that an anthropologist or ethnologist would have a field day here. We know that Native Americans gave or took names according to exploits or tribal totems. European names came from trades and professions, physical characteristics, ancestry or regions, and so on.

But Turners’ *noms de guerre* defy categories. You can start out trying names attributed to physical traits like Bung Ears, Schnoz, Shorty, or Wheezer, or ethnic groups like Frenchy or Swede, Staciur or Pitou. You could go with adventures or exploits on or off the sports field, like Cannon Novak, Bomber Martin, Bumper, or Machine Gun...

But the further in you get, the

see **WEST ALONG** page B2

Pet of the Week

Thanks for stopping by!

I am a pretty rad of a dog: I have a great personality; love a good time playing or adventuring with my peeps; and I can also relax. If you let me, I'd even work for my food as a professional bed warmer.

I prefer to be the only pet in the house that gets told "I LOVE YOU, YOU ARE THE BESTEST BOY."

I also know who are the best at tossing the toys for me to fetch: older kids and adults.

If you are looking for a show stopper of a dog come in and ask to meet me.

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



"PATCHES"

Senior Center Activities FEBRUARY 19 to 23

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 10:10 a.m. Aerobics 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

Monday: 2/19 NO KNITTING

Noon Pot Luck & Bingo

Tuesday: 2/20

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Wednesday: 2/21

9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach

11:30 a.m. Friends Meeting

12:30 p.m. Bingo

Thursday: 2/22

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday: 2/23

Tax Prep appointments **ONLY**

ERVING

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

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

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

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

Monday: 2/19 CLOSED

Tuesday: 2/20

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

Homemade Lunch

12:30 Friends Meeting

Wednesday: 2/21

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

Noon Bingo, Snacks, Laughs

Thursday: 2/22

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

12:30 p.m. Create 2 Donate

Friday: 2/23

9 a.m. Quilting Workshop

9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling

11:15 Music, Movement, Mayhem!

WEDEL

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.



WEST ALONG from page B1

richness, descriptive quality and imagination is dazzling: there's Buddah Allen, Lace Curtain Ambo, Yabut Berthiune, Hitler and Shadow Bogusz, Buttnut and Peg Leg Desautels, Powderpuff Shea, and Buggy Morin.

Growing up, I didn't ask questions, but now I wonder sometimes: where did Joe Barrel get his name (you can guess), why was my aunt named "Pete" and my uncle "Skunk"? Why was another uncle called "Tootsie" and my best friend's father called "Bow Wow"?

My grandfather Alan was called "Abe", and his brother Hair Smith wasn't really called "Hair" (I figured, because he was bald) but "Heir" because he had studied German! Many of us knew the individuals called Chink, Bubbles, Sparks, Soupy Campbell, and Jingles, but how did Dynamite Bakula, Pug Aldrich, Rainy Day, and Fosdick Dolan get their names?

And then there's Babe Fritz, Moon Mullins, Chico Paulin, Peachy T, Joe Dollar, Gizmo, Trip Trembl, and Murph Togneri.

And we're just getting started. On the playground we met up with Krebs Maynard, Hoppy Cassidy, Fenton Yarnac and Coots. There's Buffer, Sprat, Ding Dong, Butts, PeeWee, Stretch, Brush, Popeye, and Pink, as well as Tink.

It's fascinating and exhausting. And as Turners Falls natives know, this is only a few of the hundreds of illustrious names Harold recorded. What he didn't record, however,

was why.

I think it's time for Phase II. If you the reader, know the stories behind the nicknames, write them down and send them in to the Nickname Project c/o the *Montague Reporter*. It's time to get started on the next chapter of Harold Fugere's book.

By the way, although his students didn't dare call him that, his nickname was "Googe"!



Mr. Fugere, from the TFHS Class of 1964 Yearbook.

Great Falls Middle School / Turners Falls High School 2nd Quarter Honor Roll

Grade 6

FIRST HONORS

Michael Boyle, Hugh Cyhowski, Isabel Garcia, Taylor Greene, Fiona Hutchison, Syna Katsoulis, Joseph Mosca, Ricky Pareja, Oliver Postera, Jacob Reich, Jillian Reynolds, Jack Trombi, Isabella Vachula-Curtis, Charlotte Valle, Carly Whitney, Shan-Tong Widmer

SECOND HONORS

Tiffany Aubrey, Josiah Chapin, Devin Emond, Aurora Frenier, Jeremy Kovalsick, Samantha Wiles, Derek Wissmann

THIRD HONORS

Ryan Bowden-Smith, Kyleigh Dobosz, Isabella Johnson, Alexander Knapp, Chelsea Kretchmar, Megan Leveille, Michelle Newsome, Jessica Tricolici

Grade 8

FIRST HONORS

Willa Jean Beltrandi, Dylan Burnett, Laura Cioclea, Emily Fess, Jada Jurek, Cirdan Kearns, Britney Lambert, Jacob Lyons, Jasmine Meattley, Jacob Norwood, Kiley Palmquist, Nicholas Peabody, Blake Pollard, Brandon Pollard, Lucy Postera, Greyson Rollins, Abigail Sanders, Ivan Sankov, Olivia Stafford, Paige Sulda, Samantha Thorpe, Hannah Warnock, Emily Williams, Emily Young

SECOND HONORS

Joshua Brunelle, Dalton Henderson, Caitlyn Jacobsen, Amos Koyama, Joshua Matakanski, Arianna Rosewarne, Dylann Russell, Tessa Williams, Devin Willor

THIRD HONORS

Xavier Carlo, Brendan Driscoll, Anthony Matos

Grade 9

FIRST HONORS

Mercedes Bailey, Haley Bastarache, Xavier Chagnon, Jacob Dodge, Isabelle Farrick, Isabella Johnson, Natalie Kells, Mercedes Morales, Audrey O'Keefe, Karissa Olson, Dalver Perez, Catherine Reynolds, Madison Sanders, Amber Taylor, Brynn Tela, Leah Timberlake, Jade Tyler, Olivia Whittier, Maralee Wiles

SECOND HONORS

Kate Boulanger, Emily Cobb, Emily Denison, Sophia Gobeil, Kate Graves, Haleigh Greene, Mackenzie Martel, Taylor Murphy, Lana Spera, Taryn Thayer, Hailey Wheeler, Cecilya Wood

THIRD HONORS

Isabella Allen, Sara Billings, Vincent Carme, Storm Nye, Morgan Pendriss, James Robison, Juliana Rode, Kaylin Voudren, Kaliegh Waller, Kolby Watroba

Grade 11

FIRST HONORS

Lindsey Bourbeau, Anna Kochan, Mireya Ortiz, Hunter Sanders, Holly Tetreault, Cassidhe Wozniak

SECOND HONORS

Dylan Allen, Lexi Bieniek, Samantha Bocon, Ryan Campbell, Dominic Carme, Shawn Cullen, Kyle Dodge, Katherine Garcia, Caitlyn Gobeil, Jenna Jacobsen, Dizarre Lopez, Garrett Martel, Jorge Morales Burgos, Katherin Moreno-Sibrian, John Putala, Will Turn, Victoria Veaudry, Sarah Waldron, Hannah Welles

THIRD HONORS

Alazay Bauch, Relian Casine, Andy Craver, Owen Darling, Ruben Galvez Perez, Ryan Kucenski, Jacob LaBelle, Alexis Lacey, Alexander Lefebvre, Bianca Martin, Tyler Murray-Lavin, Tyler Noyes, Edison Ovalle-Bartolon, Marissa Poole, Summer Rain, Anthony Santos-Ruehle, Jakob Wilson

Grade 12

FIRST HONORS

Samantha Kolodziej, Snejana Lashtur, Kylee Mason


SECOND HONORS

Amanda Cooke, Noah Courchesne, Ener Diaz Morales, Sienna Dillensneider, Sahaley DuPree, Chloe Ellis, Maya Hancock-Pezzatti, Abigail Loynd, Justin Mikalunas, Aliyah Sanders, Madison St Marie, Skylar Thompson, Rachel Tucker, Riley Watroba, John Wheeler II, Javoni Williams

THIRD HONORS

Alora DeForge, John Driscoll, Tabitha Hamilton, Destiny Hubbard, Carlie Kretchmar, Ian Marron, Kayli Messinger, Joshua Obuchowski, Colin Senn

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MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Looking for something to do this week? Check out the calendar at [TurnersFallsRiverCulture.org!](#)

One event to look out for is the Slice of Humanity exhibit at Nina’s Nook in Turners Falls, which will be available from now until the end of March. This exhibit features artists’ work focusing on the human figure. Specifically, you’ll be able to see the work of Robert Bent, Suzanne Conway, Lauren Paradise, Jeff Wrench, and gallery owner Nina Rossi. To

learn more about each of the artists’ work, visit [NinasNook.com](#). The gallery is located at 125A Avenue A in Turners Falls.

Something going on you think others would like to see? Get in touch to learn how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment. Local events are great opportunities to hone your video production skills!

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

WENDELL FREE LIBRARY NEWS

The Witches of Eastwick

The monthly series of Science Fiction/Fantasy and Horror/Monster movies continues at the Wendell Free Library this Saturday, February 17 at 7:30 p.m. with *The Witches of Eastwick* (1984).

Three single women in a picturesque village have their wishes granted, at a cost, when a mysterious and flamboyant man arrives in their lives. All three previously married but now single, best friends sculptress Alex Medford, cellist Jane Spofford and writer Sukie Ridgemont are feeling emotionally and sexually repressed, in large part due to the traditional mores overriding their small New England coastal town of Eastwick.

After their latest conversation lamenting about the lack of suitable men in Eastwick and describing the qualities they are looking for in a

man, mysterious Daryl Van Horne and his equally mysterious butler Fidel arrive in town.

Despite being vulgar, crude, brazen and not particularly handsome, Daryl manages to be able to tap into the innermost emotions of the three friends, and as such manages to seduce each. After an incident involving one of the town’s leading citizens, the three women begin to understand how and why Daryl is able to mesmerize them so fully. The three decide to experiment with some powers...

There will be a 1/2 hour film before the movie, an episode of *The Twilight Zone*: “The After Hours.”

Free admission. For more information about the Library, visit www.wendellfreelibrary.org or call (978) 544-3559.

CONCERT REVIEW

Mardi Gras at the Shea

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

TURNERS FALLS – Mardi Gras is a celebration period that happens before fasting connected with Lent. It’s best known to happen in New Orleans, Louisiana, but happens in many different countries all over the world, such as Russia, Ukraine, Italy, Germany, and France. People dress up in costumes for this in New Orleans and these other places.

That’s what happened at the Mardi Gras party at the Shea on February 3. There was a best costume contest, along with a New Orleans jazz and blues vocalist named Samirah Evans, and a rock’n’roll group called Trailer Park.

Trailer Park featured two guitarists, two saxophone players, a drummer on a drum set, and a keyboard player. Quite a large amount of the audience danced in the pit close to the stage. Two of the band members each sang a song at one point, which they both sang well.

They played good rock’n’roll music. Some of the audience must have thought so – if not, then why did they dance in front of the stage?

Samirah Evans came out on stage dressed in a Mardi Gras outfit, and her singing voice worked well with the rock’n’roll music the band was playing. In a review of the band at the Light Up the Shea concert, I said the band was perfect for a New Year’s Eve party – well, I believe this singer, and band, were perfect for this Mardi Gras one. They weren’t some pop music band that they were trying to fit into this. (I personally think pop music at this kind of party would have been horrible!)

This woman and the band were just the right fit. Samirah even danced a little on stage as she was performing. Besides some of the audience dancing in the pit in front of the stage, Samirah got some of them to sing part of a song with her. That was cool.

She sang a song with one of the guitarists who had sung well earlier. He played the guitar well too. During another song, one of the saxophone players played some kind of horn. So the band had a diverse sound to its name. The audience members dancing didn’t seem to have anything to complain about when it came to them.

As she performed, I thought Samirah Evans must have been a perfect fit in the music scene of New Orleans. I understand that had a lot of jazz and rock’n’roll in it. Samirah isn’t a musician who would be out of place in New Orleans’ music scene. Practically the whole group sang a song with her at one point, and they did it well.

At a table inside the Shea, both Trailer Park and Samirah Evans were selling CDs – from what I heard of their music, they should have sold very well.

A fair amount of people were dressed in costumes for the contest I mentioned. One example was a man dressed like a voodoo priest out of New Orleans. I personally thought that man should win Best Costume. A couple of people wore the types of masks you would see at Mardi Gras. People also wore these light things that I think you see there too. It was an enjoyable Mardi Gras experience for me!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Alley Beeper; Cumby’s Drinkers Enabled; Fireworks/Gunshots Heard; iPhone Jacked

Tuesday, 2/6

8:13 a.m. Caller from Federal Street requesting to speak with animal control officer regarding a complaint he received from a tenant about four large dogs that could be a threat to her baby and a small dog. Not in progress. ACO advised.

8:27 a.m. First of several reports of icy conditions on roads. DPW sanders out.

1:14 p.m. Caller reporting that someone has been intermittently beeping their car horn for several hours today in the alley between Third and Fourth streets; ongoing issue over past several days. Delay due to call volume.

4:44 p.m. 911 caller reporting that the two dogs she is watching had fallen through the ice into the river. While caller was still on the line, the dogs paddled themselves out of the water and were able to make it onto dry land. Caller’s feet were wet from being in the water, but she felt that she did not need medical attention.

7:21 p.m. Caller from Elm Street states that neighbors regularly let their husky dog run loose in the neighborhood. Dog is aggressive towards other dogs; therefore, nobody else can be out walking their dogs when that dog is loose. Responding officer advises he is in his cruiser outside of the residence and the loose dog is outside of his cruiser.

Contact made with dog owner; advised of complaint and leash laws.

Wednesday, 2/7

12:12 a.m. Caller reports seeing two people in a pickup truck drinking alcohol in the Cumberland Farms parking lot. Officer advises car will be staying in lot overnight; owner will be transported home by his girlfriend.

1:53 p.m. Report of jack-knifed tractor trailer unit at top of hill at Millers Falls Road and West Main Street. PD units and DPW advised.

3:36 p.m. Per request of DPW, officer spoke with resident on L Street and advised him not to blow his snow into the road.

5:30 p.m. Party from Turners Falls Road into station reporting that at approximately 5:30 every morning recently, the *Greenfield Recorder* delivery person has been driving on the wrong side of the road to avoid having to get out of the vehicle to put the papers in the boxes. Advised caller that this would be logged and that officers would be on lookout in the mornings.

6:44 p.m. Caller from Crescent Street reports that her neighbor has blown

snow from his property into the road and onto several neighboring properties, including the caller’s. Ongoing issue. Neighbor has since gone back inside his residence and turned out all the lights. Officers will follow up during the day tomorrow.

9:45 p.m. DPW advises there are people snow-blowing in the road downtown making it difficult for sanders/plows to navigate; requesting that an officer speak with them. Several locations, but two primary concerns are Seventh Street at Park Street and Third Street at L Street. Officer checked both locations; clear upon arrival. Will continue to be on lookout for any hazards.

Thursday, 2/8

6:18 a.m. 911 call from owner of Carroll’s Market, who just got there and believes someone broke in. Investigated.

7 a.m. DPW requesting assistance towing vehicles from the Third Street lot for snow removal. Delayed response due to call volume. One vehicle remaining upon arrival. DPW advised they were able to clear around that vehicle and do not need it towed.

9:08 a.m. DPW requesting assistance towing vehicles from the Fourth Street lot for snow removal. Two vehicles towed.

11:46 a.m. Caller requesting that an officer check her driveway and see if her vehicle is there. Caller advises her sister’s vehicle is parked where her vehicle usually is, and one of her sets of keys is missing. Caller’s sister does not have permission to use her vehicle. Officer located caller’s vehicle on property and spoke with caller. No further action needed.

Friday, 2/9

1:37 a.m. Caller from re-possession company requesting assistance with unruly female. 911 call received from female at location stating she needs an officer there to tell the tow truck driver to get off her property and leave her vehicle. Situation mediated.

Tow company has vehicle and has left property.

6:39 p.m. Report of vehicle into pole on High Street. No injuries. Vehicle is blocking roadway. Rau’s on scene; Eversource has ETA of 30 minutes. Courtesy transport to station provided. Summons issued.

7:25 p.m. Report from Grove Street of what sounded like one gunshot. Area checked; nothing found.

9:09 p.m. Caller believes she heard shots fired near Park and Central streets; two rounds. Officer clear; nothing showing.

10:04 p.m. Caller advising of vehicle rollover with injuries and possible entrapment on Wendell Road. MedCare, officers, and TFFD advised. Eversource en route. One patient transported. Summons issued.

11:23 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

Saturday, 2/10

12:18 a.m. Report of hit and run accident on Lake Pleasant Road. Medical care refused. Rau’s responding. Courtesy transport to downtown Millers Falls provided.

3:31 a.m. Caller from L Street states that his neighbor’s car door is open and it looks like stuff has been thrown around inside. Officer shut door to vehicle. Unable to make contact with owner. Vehicle secured.

11:44 a.m. Caller from G Street reporting a woman was yelling profanities into her window. Female is believed to be back in her apartment. Officer tried to make contact, but she would not open the door. Officer spoke to neighbors, who all believe that she gave birth recently.

12:10 p.m. Cumberland Farms clerk requesting officer respond to move along a female who is hanging around outside yelling at customers. Female moved along without incident.

2:08 p.m. Walk-in party reporting he found a video recording device hidden in his bedroom.

3:02 p.m. Caller reporting what sounds like gunshots in area of Chestnut Street. Responding officer spoke with a lady walking her dog who states she heard it as well and believes it was fireworks. Area checked; no indication of where it is coming from.

10:09 p.m. Caller reporting that her iPhone 5S was stolen tonight while at the laundromat. Phone is in a teal blue case that is partially broken.

Sunday, 2/11

12:46 a.m. Cumberland Farms employee reporting blonde female causing disturbance in store. Verbal only; nothing physical at this time. Female is yelling and swearing at employees and customers. Female was asked to leave and has refused.

[redacted] was arrested and charged with disturbing the peace.

5:58 a.m. Northampton Control transferring open 911 call coming from Griswold Street. Child is playing on phone. This is the eleventh time the child has called 911 in a short period of time. Upon clearing, officer advises he has made contact with the phone owner. Phone is now away from child. Confirmed misdial.

10:42 a.m. Caller reports that a vehicle has been driving erratically on Kimberly Lane on a regular basis (speeding, donuts, etc.). Caller advises that today the vehicle crashed into a snowbank; when caller attempted to speak with driver, he left the area. Summons issued.

4:45 p.m. FD received a call directly from Berkshire Gas, who responded to a home on G Street for the smell of natural gas. No readings found, but could smell gasoline in the area and saw rainbow-like streaks down the roadway, possibly from gasoline. FD responding.

7:42 p.m. Caller states that there is a large pothole in Millers Falls Road that he hit and popped a tire. Caller has returned home to repair the tire.

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Flying corn at the Atlanta airport.

FOOD MOVIE from page B1
“National Voice of Science” would save the day. Maybe.

As the film progressed I could feel a group cringe as anti-GMO advocates transformed from reasonable sounding concerned parents into suburban elitists gone off the deep end; and as the downsides of some GMO products, like herbicide-resistant weeds, were swept aside. “When that biotech communicator began to cry,” said my husband, “was when I knew we were being manipulated.”

But there’s **nothing like propaganda** to kick off discussion. One neighbor pointed out that GMO isn’t **one thing**. The technology that saves a crop from a devastating virus is different from one that enables corn to withstand dousing with herbicides like Roundup, and now dicamba (a problem-pesticide even without the GMO; as is, quite possibly, Roundup, depending on who you read).

It is true, GMO are not one thing. They are a whole spectrum of products made using genetic engineering techniques. I’ve written about the pitfalls of some GMO like herbicide-resistant crops, and the benefits of other GMO like crops engineered to resist pests and pathogens, allowing growers to re-

duce pesticide applications. (And increasingly, some engineered products are made with genes from the same species – these are called cisgenic products, rather than different species like the typical transgenic product.)

Another neighbor wondered where the scientists were who questioned the safety of GMO, because surely they were neglected here, and set off to find them. Not an easy task, the letter aside; according to a survey by the Pew Research Center, 88% of scientists surveyed have no issue with the safety of GMO. That said, they may have other issues.

“What did you think?” asked one neighbor a few days later. “Biased,” I said. And it’s **too bad**; a **squandered** opportunity to begin the process of revealing the messy gray zone that exists in the science, the economics and ethics and communities.

“One movie won’t settle anything; and this one certainly won’t. But we – someone – needs to do better than that. Food is too important to be held hostage by those with vested interests.”

Emily Monosson is an independent toxicologist and writer blogging at [toxicevolution.wordpress.com](#).



February 22 in Greenfield: King Philip’s War... Through Native Eyes

GREENFIELD – In *Our Beloved Kin: A New History of King Philip’s War*, Lisa Brooks recovers a complex picture of war, captivity, and Native resistance during the “First Indian War” (later named King Philip’s War).

She relays the stories of Weetamoo, a female Wampanoag leader, and James Printer, a Nipmuc scholar, whose stories converge in the captivity of Mary Rowlandson, an English settler taken captive at Lancaster in 1675 who wrote the most famous captivity narrative of that war. Through a narrow focus on Weetamoo, Printer, and their network of relations, against a background of vast Indigenous geographies, Brooks leads us to a new understanding of the history of colonial New England, and of American origins.

Next Thursday, February 22, Brooks will be in Greenfield for two events: at 5 p.m., a **book signing** at World Eye Bookshop, 134 Main Street; and at 7 p.m., a **book reading** at Stinchfield Hall, Greenfield Community College, College Drive. These events are co-sponsored by Greenfield Community College, The Nolumbeka Project, and World Eye Bookshop.

Although rooted in her Abenaki homeland, Brooks’s work has been widely influential in a global network of scholars and organizations. Her scholarship is grounded in extensive archival research, and in the land and communities of Native New England. She brings to life the actors of the seventeenth century alongside an analysis of their landscape and interpretations informed by tribal history.

“Lisa Brooks brilliantly guides us through the ‘place-worlds’ of Weetamoo and James Printer to create a stunningly original account of King Philip’s War that challenges the Eurocentric view of how New England was initially ‘settled.’ The Native viewpoint changes everything we thought we knew,” writes Mary Beth Norton, author of *In the Devil’s Snare: The Salem Witchcraft Crisis of 1692*.

Lisa Brooks is Associate Professor of English and American Studies at Amherst College. Her first book, *The Common Pot: The Recovery of Native Space in the Northeast* (University of Minnesota Press, 2008) received the Media Ecology Association’s Dorothy Lee Award for Outstanding Scholarship in the Ecology of Culture in 2011.

MEAL KITS from page B1

were naked in the bag. Two small bundles of fresh herbs were in hard plastic, probably to keep them from being crushed in transit.

The first meal, called “Crispy Frico Cheeseburgers,” involved crisping some shredded cheese for the burgers and making caramelized onion jam to put on them. This was easy to do in the skillet, and I will use that idea again because it was good: just add some balsamic vinegar and sugar to caramelized onions, and reduce it.

The cheese idea wasn’t interesting to me, and I really wondered why they call the buns “brioche,” because they were just regular bread buns with slightly higher, browner tops as far as I could tell, not the buttery, egg enriched, flakey sensation of the name. Broccoli was roasted in the oven – using olive oil from the cupboard – as a side.

It was good, and covered two nights of meals for two. Recipes usually count on some basic pantry items that you supply, and for this one I contributed olive oil, sugar, seasonings, and parchment paper.

The second meal was “Fun-Day Fajita Bar” with southwestern pork, onion, and bell peppers. For this I was instructed to make fresh salsa with heirloom tomatoes and sauté the pork with HelloFresh’s seasoning packet, then assemble it all in a tortilla with sour cream and grated cheddar.

It was OK, but that’s a low-buck meal I commonly make myself, and I didn’t see how it was worth \$9 apiece.

Blue Apron’s box arrived the following week, and contained our favorite meal of all: Jerk Shrimp Tacos with a citrus cabbage slaw.



The Blue Apron box arrived with ingredients for two meals for four people inside.

Pros and Cons

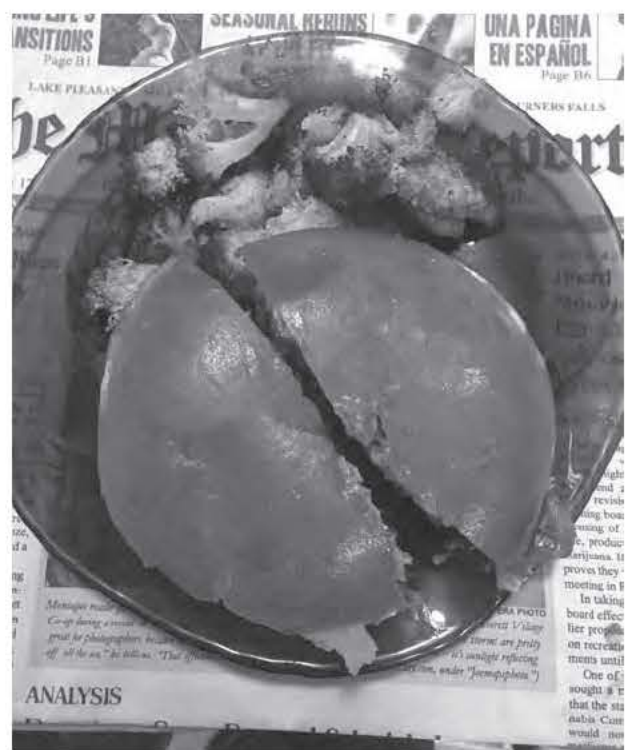
But, hey. My friend decided to subscribe after getting her introductory boxes. For her, avoiding going to the store means she isn’t going to impulsively buy a lot of stuff she doesn’t need, and she likes that she gets serving sized quantities of things because she is cooking for only one person and doesn’t need a lot of anything. Cutting down on food waste is one of the benefits that these companies like to tout.

“The other thing I like is that I get ingredients I wouldn’t normally try,” she observed. Blue Apron, in particular, likes to brag that they are increasing food diversity through contracting with growers for large amounts of unusual, underutilized crops.

However, my friend often feels overwhelmed with a quantity of food that she needs to freeze (meats) or throw away (lettuce, kale) if she can’t cook them in time before another package arrives. Some people I heard from even felt slightly oppressed by having to cook the meals instead of going out to eat.

You could just cancel the next shipment if you get behind, I reminded her. Most meal kit plans I looked at online – and there are dozens more than just HelloFresh and Blue Apron – say that you can cancel anytime, or skip weeks as you need to. You can even have the kits shipped to other addresses if you are traveling. “I was going to cancel,” she laughed. “But I liked the recipes, so I got it anyways.”

Recipes generally don’t repeat within the year, said a customer service rep at Blue Apron. All the recipes are available on their website. But cooking from a recipe takes initiative, and one of the tempting things about this experience is that you are relieved of the burden of autonomy – a burden I didn’t realize I had,



The completed Hello Fresh burger meal, with informative and recyclable place mat.

until I experienced the meal kit.

How nice, in a way, to have so much decided for me, to be taken care of. Perhaps I would start salivating at the *thud* of the box landing on my porch, and stay in my pajamas all day; self-employed, nocturnal, hooked on food deliveries...?

I polled some other local consumers about their experience. Jen Audley, whose Turners Falls household consists of two teenage boys and two adults, received Blue Apron as a gift and then used it five or six times over the course of a year. “I liked the idea of it – sort of – and we found the recipes were really nice for Dave and the boys to use,” Jen reported.

“But their idea of the serving sizes didn’t quite match up to what the boys were eating, and we had to bulk the recipe out. And I had such a hard time with the packaging, and environmental guilt about food to doorstep in a truck. The way they packaged things was just too weird and seemed too wasteful.”

Dani Therrien of Greenfield, currently receiving HelloFresh deliveries, told us: “I am a pretty good cook, but we tend to be lazy and just opt to eat out, and this keeps us home and makes grocery runs easier which is nice. We are both busy and getting to the store is hard. I miss Big-Y-To-Go, and really want a grocery delivery in Greenfield, please!”

Mary Feeney and Judy Bennett both brought up ways the service could provide comfort to people, as a nice gift idea for people who love to cook, or new parents, grieving folks, those dealing with medical issues, etc. Easier to give – and to receive? – than the traditional casserole, perhaps.

Cold-Chain Shipping = Gel Pack Purgatory

The gel packs are six pounds apiece, and there are two in every box. I wasn’t able to get answers from either Blue Apron or HelloFresh about exactly what is in them. Both companies instruct buyers to “recycle” the gel packs by thawing them, cutting a hole and dumping the gel in “the waste stream” (trash), and then recycling the #4 plastic package.

The HelloFresh Canada website states that the packs are filled with a “non-toxic salt solution,” which may be melted and poured down the drain “using hot water to dissolve the gel,” before you recycle the plastic casing.

The heavy gel can cause trash bags to break and make a mess, and people feel odd dumping liquids in their trash. Several people I talked to had instinctively melted it and then urged the applesauce-consistency gel down the drain. The companies do say that it is non-toxic and water soluble, so, why not?

Since there is no explanation about why you can’t, some people do.

Including me, before reading an article by Keira Butler in the June 4, 2017 online edition of *Mother Jones*. Butler explains the contents of these meal kit gel packs are a super-absorbent polymer (SAP) formulation. This substance, invented by Dow Chemical, is the same gel used in disposable diapers, soil enhancement, fake snow, detergents, and other things. It can hold up to 300 times its weight in water.

These sodium polyacrylates are indeed non-toxic and water soluble, but the gel is not good for your plumbing. Because it can sit in the main sewer drain, which does not have a steep angle, for quite some time before dissolving, it may capture other substances and cause a clog to form.

(Interestingly, a presentation by Mark Tay about this substance on *prezi.com* mentions that an excess of

see MEAL KITS next page

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MEAL KITS from previous page

salt will cause the gel to leak, rather than hold, water. Should customers be “salting” the gel down the sink? If I ever hear back from these companies, I will ask!)

In her article, Butler writes that Blue Apron causes 192,000 tons of freezer-pack waste every year. Blue Apron is the only such service that will take them back: if customers save up at least ten packs, they can arrange for free return shipping. Whether or not the company reuses these packs or throws them away is unknown.

I tried contacting two manufacturers of gel packs used by Blue Apron and HelloFresh, Nordic Ice and Creative Packaging Co., to ask if there was sodium polyacrylate inside their gel packs. A customer service rep at Creative Packaging said she “thought it was gelatin and water,” and passed me on to the voice mail of another person who has not called back. Calls to Nordic Ice have not been returned either, but their website does say they are a key supplier within the cold-chain shipping world of meal kit delivery companies Blue Apron, HelloFresh, Purple Carrot and more.

“In regard to the contents of the gel packs, they are a formulation of approximately 99% water and a Superabsorbent Polymer (SAP),” Shara Seigel from HelloFresh told me. “The SAPs are not hazardous. They are based upon synthetic polymers and not considered biodegradable.”

Cold-chain shipping is apparently a huge growth industry for food and pharmaceuticals which need to maintain precise temperatures *en route* to their destination.

More Questions than Answers

I am still not sure, after using the Blue Apron and HelloFresh meal kits and talking with others about their meal kit experiences, whether they are a good thing or a bad thing, economically or ecologically speaking. It’s not clear which has a bigger carbon footprint – the typical trucking and delivery involved in getting the food from farm to warehouse to wholesaler to grocery store to car and home, or using one of these meal kit services that eliminate one or two of those steps.

But am I willing to spend more on food, and get portion-ready, higher quality eats delivered to the door? Not really. I’m usually able to whip up a good meal out of whatever I have around within the space of 30 minutes.

Frugality has blessed my life with the coping mechanisms of efficiency and creativity. I also like the experience of shopping, for the human contact and for the inspiration provided by encountering unexpected bargains that challenge me to construct weekly menus on the fly.

Of course, I might feel differently if I were a busy professional!

Locally, we are able to buy directly from many local farmers. We can get dairy, meat, and eggs as well as produce, and local grain and wheat made into pastas and breads.

I sought an opinion on meal kits from Isaac Bingham and Sorrel Hatch at nearby Upinngil Farm. “Like a lot of farms in the Pioneer Valley,” Isaac wrote, “we’re focused almost entirely on retail, eliminating any middle man, so we wouldn’t be interested in sup-



Blue Apron customers are instructed to put the two enclosed gel packs into “the waste stream” when they are done with them.

plying ingredients for a meal kit company. Selling direct to the customer whenever possible is what’s best both for the farm and the customer.”

The couple have talked about doing Upinngil Easy Meal kits, but caution that they are not sure when, or if, such a plan would roll out. They envision selling a weekly collection of farm products that would include a recipe, which people could order online and pick up. The groceries would cost slightly less than if ordered separately.

The long-term implications from this trend are unknown, but it’s disturbing to know that millions of pounds of gel are going into the “waste stream.” Will meal kits worsen class divisions, with “good food” only available to those who can afford it, and “bad food” becoming what is left on the shelves of a dwindling number of grocery stores serving the rest of us? Or can meal delivery be put to use to get “good food” to people in places where fresh food is too scarce or expensive? Could meal delivery kits have a philanthropic upside of saving lives and fostering good health in marginal or at-risk populations?

As this article went to press, we heard the news that the Trump Administration is proposing to replace most SNAP benefits with “America’s Harvest Box,” home-delivered meal packages sourced from domestic producers. Would the government be deciding what people eat, as well as how much and when?

According to *Fortune*, “[c]ritics... called into question nearly every element of the underdeveloped plan,” but I have a feeling home-delivered meal kits, and the technology and labor required to deliver them, will be debated more in the weeks and months to come.

The Meals on Wheels A-Team

By LISA MIDDENTS

GREENFIELD – When we think of superheroes, neatly labeled rows of Shelf Stable Meals, sparkly snow globes, and adorable snowmen decorations are not the first things that come to mind. These are some of the things you’ll find in Ann Kaczewski’s and Darlene Nutter’s workspace in LifePath’s Nutrition Department.

Yet superhero fits to sum up all the passion, energy, and skill that Ann and Darlene bring to their jobs.

“So much of what Darlene and I do is real teamwork. I couldn’t do this job without her,” says Ann, the congregate and home-delivered meals coordinator. “We always know what the other is doing and we fill in what needs to be done. She is my right arm, and I am her left.”

Not many could fit into a 30-hour week all the responsibilities Ann has for making sure Meals on Wheels runs smoothly. If an elder doesn’t answer their door when the drivers deliver, it’s her job to track them down to be sure they are safe.

Ann says, “I call emergency contacts, doctor offices and hospitals to make sure folks are okay.” This wellness check is what gives elders and their families peace of mind. Ann also helps maintain the ever-changing information added to the computer, recruits and orients volunteer drivers, and helps order food for an average of 550 elders each weekday who receive Meals on Wheels.

Before Ann joined the staff, she volunteered to keep Meals on Wheels rolling. She formed the Walkathon team “Elm Street Ambulators” in 2013, and they raised a whopping \$900 last year. Ann has big plans to top that this year.



Ann Kaczewski on the job: “I love talking to the elders on the phone. I love working with the departments and feel blessed to work with this agency.”

Meals on Wheels captured Ann’s heart after her mother passed away several years ago. Her mom fell down in her home and was found by her Meals on Wheels drivers. “I lived about an hour and a half away,” Ann explains, “so I wasn’t able to be there every day. I was very, very appreciative of her getting a hot meal.”

You are invited to join Ann and Darlene to fight for Meals on Wheels. Contact me at (413) 773-5555, ext. 2225 or lmiddents@lifepathma.org or go online to LifePathMA.org.

The Meals on Wheels Walkathon is on Saturday, April 28 from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at LifePath, 101 Munson Street, Greenfield. Together we can make sure all elders who need Meals on Wheels get them in 2018!

Lisa Middents is LifePath’s development manager.

HIP from page B1

farm stand and get some great local produce without putting a dent in your food budget.

(All information, including open times, is for the winter. However, you should always call or check their web site or social media accounts for updates.)

Farm stands within 5 miles

- Upinngil Farm: 411 Main Road, Gill. Phone: (413) 863-2297. www.upinngil.com. Open daily, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Red Fire North: 485 Federal Street, Montague. Phone: (413) 367-3070. www.redfirenorth.com. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (They were still waiting for the paperwork to clear as of this article’s publication, but expect to be able to process HIP later this month; call to confirm.)

Winter Farmers Markets within 5 miles

- Greenfield Winter Farmers Market: At the Discovery School at Four Corners, 21 Ferrante Ave, Greenfield. greenfieldfarmersmarket.com/greenfield-winter-farmers-market/ The final winter farmers market takes place Saturday, March 3 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Farm stands within 10 miles

- Atlas Farm Stand: 218 Greenfield Road, South Deerfield. Phone: (413) 397-3587. www.atlasfarm.com. Open daily, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Clarkdale Fruit Farms: 303 Upper Road, Deerfield. Phone: (413) 772-6797. www.clarkdalefruitfarms.com. Open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 8 to 5 p.m.
- Hager’s Farm Market: 1232 Mohawk Trail, Shelburne. Phone:

(413) 625-6323. www.hagersfarmmarket.com. Open Mondays through Fridays, 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

- Mycoterra Farm: 75 Stillwater Road., South Deerfield. Phone: (413) 397-3654. www.mycoterra-farm.com. Open Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Sweet Morning Farm: 910 Greenfield Rd., Leyden. Phone: (413) 773-8325. www.sweet-morning-farm.blogspot.com — Hours vary; call first.

Farm stands within 15 miles

- Simple Gifts Farm: 1089 N. Pleasant Street, Amherst. Phone: (413) 549-1585. www.simple-giftsfarmcsa.com. Open Mondays through Fridays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sundays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Fungi Ally: 311 River Drive, Hadley. Phone: (978) 844-1811. www.fungially.com. Open Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Winter Farmers Markets within 25 miles

- Amherst Winter Farmers’ Market: Hampshire Mall, Hadley. www.amherstwintermarket.com Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Northampton Winter Farmers’ Market: Senior Center, 67 Conz Street, Northampton. northamptonwintermarket.com Saturdays, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

There are additional farm stands and farmers markets further away, all around the region and state. Visit the HIP web site at www.mass.gov/agr/massgrown/hip.htm to search for more.



Save the Date: GMEF Gala to Feature “Music of John Denver”

TURNERS FALLS – Tribute artist Jim Curry, whose voice was heard in the CBS TV movie *Take Me Home: The John Denver Story*, will make a rare New England appearance at the Gill-Montague Education Fund’s Annual Gala on April 28.

Curry is said to have an uncanny ability to mirror Denver’s voice and clean-cut looks, evocative of the 1970s when “Rocky Mountain High,” “Sunshine,” “Calypso” and “Annie’s Song” topped the charts. John Denver’s popular music had the heartfelt message of caring for the earth and caring for one another, themes that still resonate with listeners today.

Curry began his music career writing and performing the opening song, “The Time of Your Life,” for his senior play. The song was then voted to be the 1975 class song, and Jim was awarded a Rotary Scholarship to study music in college. Even at this early stage in his life his natural voice resembled that of Denver. Embracing the similarities, Curry continued to sing and specialized in the songs of John Denver, sharing his positive messages of love, humanity and environmental awareness.

Jim Curry does not think of himself an impersonator but as a tribute performer, creating an immersive experience that seeks to capture the true essence of Denver’s music.

Curry believes that Denver’s words still ring true in these difficult times of war and environ-



mental crisis. He says, “The songs blend the images of our natural earth with a love for each other as people. The care you give to someone you love is the best care. Making that connection to our earth and to each other is the goal.”

Jim Curry has created the ultimate tribute experience and has emerged as the top performer of John Denver’s music today. He often performs with Denver’s former band members. On April 28, Chris Nole, Denver’s piano player for the last five years of his career, will join Curry for the Gill-Montague Education Fund Annual Gala called “The Music of John Denver.”

Nole, songwriter/composer, accomplished session musician, producer and recording artist, performs in the United States and throughout the world. He has toured and recorded with numerous top recording acts including Faith Hill, Travis Tritt, the Oak Ridge Boys, Don Williams and Shelby Lynne.

Organizers promise an unforgettable show that will truly fill up your senses!

The concert for the Gill-Montague Education Fund will take place April 28 at 7 p.m. at Turners Falls High School. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door.

For more information, go to thegmef.org.

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The Children's Page



Lovelights

...continued from last month

Story by Beverly Ketch

Illustrations by Hannah Brookman



"I better go with you", said Commander Underfoot, "You may need back up. I'll get a headdress for myself, too."

"Thanks, Handsome!" said the queen of Catropia with an approving purr.

They both appeared simultaneously in the livingroom of Chella and Viola, side by side in their pyramid head-dresses. Ritin Theway (otherwise known as Figaro) used Agent Zenith's surprise to scamper away toward them and put on the protective headdress that rendered him free of mind control powers.

Meanwhile Chella and Viola had been about to give Zenith the bottle containing the Infanteron recipe. Although taken aback by the arrival of the two cats, Viola handed baby Zenith the bottle. This then preoccupied Zenith's whole attention, as she gleefully drank it, quite unconcerned about the doings of the three cats.

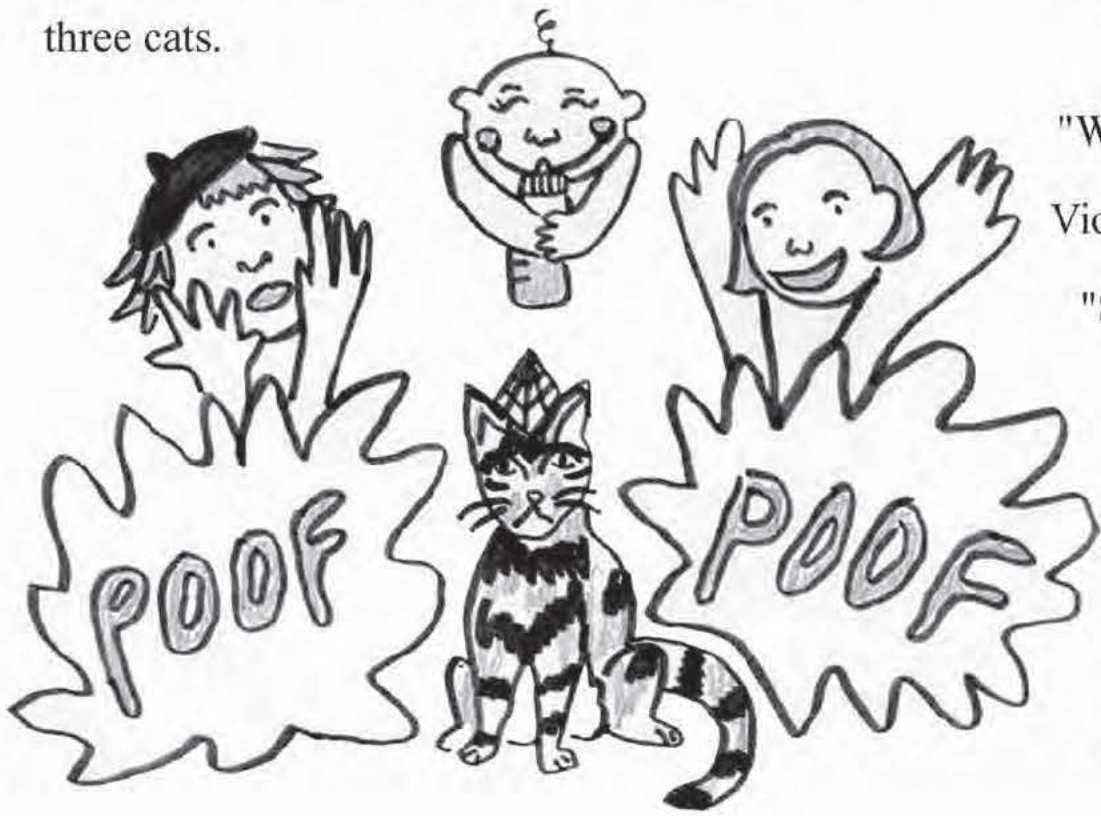


"What elegant visitors we have today, " said Chella to Viola with a wide-eyed stare.

"Surprise guests to say the least," said Viola.

But as they reached out to greet the Commander and the Queen, the two cats each gave a wave of their tails and disappeared, leaving Figaro there in his very strange hat. Quickly he fled the room.

...to be continued next month



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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 mcbass@vermontel.net for location and details.

2ND AND 4TH MONDAYS

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAYS

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

1ST AND 3RD THURSDAYS

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

2ND AND 4TH THURSDAYS

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

EVERY THIRD THURSDAY

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

EVERY FRIDAY

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

EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

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

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

EXHIBITS:

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *"Green Houses in the Connecticut River Valley of Massachusetts,"* by Peter Alan Monroe. Photographs of houses by Monroe, who grew up in Queens,

NY and moved to western Massachusetts in the 1970s. As he traveled around Massachusetts and Connecticut, he began to notice a certain type of house, often in rundown neighborhoods. Monroe developed all of the negatives and made all of the prints in his home darkroom, a process he believes is superior to digital photography. February 23 through March 31.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *The World of Wranglers, Rodeo Riders and their Horses*. Photos by Diane Norman taken in



See Turners Falls photographer Peter Monroe's photographic series depicting an iconic architectural element of our area. "Green Houses in the Connecticut River Valley of Massachusetts," will be at The Greenfield Gallery from Friday, February 23 through Saturday, March 31. Reception Friday, February 23 at 6 p.m.

the wilds of Wyoming. Through February 27.

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

Old Mill Inn, Hatfield: *Holland Hoagland: Seeing the Figure*. Sculpture in wood and stone by Hatfield Sculptor. Presentation March 7, 7 p.m. Through March 9.

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

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne: *Fly Away Home...* by Belinda Lyons Zucker. Dolls and figures from Black folklore that tell of Africans that flew. Through February.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: *Small Works Exhibit and Sale*. Show of small works contrib-

uted by area artists. Through February 26.

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

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Almost There and other Still Life Paintings by Clifton Hunt*. Still life arranged in a style that evokes the Old Masters. Through February.



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

CALL FOR ART:

Resist Art Show, Brattleboro: A call for art that reflects on the current political situation. Stand up and express your hopes, your outrage, your vision, in the face of the times we are living through. Open to all mediums, including writing (one page maximum and presented as visually engaging) that can be wall-hung. Exhibit to be in May 2018 at the River Garden. An opening reception will take place May 4, Gallery Walk Friday. Artists may submit a maximum of two pieces of wall art, no more than 36" by 36". Jury fee of \$20 is due with the application by March 15. All work must be submitted digitally. To receive an entry form, further details: resistartists2018@gmail.com.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Smith College, Northampton: *"Only 3% Women?"* Meet pioneering women in the trades, including union carpenters and Janet Butler, owner and presi-

dent of Federated Concrete, Inc. Moderated discussion. Wright Hall Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Rice: An American Band* and *Colorway*. Rice plays originals and covers from classic rock to indie. *Colorway* is a "21st century power trio with pop songs on the brain and guitar rock in its heart." 9 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ragged Blue*. Bluegrass and Celtic music. 6:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Butterfly Swing Band*. Danceable music with classic swing groove. 7 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Lou Barlow, New Parents, Wednesday Knudson (Pigeons)*. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Rhythm, Inc* EP release party. Reggae / Rap / Hip Hop. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Participation Trophy*. Syracuse folk-punk. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *The Witches of Eastwick*. Three single women in a picturesque village have their wishes granted, at a cost, when a mysterious and flamboyant man arrives in their lives. Part of the monthly sci-fi/fantasy series. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Pamela Means Band* with *Carrie Ferguson* and *Diana Alvarez*. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Flathead Rodeo*. Rockabilly/Western Swing. 8:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rayjects*. Amherst rock band. 9:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Greenfield Community College, Greenfield: *Come As You Are* Author Emily Nagoski, Smith College professor and sex educator, discusses her *New York Times* best-seller *Come As You Are: The Surprising New Science That Will Transform Your Sex Life*. Community Room, 2nd Floor. 12 noon.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *L.A. Wood*. Acoustic folk rock. 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Greenfield Community College, Greenfield: Lisa Brooks, author of *Our Beloved Kin: A New History of King Philip's War* gives a talk that "leads to a new understanding of the history of colonial New England and of American origins." Stinchfield Hall. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Mark Nomad and Harmonica Steve*. 7 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Xylouris White, Matt Krefting, Scratch Ticket*. 8 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Winter Strings Jamboree*. Enjoy the valley's finest string music, arts, and cocktails. Tracy Grammer, Eric Lee & Co., Mamma's Marmalade, John Sheldon, and the Mikey Sweet Band .7 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sed-agive*. Patrick and George, with bass and drums doing country, blues and originals. 9:30 p.m.

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**FRI 2/16 9:30 pm
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**SAT 2/17 9:30 pm
Rayjects**

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This Month at the Wendell Free Library: Oil Paintings by Clifton Hunt

By ANNIE SOUZA and REPORTER STAFF

WENDELL – Clifton Hunt’s *Almost There and Other Still Life Paintings* are still life paintings of flowers, fruits and domestic objects casually arranged on humble table tops in a style that evokes that of the Old Masters. The exhibition at the Wendell Free Library is in the Herrick Conference



Mother’s Day Daffodils, 14”x11” oil on panel by Clifton Hunt.

Room Gallery as well as in the Library glass display case. Clifton Hunt had his first art experience at the Worcester Art Museum when he was just 5 years old. He was hooked immediately. At 16 he created his first oil painting, and after graduating from high school enrolled at the professional School at the Worcester Art Museum to pursue a career in art. Then life stepped in. He fell in love, got married and raised a family of eight kids, and with his wife built a horse farm and riding facility, the Holiday Acres Equestrian Center in Rutland, MA. His love for painting never left him; he still made a painting or two a year, but family and farm had become his priority. In 2014, life stepped in again – this time in the form of an illness, one which prevented him from keeping up with the intense physical work that had become his way of life for 38 years. Fortunately, as he recovered, he had time to devote himself to oil painting once again. Cliff now is a full time professional artist, working in the realist manner with a focus on still life painting. He states, “Fruits, vegetables and various antiques often find their way into my work. I continually experiment with various lighting arrangements as I organize my still life composition of light and shadows within the setup.” The artist explains that he reeducated himself concerning the newer art materials available today. He works with quality archival materials and accepted oil painting practices. He works both wet-in-wet, and the application of layers which are dried in between. Paintings are finished with a protective coating of varnish. “In the end,” says Cliff, “what really matters is that my efforts have proven to bring to a patron a lifetime of enjoyment by way of an aesthetically pleasing work of art adorning their home. With that, then, I have accomplished a worthy endeavor.” Cliff Hunt’s return to the art world has been met with much



Liqueur, 16” x 20” oil on canvas by Clifton Hunt.

appreciation and success. His work has been included in numerous juried exhibitions in Massachusetts and Connecticut galleries, and in the 82nd Regional Show at the Fitchburg Art Museum. *Almost There and Other Still Life Paintings* by Clifton Hunt is on view now through March 1. The Herrick Gallery at the Wendell Free Library is free and open to the public. Library Hours are Tuesdays noon to 7 p.m., Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Thursdays 3 to 7 p.m., Saturdays 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Sundays 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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