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The Montague Reporter

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 22, 2018

THE BIG PICTURE

Theater's "Titular Head" Gets Ready For Big Bash



Monte Belmonte, checking on the wine supplies in the lobby of the Shea Theater.

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – I sat down on Monday with Christopher "Monte" Belmonte, the weekday morning show host on WRSI and head of the Shea Theater Arts Center board.

Our conversation ranged from his job at The River, to regional identity and economic development, to the ways even modest celebrity can be used to address some of the social problems that might persist despite that development.

This Saturday evening, the Shea will host Belmonte's own "40th Birthday Bacchanalia," a fundraiser for the publicly owned theater. Billed as "part roast, part variety show, part wine tasting," the event will feature a range of guests Belmonte's listeners will be familiar with, including indie pop band And The Kids, a lexicographer, an astronomer, and senior US House of Representatives member Jim McGovern.

(The transcript has been edited for brevity and continuity.)

MR: I have no planned questions. We're doing this because it's a holiday week, and you have a big event coming up on Saturday.... So, what's your happiest President's Day memory, growing up?

MB: I have no President's Day memories other than today. It begins February vacation, and even that seems like the lamest of all vacations.

MR: These Monday holidays kill us here at the paper. A lot of places are closed, and certainly the public offices are.

MB: Nobody to shake down for an interview! It was nice getting a parking spot right here – downtown's a bit slower than usual.

MR: When did you move to Turners Falls, and in what ways have you seen the town change?

MB: Since the end of 2003 – 15 years, almost as long as I lived in the town I grew up in. I've seen Avenue A kind of blossom. When we moved here, we didn't know anyone, or of anything going on. Hearing about a crazy leftover laundry fashion show inside the laundromat, to the beginning of RiverCulture and the block party, the birth of the Rendezvous, and all that... It's been fun to watch.

MR: The "cultural district," I guess.

MB: And now I'm obsessed with Mystic Pinball. I'm in there far too frequently for an almost 30-year-old man. And the skatepark, although I don't skate – I love going to Unity Park with the kids and letting them run around while I watch people skate, which is so cool.

MR: You live in the Patch neighborhood – how is it over there?

MB: I love it! I mean, I hate my house. It was an impulse buy in my mid-20s; my wife, in her infinite wisdom, said we could buy a whole house in this place called Turners Falls for way less than we were renting an apartment in Amherst. And there was a hot tub on the porch, so we were like, "Yes, let's do this!"

But my kids' experience in the neighborhood – the beauty of the woods, and the river and the canal, and the other kids that live in the neighborhood – it feels very much, at times, like a more diverse Mayberry. They're coming in when the street lights go on.

MR: How's the Shea doing?

MB: It's doing well. I'm really proud of what we've done so far – it's exciting for me, the kind of things that have been in there. They kind of run the gamut. I'd be pinching myself if that 20-something-year-old person moved to Turners, if I knew that stuff was going to be happening a mile from my house, I'd be really stoked. I'm hoping that is the case for other people, too.

MR: Who do you see having fun at this event?

MB: If you listen to my show, getting to see some of the regular guests might be fun. If you like the band And The Kids, or the music of The Sweetback Sisters or Mikey Sweet; if you want to learn how to draw the pigeon [with children's book author Mo Willems]; if you like wine, because there's a wine tasting from 6:30 to 7:30 beforehand, with a couple people in the beverage community pouring some nice stuff. If you want to laugh and sing and support the local theater – there's tickets online now, and tickets at the door.

MR: What are you going to spend the money on?

see **BIG PICTURE** page A5

Nurses Announce New One-Day Strike; Baystate Again Hits Back With Lockout

By SHEA FERAL

GREENFIELD – The nurses at Baystate Franklin Medical Center have authorized a 24-hour strike, starting at 7 a.m. Wednesday, February 28. The nurses, who are members of the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA), voted on February 8 by an 85% margin to allow a strike. Just as it did in response to a strike last June, the hospital management has announced it will initiate a 3-day lockout of the nurses beginning Tuesday evening.

The nurses' contract expired at the end of 2016, and the strike and lockout are the latest developments in a long process of negotiation with Baystate Health, which runs the Baystate Franklin Medical Center (BFMC). According to an MNA press release, the strike will go as planned "unless hospital executives agree to a fair contract that protects and improves patient care and pro-



The nurses have been working for nearly 14 months without a contract.

vides decent health insurance."

Baystate spokesperson Shelly Hazlett said Monday that Baystate is "disappointed with this decision [to strike], which does not reflect the progress we have made in our negotiations with the MNA."

The union states that the nurses

"are seeking prompt bargaining dates," and lists two categories of issues that they want to see resolved. The nurses argue that BFMC maintains inadequate RN staffing, and that Baystate has made unfair changes to their health insurance plans.

see **LOCKOUT** page A8

Montague Town Meeting Creates 3% Cannabis Sales Tax

By JEFF SINGLETON

Montague's February 15 special town meeting approved two motions regulating the production and sale of cannabis. The first was a detailed amendment that would incorporate the location of various cannabis businesses into existing zoning regulations. The other will establish a 3% local tax on its sale.

Planners had originally considered asking town meeting to impose a moratorium on cannabis establishments until the end of 2018, while the state finalized its own regulations. But lukewarm support for the moratorium on the selectboard, combined with preliminary regulations issued by the state Cannabis Control Commission in December, caused town officials to change course.

Potential marijuana businesses of various kinds can begin applying to the state for licenses on April 1, and the town meeting vote means, according to local officials, that Montague will have a greater level of local control over their location while the process plays out.

The special town meeting, which was at the Shea Theater rather than its normal venue at the Turners Falls High School auditorium, got off to a rocky start.

"Normally, I ask people who are wearing hats to remove them because we can't see your faces," said

see **TOWN MEETING** page A4

TFHS Sports: The Week In Review

By MATT ROBINSON

This week, the Turners Falls boys' basketball team played their last game of the 2017-18 season, while three of their players ended their high school careers. The girls' basketball team went 2-1 to finish the regular season 12-8, and now await their seedings for the playoffs.

Also this week, the Olympics heated up, and two Turners Falls players helped Greenfield skate into the playoffs.

Girls Basketball

TFHS 59 – Athol 44
TFHS 46 – Pioneer Valley 39
Southwick 42 – TFHS 37

On Thursday, February 15 the Turners Falls girls' basketball team traveled to Athol to take on the Red Raiders. Turners took an early 9-point lead after a quarter and outscored Red 22-15 in the final period to beat the Raiders by 15 points, 59-44.

see **TFHS SPORTS** page A7

NEWS ANALYSIS

State's New Charge Causes Uncertainty For Home Solar Customers

By JEFF SINGLETON

BOSTON – The state Department of Public Utilities approved a request last month by Eversource, the electric distribution company, to impose a new charge called a "minimum monthly reliability contribution" on any residential customers who install solar panels after 2018.

Solar advocates have sharply criticized the ruling, saying it undermines the state's official goals of adding 1,600 MW of solar power over the next decade and virtually eliminating the use of fossil fuels by 2050. Massachusetts, they note, is the first state to impose such a "demand charge" on residential solar producers.

The charge to new residential solar customers would be calculated using their peak hour of energy consumption in each month. That is, if the most electricity used in any given hour in July is seven megawatts, the customer would be assessed seven times a rate approved

see **SOLAR CHARGE** page A2

FLY LIKE AN EAGLE



Franklin Tech's Joel Farrick goes up for a shot from the lane against the McCann Tech Hornets on Senior Night at FCTS.

The Montague Reporter

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SOLAR CHARGE from A1 by the DPU. Current estimates are that this rate would be approximately \$2 per KW, so the customer under this scenario would pay an additional \$14 per month in July.

Eversource argued that this cost increase, estimated to average closer to \$120 annually, would not be prohibitive in the rooftop solar market. Solar advocates claim this estimate is optimistically low, and attack the prescribed method for calculating the charge. The average solar customer, they argue, has no way of knowing when their maximum hourly use will be, so they have no way to reduce it. They blame Eversource for not installing “smart” metering technology to make this calculation.

“They are putting a burden on customers that they can’t manage,” said Janet Gail Besser, executive vice president of the Northeast Clean Energy Council. “The very customers who are trying to aggressively manage their energy use are being penalized.”

The demand charge is allowed under an April 2018 state law regulating solar energy. Thate legislation, the result of more than a year of gridlock in a divided legislature, gave significant power to the DPU to resolve controversial issues like the monthly charges.

However, some state legislators, including those in the House of Representatives which supported more modest solar subsidies, criticized the DPU’s decision. “I’m not happy how this was rolled out,” Lowell Democrat Thomas Golden told DPU officials at a public hearing. “On purpose, you’re making this as confusing as possible.”

Costs and Benefits

In supporting the demand charge, the DPU essentially endorsed Eversource’s argument that solar users do not pay their fair share to maintain electric utility infrastructure under the current “net metering” program.

Under this system, those with rooftop solar receive power over the electrical grid during periods of high usage or no sunlight, but their electric meters run in reverse during periods when the sun is out and they are generating electricity. The “net” cost of electricity during the course of some months might be zero, or negative. When it is negative, solar customers receive credits they can later use to reduce their costs when there is less sun.

As a result, Eversource argues, many solar customers make little or no contribution towards the infrastructure required to transmit electricity, effectively passing

these costs on to non-solar users.

Solar advocates, on the other hand, have argued that the increased use of solar power produces a range of intrinsic benefits, even for non-solar consumers. They say these benefits can be quantified, and have called for a “value of solar” study to produce what they consider to be a more realistic cost-benefit analysis.

These arguments were at the center of the debate over the state solar legislation which finally passed in 2016. They were heard again at the DPU hearings on the solar charge, and they are contained in an appeal of the DPU decision filed recently at the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court by an organization called VoteSolar.

The VoteSolar appeal points out that Eversource argued the new monthly charge would not “unreasonably inhibit” the development of solar, even though it “did not conduct a study, and no evidence in the record otherwise exists,” to estimate the impact of the charge on the solar sector. VoteSolar argues that its failure to evaluate this impact means the DPU’s order is “based upon errors of law, unsupported by substantial evidence, and is arbitrary, capricious, and constitutes an abuse of discretion.”

The appeal also notes that of the 30 organizations allowed special “intervenor or limited participation” status in the proceedings that led to the order, none had supported the new monthly charge as proposed. These included the Attorney General and the state Department of Energy Resources.

The DPU’s decision was publicly endorsed, however, by Mathew Beaton, the secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Getting SMART

The DPU revision of the residential solar rate structure also coincides with a major shift in the design of state subsidies for solar producers. The state is moving from a program based on “solar renewable energy credits” (SRECs), which producers receive and can trade on the open market, to a new incentive program called Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART).

Under SMART, larger solar energy producers will receive compensation based on an auction for portions of blocks of energy. The size of the first block totals 100 MW, and producers can bid for projects up to 5 MW. The highest bid price below a cap will set the compensation rate for all successful bidders. The compensa-

tion rates for upcoming blocks of energy would therefore decline as the cost of producing solar energy decreases. The system additionally factors in subsidies for community and low-income solar, public sector, and energy storage projects.

The new program also establishes a new way of calculating incentives for smaller solar producers which is separate from the controversial demand charge.

The DPU has completed the first auction, and is in the process of finalizing the so-called “tariff” rates to be paid solar producers. SMART may launch as early as this summer; producers receiving compensation or credits under the older SREC program will continue to do so.

All of these changes have produced a good deal of uncertainty



Using a hydraulic log splitter, a small front-end loader, and his wits, Richard Greene of Gill splits wood without a lot of lifting. The 87-year-old says it does require paying close attention to things, though.

Letters to the Editors

Cannabis Economics

Meanwhile, back at the farm... Montague consumes cannabis like cows consume hay, by the bale. You’d think the smart money would want a piece of that action. Not the masterminds of Montague. They can make 3% of \$0 into a buck three eighty of tax revenue.

What I mean is, how do you assess a 3% tax on a well established underground cannabis marketplace that is easily meeting this rapidly growing demand? The only significantly taxable income from cannabis will end up in Greenfield’s treasury.

A heads up to the masterminds: This is the poorest town, in the poorest county, in the state. There are an unusually high number of homeowners on fixed incomes who need tax revenues to keep property taxes as flat as possible. Do the masterminds think they have a magic wand called increase that they can wave and make all the town’s problems go away? What are they smoking, tax crack?

I suggest you read the *Boston Globe’s* February 15 Metro story, “A year after vote, pot fight goes on,” to

get very clear on what is actually going on with this law. The bottom line is that somewhere down the road, licenses will be issued, and law will be followed, like it or not.

When all this hoopla about reefer madness comes to an end, and the Cannabis Control Commission actually releases its regulations – and that is not in the immediate future – and when Greenfield’s “cannabis boutique” opens, the cannabis paradigm in this area will be forever changed.

The masterminds have been needlessly distracted by a school’s mascot, or this endless loop of Neil Sedaka’s “Breaking Up Is Hard to Do.” It seems beyond the pale for them to put poverty and Montague together. This town is being ground down by abject poverty. The median income for women living here is the lowest in the state.

The masterminds are becoming a tad Machiavellian these days, as it seems that more policy gets set at “staff meetings” than through public discourse. That could probably explain the lack of focus, and some-

what opaque process.

Let’s make improving the living standard for women here in Montague the primary focus going forward. Do the masterminds have any clue how hard it is to live on less than \$12,000 a year?

I’d rather be governed by three women who may have struggled to make ends meet, a survivor, a wise visionary, young or old, all colors of the rainbow. Perhaps, through them the real truth and core of Montague can be found, and from there the wellspring of possibility. The best way to judge a society’s success is by how women feel: do they feel equal, safe, and free, among so many other things? I do not know of a better standard.

Charlie Kelley
Turners Falls

18th School Shooting

If there is no other reason – and there are plenty – for enacting campaign finance reform, the 18th school shooting in 45 days in America should be the primary reason.

Eliminating corporate and organizational funding of political campaigns may be the only way to neuter the financial grasp that the NRA has on the conscience of too many legislators.

The NRA’s solution for mitigating school shootings is to arm teachers and teach them how to kill the “bad guys.” This is morally malevolent and criminally unconscionable.

Or is it more important for Americans to have the “freedom” of purchasing semi-automatic rifles?

John Bos
Shelburne Falls

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Compiled by **DON CLEGG**

Beginning Monday, March 12 the **Turners Falls Water Department** will begin shutting off water to properties with water usage bills more than 90 days overdue.

These bills were mailed on November 1 and were due within 30 days. Payments can be made at the Water Department office, 226 Millers Falls Road between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. A drop box is located to the left of the front door for payments after hours. Any questions, please call Suzanne at 863-4542.

Watch a turtle swim, learn why snapping turtles snap, and meet a threatened Vermont turtle! This Friday, February 23, at 10:30 a.m. at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls, interactive demonstrations and engaging discussion will be

highlighted with **live turtles** from the Natural History Museum of Southern Vermont's collection. This event is sponsored by the MA Dept. of Early Education and Care.

The **Connecticut River Flute Choir** is returning, by popular demand, to the Greenfield Savings Bank branch in Turners Falls. This is an ensemble of musicians who love to play the flute. Directed by Hannah Smeltz, also the director of the Montague Community Band, the group was founded in the spring of 2016. The current members represent a wide variety of musical and professional backgrounds, with the same shared passion for the flute.

Come listen on Saturday, February 24, starting at 10:15 a.m. to the distinctive sound of the choir which will provide a unique listening experience. Bring a friend and enjoy

the concert! Light refreshments will be provided courtesy of the bank. No reservations required.

Learning to identify wildflowers in their winter stage can be a fun challenge! Enjoy a presentation on **"Wildflowers in Winter"** by Dawn Marvin Ward this Sunday, February 25, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Leverett Library. (The program is not a hike; specimens will be available inside the library.)

Join Dawn to learn how to match the summer wildflowers with their winter attire. Photographs, clues, and hands-on exploration will help expand your knowledge of the winter landscape. Discover the amazing variety of shapes, forms and textures; learn lore and legend of our local plants, and gain an appreciation of wildflowers in their dormant state.

Dawn is an educator and naturalist who has been sharing her knowledge and appreciation of nature for over 20 years. The presentation is free, welcome to all, and handicap accessible. Sponsored by Rattlesnake Gutter Trust and Leverett Library.

Registered Democrats in Montague will hold a caucus in the second floor meeting room of

Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, at 7:15 p.m. next Thursday, March 1, to elect five delegates and four alternates to the Massachusetts Democratic Convention. The convention takes place June 1 and 2 at the DCU Center in Worcester, and is where the party will nominate statewide candidates for the primary ballot.

Need some spiffy attire for your upcoming prom? **Free prom dresses and formal wear** are available to all high school students in Franklin County.

Check out the selection in the main lobby of Greenfield High School, 21 Barr Avenue, on Saturday, March 3, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Donations are accepted during business hours at GHS, or Andy's Oak Shoppe on Deerfield Street in Greenfield.

The public is invited to a **Dr. Seuss Birthday Event** in the cafeteria of Erving Elementary School on Sunday, March 4, from 2 to 4 p.m. For more information, call the school at (413) 423-3326.

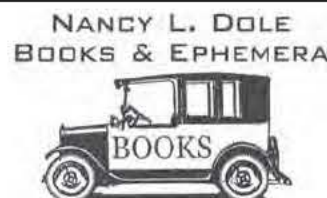
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Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

February 12 to 16:

Grade 6
Alexander Knapp

Grade 7
Morgan Dobias

Grade 8
Olivia Stafford

More Letters to the Editors

Finish Naming Team, Address Societal Issues

Dear TFHS Logo/Nickname Task Force,

I request you keep looking for a suitable logo to replace the Native American Indian mascot. Their blood was slain by Captain Turner and his troops. These innocent original inhabitants were asleep on the banks of the Connecticut River in May 1676 but were killed by Captain Turner. He chose to fulfill the order to avoid his own jail sentence. Remember, the Native Americans lived in Montague first.

Please, honor the Native Americans and give a new name to the athletic teams in your school system. I was a Hornet at my high school. Why not use Turners Falls Fish or Barton Cove Eagles?

It is better your students fly high than what the statistics and data say. I just spent the last hour reading the *(Parents) Feedback Survey Results* and the *Teen Health Survey* posted on the GMRSD website. The parents and teens filled out these surveys themselves. I applaud their comfortability for telling the truth. However, their reality is frightening for this writer.

If you read the parent comments, one wrote: "We were concerned about the high school dropout rate and frankly the poor reputation." The rates for 8th graders are: 11% drink alcohol, 9% smoke e-cigs, 11% smoke pot, 0% used/tried heroin. Tenth graders fare with 20% drink alcohol, 36% smoke e-cigs, 14% smoke pot, 5% have used or tried heroin. The seniors admitted to: 41% drink alcohol, 26% smoke e-cigs, 38% smoke pot, 0% used/tried heroin.

I am a former resident of Montague, and parent of a former GMRSD student. We left the school

district before our daughter of color entered eighth grade. We could not subject her to the blatant racism GFMS and TFHS students expressed upon her. She succumbed to peer pressure because her peers did not encourage her intelligence. I believe, if we stayed, she would have become a teenage mother and/or a drug addict before graduating this Level 3 public school.

I don't think I'm wrong to make that last statement, because the self-admitted statistics don't lie. Is there a correlation between the high rate of alcohol and substance abuse and the bullying/lack of respect/inability to change the status quo? Surely, the parents need an education and some sort of tough love. Your job is key to alter the future where the parents follow suit.

Now, as an outsider not trying to run your school as one parent claimed was happening, I'd like to have you think of the big picture. The big picture is the US of A is in a downward spiral with Trumpism and hate groups growing. The reality is white supremacists exist in your school/town as I type this. You cannot afford to allow the hate to fester, breed, or flourish with parents or with students. The Parkland, Florida parents know a new pain because a teenage boy lived in hate.

I keep an eye upon the Gill-Montague Regional School District, and have written letters in the past. Please finish the debate, pick a neutral mascot, and deal with the societal issues before anything else happens....

Thank you for your time and consideration.

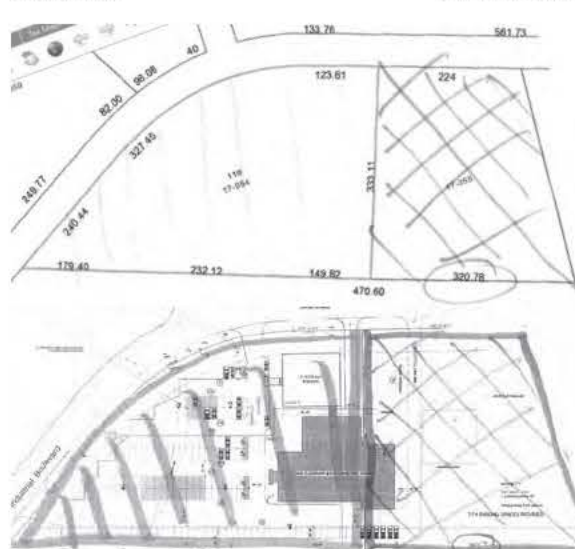
Sincerely,

Bridget Sweet
Amherst

Open and Transparent Government? A Closer Look at Ja'Duke Tax Deal

While I applaud the Town of Montague selectboard for creating jobs, they have executed an agreement that is based on misinformation. Perhaps the town, in its desire to execute any agreement, did not perform their due diligence to ensure the accuracy of the documents.

While I support the TIF with Ja'Duke, the agreement does not reflect that the new building will be built across the property line of the current parcel, and the new 2-acre parcel that was just sold to them by the Town.



At top: The two lots, according to the assessors' maps.
Below: The preliminary site plan, as presented last week.

When comparing the Assessors' tax map 17 regarding lots 54 (current) and 55 (new) to the Preliminary Site Plan that was provided to town meeting members in our package for the special town meeting on February 15, it is clear that the property line between these two parcels runs right through the proposed new construction.

When questioned about this at the special town meeting, our elected and appointed officials diverted the discussion away from the facts — not an open and transparent action. Perhaps the town will discover the inaccuracies when the building permit is

requested to construct a structure that crosses a parcel (property) line.

The bottom line is that the total assessed value of the town decreased by \$26,400, when the new parcel that was assessed for \$70,400 was sold for \$44,000. This does not change the TIF, nor would it have changed the vote, but again, it is not an open or transparent action by town government.

How much of the process to arrive at this final agreement has been made public? While the Town should be allowed to negotiate behind closed doors, once an agreement has been reached, the minutes of an executive session must be reviewed and released to the public. This step has not occurred.

The selectboard has previously been made aware of this by the Attorney General, but has not stepped up to the plate to deliver to us, the people of Montague, the open and transparent government that we deserve.

An investigative journalist could find out just when the TIF agreement was made available to town meeting members, and how many town meeting members actually requested the document. I expect that number to be very low — begging the question, "does town meeting research the warrant articles, or simply rubber-stamp all actions put before it?"

Apparently, an open and transparent government is something we have to constantly request, or we will not have it.

Peter Golrick
Millers Falls

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Gill-Montague
Regional School
Committee:
2018 Openings

Nomination papers for the annual town election to be held on Monday, May 21, 2018 for School Committee seats are available at the Gill-Montague Regional School Superintendent's Office, 35 Crocker Avenue, Turners Falls.

Completed nomination papers are due in the Superintendent's Office no later than 4 p.m. on Monday, April 2. (The last day to obtain papers is March 29.)

Please note that all papers must be picked up and returned to the Superintendent's Office, and not the Town Clerk's Office.

One 3-year Gill School Committee seat, two 3-year Montague School Committee seats, and one 1-year Montague School Committee seat are open.

For more information or questions, please contact Sabrina Blanchard at (413) 863-9324.

TOWN MEETING from A1

moderator Ray Godin, "but I have to tell you this is going to be an interesting experiment tonight because we can't see anything from here." Godin then "waived" the traditional reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance because "it has been brought to my attention that there's no flag here."

Next, the meeting voted down the first motion that came before it.

Article 1 would have petitioned the state to pass special legislation allowing the town to retroactively abate and reimburse James Newth for taxes he has been paying on property on the corner of Swamp Road and Federal Street. Newth's taxes were based on assessment that assumed a building could be constructed on the property, but last year the building inspector informed a potential buyer the property was not "buildable" according to town zoning.

The petition would have allowed the town to reimburse Newth for overpayments, using a reserve fund called the "assessor's overlay."

Town meeting member Sam Lovejoy, a former member of the selectboard, opposed the motion. Lovejoy said the owner could apply for a variance to build on the lot, since the belated decision of the building inspector had clearly caused a "hardship."

Lovejoy also noted a number of lucrative real estate transactions by the owner, suggesting that he clearly had a strong background in zoning regulations and may have known the lot was unbuildable. He warned that Newth might receive the reimbursement, combine two lots, and then sell the resulting, buildable lot at a significant profit. The reimbursement, Lovejoy argued, would set a "terrible precedent."

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz said he endorsed the motion, because Newth had paid taxes "in good faith" for years on the basis that the lot was buildable, then was told it was not the case when he tried to sell it. "I understand that he bought the land for less and sold the land [for more]," Kuklewicz said, "but that is what free enterprise is all about."

Town planner Walter Ramsey said the planning board would consider an amendment to the zoning bylaws clarifying the frontage requirements on a corner lot which had created confusion in assessing the property. The article was defeated by a majority voice vote.

The meeting then approved, without debate, **Article 2:** \$13,260 pay for a "change in staffing" in the building department. The appropriation, related to the retirement of long time building inspector David Jensen, would pay for advertising, accrued past benefits, and an overlap between Jensen and incoming inspector Chris Rice.

Article 3 appropriated \$49,000 for repair of the "upper section" of the roof of the town-owned Shea Theater. Town administrator Steve Ellis explained that the "lower sec-

tion" of the roof, which is above the theater lobby, was repaired in October, but the upper roof had experienced significant leaks since then, requiring emergency repairs. The appropriation would pay for work in the "early spring."

Both Jensen, a town meeting member, and finance committee member Mike Naughton asked if an analysis of the cost of a new roof with more robust insulation had been made. "The short answer is no, we didn't do an energy cost savings analysis," said Ramsey, noting that there would be energy savings on the new HVAC system.

In response to a question from town meeting member David Detmold, Ramsey said the town energy committee had not been "brought in" on the question of roof insulation. Detmold later said it "irks" him that the energy committee had not been consulted, and urged the appropriation be voted down until the annual town meeting in May.

The article passed by a majority vote.

Article 4 called for town meeting to approve a "tax increment financing" (TIF) agreement with the theater company Ja'Duke, which is seeking to build an 18,000-foot addition to its property in the town industrial park. The addition will include a 500-seat theater, four classrooms, and additional parking.

The TIF would lower the company's property taxes by 40% in the first year, declining to 5% in year ten, the last year of the agreement. Ja'Duke founder Nick Waynelovich and his daughter and co-owner Kim Williams made a presentation and answered questions from the floor.

In response to a question from Millers Falls resident Peter Golrick, town counsel Greg Corbo said the agreement would apply only to the new land and building being constructed; Ja'Duke's building would be taxed at full value.

A number of members whose children went to school at Ja'Duke or who knew the founder spoke favorably about the motion. There were several questions about subsidies and discounts for low-income students. Ja'Duke officials said there were no low-income subsidies, but that the school's rates were in the lower third of dance schools in the county.

In the end, the motion passed unanimously.

Article 5 called for the town, which is at its limit for liquor licenses, to petition the state for an additional one. The license would apply to a former factory building at 42 Canal Street currently owned by the Franklin Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority. The property is slated to be purchased by a cidery called "Wild Child Cellars," which hopes to install a "tasting room."

"As you all know, empty mill structures are a cause of great concern," said Ellis, noting that one of the potential owners had developed a former mill in Maryland. He said

the FCHRA was hoping to move to another building in Montague. The proposed license would be restricted to the Canal Street building, although it could be transferred to another owner.

One of Wild Child's owners, April Woodard, thanked town officials for the "support and warmth" they had shown "on the long path" to the building purchase, now scheduled for April.

"We have far too many empty mill buildings," said town meeting member Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno. "This is actually a real business. It is not Jerry Jones; this is not Jim Bent; this is not John Anctil." The meeting approved the motion unanimously.

Article 6 would impose a 3% local tax, as allowed under state law, on the sale or "transfer" of marijuana products "to anyone other than a marijuana establishment."

One town meeting member noted that the town had not approved of a local meals tax allowed by the state so the imposition of a tax on marijuana sales "seems prejudicial." Ellis said he would soon propose that the town consider a meals tax.

Peter Golrick asked if there had been a hearing on the proposed tax. After some confusion, Ramsey said the zoning board of appeals had held hearings on proposed zoning changes, but not the tax.

"I want it out of underground," said David Jensen. "I see just adding our 3% [to the total statewide tax] as just bad form." But other speakers supported the tax, arguing that new marijuana businesses would require increased town services.

The 3% tax passed by a majority vote.

The final article of the meeting, **Article 7**, amended town zoning bylaws to incorporate various kinds of marijuana establishments. The motion was presented by planning board member Bruce Young, who said that while he could not compete with the theatrical Ja'Duke presentation, "I did put the historical industrial district in a 'purple haze.'"

Young reviewed the history of the state law, noting that the 2016 referendum legalizing recreational marijuana had passed in Montague 63.2% to 36.8%, and that the state control commission would be implementing the law.

He then reviewed the zoning bylaws being proposed by the planning board. Cultivation would be allowed in districts currently zoned for agriculture, whereas "retail" establishments would be allowed in the central business district. Marijuana treatment centers, cultivation and testing – as well as retail establishments accessory to these uses – would be allowed in districts zoned industrial.

Young also noted that unlike a typical business, any marijuana establishments would require a special permit and site plan review. He linked these requirements to the uncertainties surrounding the siting of cannabis establishments under the new law.

There was virtually no debate on the proposed bylaw changes, and the article passed with only a few scattered "no" votes. Godin noted that the proposal required a two-thirds majority, which had been achieved.

The meeting adjourned after two hours.



Dems Plan Town Election Caucus

Montague Democrats will caucus to select candidates for town office elections on Tuesday, March 20 from 7 to 7:30 p.m. in the first floor meeting room of the Town Offices, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Successful candidates receive the party nomination to appear on the Monday, May 21 town election ballot. Voting is by paper ballot.

Only registered Democrats may run in this, what amounts to a primary election for local offices. Democrats who wish to run in the caucus must deliver their intention in writing to town committee chair Jay DiPucchio by 5 p.m. Friday, March 9. Notice may be by mail, email or in hand. Verbal declaration is

not acceptable. Candidates must have been registered Democrat as of 12/31/17.

Individuals choosing to run without Democratic party nomination should check rules with the town clerk. Occasionally, candidates for the caucus nomination also gather signatures through the town clerk process so that they can still appear on the May ballot if defeated at the caucus.

Registered unenrolled voters also may vote in the Democratic caucus. No absentee balloting is allowed. All caucus candidates must be present at the end of balloting, or make other arrangements with the Chair, or their election may not be certified.

OFFICE	TERM	INCUMBENT	PARTY
Selectman:	3	Richard Kuklewicz	Unenrolled
Moderator:	3	Raymond A. Godin *	Dem. (NOT RUNNING)
Assessor:	3	Ann M. Cenzano	Dem.
Bd. Of Health:	3	Christopher M. Boutwell	Dem.
Park & Rec.:	3	Barbara A. Kuklewicz	Dem.
Library Trustee:	3	Jeri Moran	Dem.
Library Trustee:	3	Robert Traynor	Dem.
Library Trustee:	3	Gretchen Wetherby	Unenrolled
Soldier Memorial Trustees (Veteran):	3	Albert L. Cummings, Jr.	Dem.
Soldier Memorial Trustees (Non-Vet):	3	Donald H. Girard *	Dem.
Housing Authority:	5	Karen M Casey-Chretien	Dem.

* Incumbents who, as of February 15, had filed written intention to either run or not run in the Democratic caucus. Non-Democratic party incumbents may have filed directly with the Town Clerk.

The Chair may have received notice from challenging candidates; above are only incumbents.

Written indication of intention to run at caucus may be sent by post, email or in hand

by 5 p.m. Friday, March 9, 2018.

Questions/Letters of Intent Jay DiPucchio, Democratic Town Committee Chair, 35 Central Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376-1326 or here.now@verizon.net (413) 863-8656 home; (413) 863-8900 office day contact

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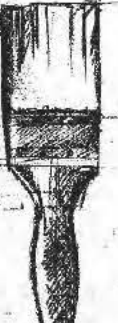


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BIG PICTURE from page A1

MB: Everything goes to operations. Certain grants are attributed to specific things; we’re still trying to fundraise for a movie screen and projector. This is to make sure we can pay our managing director, and all the gas and lights.

There will be a very generous anonymous donor – we’re going to do a little pass the hat, or put money in a bucket – who’s going to match the donations that come in that night.

Just to make sure we’re operating in the black. January and February are slow months, so it’s a way to put on an event that’s relatively affordable, and help make sure the lights stay on.

MR: *It’s being billed as your 40th birthday. Is it really?*

MB [*producing wallet*]: Let me state, for the record, that I’m pulling out my official Massachusetts driver’s license...

MR: *Okay! You’re coming right up on it!*

MB: I know I look like I’m 60, but I’m still just 39 at the moment.

MR: *You were born four days after [redacted], who also lives in the Patch now.*

MB: Yes! I see her running around, frequently. My actual birthday is March 16, but the Shea was booked by the kids at Four Rivers Charter School’s production of Godspell.

When I read about the Roman celebration of Bacchus, the days of the Bacchanalia are March 16 and 17, and I was like, “I was born on the Bacchanalia – no wonder I love wine so much!” And then I was like, “I know what I’m going to do for my 40th birthday!”

It was really just a title at first – I filled in all the blanks later....

MR: *Are all these performers people who you know through your radio show?*

MB: They’re either on my show as regular guests, or I’ve interviewed them for what they’re up to, and they’re all people I’ve developed a friendship with outside of professional work. So I’m calling in favors from people with some notoriety in order to raise money for the Shea. I ain’t too proud to beg!

MR: *What’s your official role at the Shea?*

MB: I’m the president of the board, the titular head. I basically consider myself the Queen of England of the Shea: I show up at all the appropriate functions and wave at the right time, while more qualified people do the actual work.

MR: *So you’re trading on your celebrity here, to some extent. And in an intentional way: you’re able to marshal more resources, and network in a different way, than if you didn’t have a brand identity.*

MB: Right. And when the old board was deciding whether they were going to continue or not, and I was speaking with them and weighing it all out, it wasn’t something I really wanted to do, but it was also something I wanted to make sure didn’t go away. They had done so much great work already: partnering with Signature Sounds to bring in some of those “I can’t believe Rubblebucket is playing in my town” kind of shows.

When there was no inkling that anybody else was going to do it, it was one of those, “okay, I guess I

live a mile away, it seems like what I do would be well-suited to this.”

MR: *There are a couple other projects that you have a similar role in, where you’re using your exposure to help other folks build campaigns and projects. There’s the Cancer Connection Campout...*

MB: I try! The [Campout] is not happening this winter; we’re going to do it the first time in the summer – summer camp. This will be my 12th time doing that. I think that’s a great organization, so it’s fun to come up with other ideas to help them out.

Most of these events started with one hare-brained idea: I knew I hated camping and the cold, so I combined those two things for the Cancer Connection, mostly for alliterative purposes, and somehow it worked.

MR: *And Monte’s March.*

MB: I think the Food Bank was a little jealous at how successful the Campout had become, and they wanted to come up with a creative idea. They said, “what if you pushed a shopping cart door to door in Northampton and got some donations?” And I said, “what if I pushed a shopping cart all the way from Northampton to Greenfield?”

I think it will be the ninth Food Bank march. This Thursday at the Shea, there’s also a free forum about hunger in Franklin County, with Jim McGovern, put on by the Franklin County Young Professionals, who I’m involved with.

I volunteer with the Food Bank apart from the March. They had a taskforce to end hunger; that turned into this thing called the Coalition to End Hunger, which brought in people from all different aspects of the community to brainstorm for a year about the causes of hunger, and come up with a plan of action, which has begun to be implemented.

Right now, at Holyoke Health Center there’s a test [project], which has been cool to see be born...

MR: *Are they using, like, a public health model?*

MB: Kind of. They’re doing screenings, without violating HIPAA, to hear from people as much as they can – if they ask a series of very simple questions, they’ll know that they’re food-insecure, and then ask them permission to get them in a pipeline with the Food Bank, and connect them to all sorts of different services: SNAP, housing assistance, that kind of stuff.

MR: *How did Congressman McGovern get hooked up with your world?*

MB: Almost anybody I’ve talked with who deals with hunger issues, on a local or national level, will bring up Jim McGovern at some point, because he’s one of the only people that is consistently talking about it as an issue in the House.

He came in as a guest in our news station in the building, WHMP, and he heard about the Food Bank march, and was like “Monte, I heard about that march you do with the Food Bank – I wanna come on with you next year!” I was like, “Sure you do, guy. Sounds nice, and you’re more than welcome.” Two months before it was scheduled to happen, his office called to say, “the Congressman is really serious about doing this”....

He does the whole thing now, Springfield to Greenfield, every year. He called me one time in the middle of the summer... he’s like “Monte, I gotta either not do Monte’s March or I gotta know if you can move it, because I gotta take

Nancy Pelosi to China to advocate for the Tibetan people...”

MR: [*Laughs.*]

MB: I love impersonating Jim McGovern.

MR: *It’s not going to show up, in the newspaper.*

MB: I know. Can’t you write, “said with Worcester accent?”

So, we moved it to Thanksgiving week, and that has worked out better—more people have more loose time that week.

MR: *Last night I listened to Jamie Berger’s “15 Minutes” podcast interview with you from a couple years back. It brought to my attention that there are people who don’t like you. That’s a thing?*

MB: There are always detractors, or people who get offended by what you do or say when you put yourself out there. I’m sure you get the same thing, you write something in the paper and people send you an angry letter or whatever.

MR: *We get angry letters. So far it hasn’t been directed at me as a person, oddly...I’d really rather not become a public figure, though. You’re kind of on a different track!*

MB: There are fewer people than I would expect that dislike me, given how far out there I put myself.

MR: *The word from the podcast was “abrasive”?*

MB: I think that can be me, at times....

MR: *How long is your morning show, and how much time goes into prepping for it?*

MB: It’s 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. every day. Depending on the day, I get in sometime between 3 and 4 a.m.... On some days, I need that little bit of extra sleep.

It’s like a fire drill every morning: my alarm clock is the sound of birds; if the bird on my alarm clock chirps more than once, I feel like it’s going to be a terrible day. If I can shut that thing off immediately, I feel like I’m geared up to go.

I hate birds now, because of this.

MR: *Are we at the northern edge of your market on The River?*

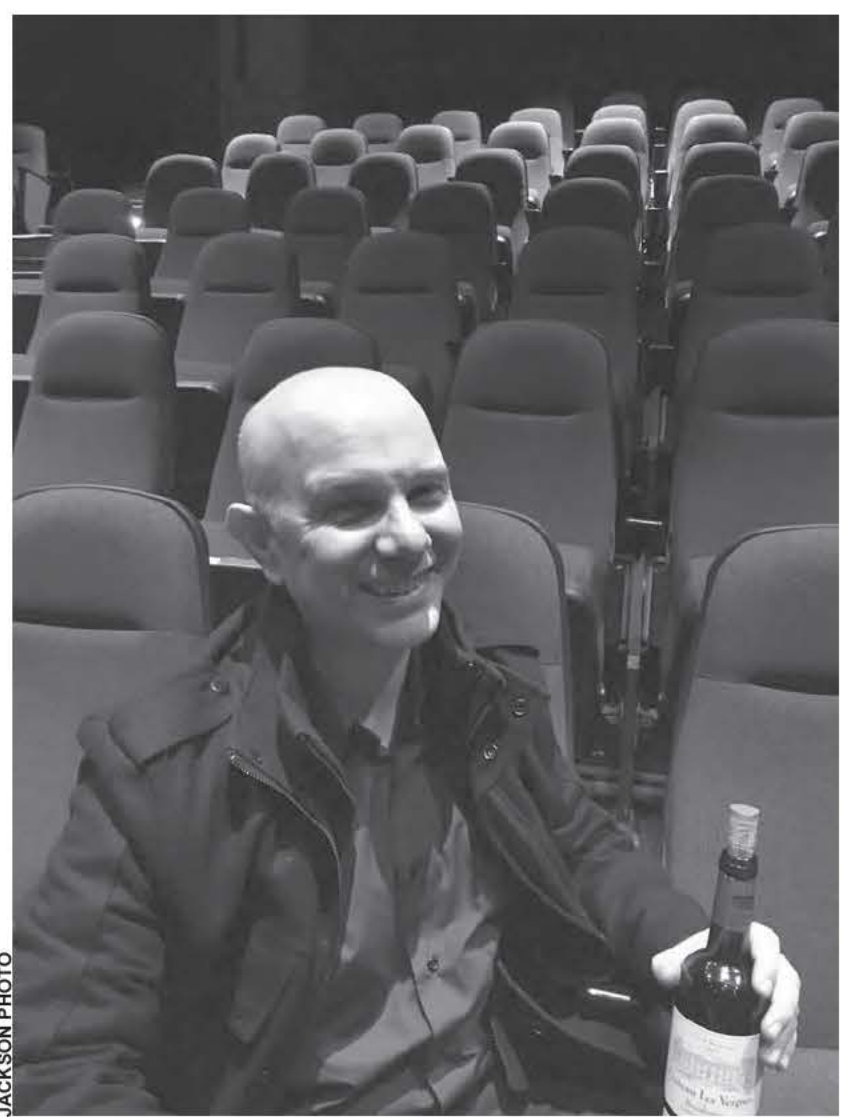
MB: There’s another signal in Brattleboro, 101.5, and then another in Keene, 99.1, but you literally have to be in Keene to hear it. It’s all simulcasting the same stuff. WRSI’s tower [at 93.9 FM] is in South Deerfield.

MR: *And Bear Country’s out by the rotary?*

MB: Yep, it’s in the same building as WHAI. Bear Country and the River were both owned by Vox Communications when I came here in 2002 – in the Rachel Maddow era – and in 2004, both were bought by Saga Communications.

They moved Bear Country to Greenfield with ‘HAI; they moved Laser, which they already owned, out of Northampton to East Longmeadow, and they moved The River across the parking lot from Main Street in Northampton to Hampton Ave....

We think of ourselves as encompassing the culture and zeitgeist of Northampton to Brattleboro – referred to by many as the “Pioneer Valley” or the “Upper Valley.” Depending on who you ask... some people include Holyoke and Springfield in the “Pioneer Valley”; some people don’t include them because they don’t feel it’s



Among Belmonte’s birthday guests are astronomer Salman Hameed, National Book Award winner Jeanne Birdsall, singer Zara Bode, and comedian Jennifer Myszczowski.

culturally the same, you know....

MR: *But it’s not “culturally the same” up here, either!*

MB: It’s more the same than maybe you think it is. I think it’s more the same than it is different. I’m there half the day, and here half the day, so I get a good picture of things. It’s only 25 miles –

MR: *It’s only 20 miles from [Northampton to Springfield].*

MB: I think that situation is so much more urban, and densely populated, that it’s different there. Not as different as we think it is, but different for sure.

And Franklin County is different than Hampshire County, but not as different as people like to think it is –

MR: *Why do you think they like to think that?*

MB: I don’t know. I think Northampton people probably are too snobby to think they have anything in common with people from Turners Falls, and Turners Falls people are too DIY, or too rootsy, or townie, to think that they have anything to do with those posh limousine liberals in Northampton.

MR: *As someone who’s involved in arts and culture, how do you think we can get better at breaking down that separation between Hampden County – Springfield – and the, quote-unquote, Pioneer Valley?*

MB: I think of the “Pioneer Valley” as including them. So when I refer to it, I call it “north of the Tofu Curtain,” because it does feel like that to me, for sure.

Go there! Go there and hang out. If you are afraid of Springfield, you’ll never go there; you’ll never want to know, or think about, anything happening in Springfield. Go walk around Springfield, during the day. Go to the Bing. Go to Holyoke!

My kid’s appendix burst, and we were in Baystate for like a week, and to clear my head I’d just walk around the neighborhoods around Baystate. It’s great! I’d go to the bodegas, and get to practice my extremely limited Spanish – it’s not as dangerous as some people make it out to be.

It’s got its problems, for sure. And the same thing exists in Turn-

ers, where it’s easy to live in Turners on the Hill – no offense to people on the Hill – and never know what’s happening on Second Street. There’s a different people group who live right there who you may never encounter....

MR: *Do people ask you about moving to town?*

MB: Sometimes. What I hear more is “Turners is happening – there’s cool stuff happening in your town.”

MR: *Everyone’s been telling me it’s been getting harder to find places to rent.*

MB: Is it? Are they priced out, or is it just all taken?

MR: *My impression is that it’s more about availability, but rents are up, too – I moved here in 2008, and feel pretty lucky to be holding onto my apartment.*

MB: I fear gentrification. I think there is a certain amount of guaranteed low-income housing in the downtown area that would help to stave that off.

MR: *Power Town was renewed for another 30-year term, and there’s the Crocker and Cutlery, and Keith Apartments...*

MB: Big, deep breath. It’s kind of antithetical to what I’d love the Shea to represent, and would not want to be a part of: pushing people out, and gentrifying this [*expletive*].

MR: *It’s tricky, what that means and doesn’t mean in a town like this. It probably means more commuters...*

Well, is there anything else you want to be sure you say?

MB: [Retiring Montague building inspector] David Jensen, from the beginning, has been so supportive of what we’ve been doing here, and has been going out of his way to make sure that the Shea is running as best it can. He’ll be missed, for sure.

And whoever takes up the mantle next, we hope that you love the Shea as much as David Jensen does. Because we needed his help so frequently, and he gave it, and I’m sure we’ll need it in the future.



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the poetry page

It is difficult
to get the news from poems
yet men die miserably every day
for lack
of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

edited by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno
Readers are invited to send poems to the
Montague Reporter at: 177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376
or to: poetry@montaguereporter.org

February's
Featured Poet:
JJ White

Thievery Love

Big as an ocean I used to say
Closing their eyelids, end of the day.
Sweet tides, their eyes so full of love.
On their way now, dancing, crying, making love,
Nothing left to say.

Take me to a place I've never been
Pools of blue love rise again.
Night is dawn, love makes no sense
When it's gone.

Crack open the door, inside your heart.
Love – one side dark.
Look inside, stripped naked, yet unseen.
Love is there – nasty, mean.

Their sweet eyes, pools of love, asking me why.

Cool and blue, magic of night.
Soft, sweet, tender me slight.
Love – one side light.

Teach me love, make me free
Your eyes are sweet tides, pools so full of love
Take me love, I am free.

Stained Sheets

The elephant in the room, the darkest taboo, the forbidden fruit.
Oh child of God, Unforgiving Church. Mortal, deadly
sins. Countless, stupid venal sins. Weak confessions,
genuflections, stations crossing. Holy water, body blood,
thorny crown... all alone.

Primal, beastly urges. Looming monster shadows. Only fear is
living. Haunting secrets lying near me. Mother Mary, please
forgive me. Darkness, darkness take my eyes, make me blind.
Running, running don't deny, shameful, reckless your desire.

Pillow wet with terror tears. Stained sheets, flushed cheeks.
Hail Mary full of Grace. Beg for mercy from this place.
Bless me Father for I have sinned, again and again. Atavistic
ritual to begin.

Pounding heart, silent fear, perforated glass, God is near.
Pale light, bourbon-breathing. Darkest secrets now are living.
Truth forgiving.

Pious moments, bended knees, free me if you please. Cold stone
cleansing, innocence returning. Head is covered, the just are
right. Take me back to the lust of night.

Only knowing that's for certain, it was witnessed and replayed,
every day, on high-def channel Heaven. Watch me, watch
me... 24-7.

A holocaust of billions with no hate. Not-quite-never-will-be-
human seeking just to mate, to over-populate. Swimming,
swimming with all their might, exploding into night.

Oh fragile earth. There is no birth. Darkness, darkness take my
hand. Release me now, I've come, the promised land.

Helicopter Down

(Afternoon of September 22, 2014, Toronto, Ontario)

Berry bushes, harvest time. Resplendent garden, viewed on high.
Verdant, pungent strong, boasting budding green, waiting to be seen.

Circle, circle and again. Eight times, seven, maybe ten. Thunder blades, deafening.
Circle of love, bright autumn day. Somewhere along the way . . .
Too much, too little, it doesn't matter now, anyway.

Big idea, eyes of blue an ocean wide, hair on fire, look inside. Labour of love, love is labour.
Remind me love, who's the savior?

Radio chatter, from so far away nothing matters. One more time circle around.
Softly touch copter down. Marching soldiers, coming round.

Temperature is rising, you are crying. Tears of fears. Keep surviving. I'm not here,
I'm never near; life is flying.

Walk around this corner in your yard, if you please, officer in charge.
Feel the breeze, open eyes and you will see, the truth has landed, a big ordeal.
Sorry ma'am, there's no appeal.

Be on your guard! Search the yard! Slice them down to early death! Oh, hallowed ground,
A heart-breaking wretch.

Pastures green, sky still blue, insides scream. Return to heaven weird machine;
Flee this dreadful dream.
Thunder blades of copter rage; shake my fist, you glide away.

Blow apart all that's sane. A beautiful day, etched in pain. This storybook, it's child's play.
Fade away to another day. Thanks, is all one can say.

Grant me one last wish, not a farewell kiss or disappointed marital bliss.
Take your leave, copter down, silent chopper, this sacred ground.
Your work is done, was it fun? A splendid victory you have won!
Save the children of this land, your 13 evil plants in hand.

Gunning me down

Gunning me down, full force throttle
Making my streets into your battle
Iraqi sands, I'm raising my hands.

Flash BANG! Grenades, tactical teams
Poor cop soldiers, your war machine.

Two years on we keep on killing
Two years on we keep on shooting
What the fuck you do, we're not losing.

Gunning me down, your riot gear
Me just thinking, Trayvon's here.
Making my streets, history page
Fucking injustice, I'm outraged!

Flash BANG! Grenades, tactical teams
Poor boy soldier, a killing machine.

Two years on we keep on killing
Two years on we keep on shooting
What the fuck you do, keep on looting.

There's fury in Missouri
Orlando is burning
Walking the streets, only reason.
America! Stop the bleeding!
America! We're all grieving!

Flash BANG! Grenades, tactical teams
Drug war madness, you know I've seen.

God bless your Christian hate!
Repent your mistake before it's too late.
Walking the streets, queer like me
Wake up! I'm not the enemy.

Not your enemy, shameful litany.
Soulless, empty bigotry.
Gunning me down, it's obscenity.

Contributor's Notes:

This month's featured poet is Joseph (JJ & Josie) White, who spent 30 years providing fundraising services for progressive nonprofit organizations and political candidates in the US and Canada.

In addition to his fundraising career, in 1999 Joe founded Change the Climate, an advertising project to

advocate for marijuana law reforms. The organization won major 1st Amendment lawsuits against the U.S. Congress, President George W. Bush and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority. In 2004, White started New Image Plants, a manufacturer and distributor of silk cannabis plants. The company's

biggest customer was Showtime's hit TV series, *Weeds*. In recent years as JJ or Josie, they have written and performed political, gender-bending poetry and worked on other art projects. Born in St. Louis, MO, Joe received his BA and MA degrees in Philosophy from Boston College and has lived in Greenfield since 1985.

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TFHS SPORTS from page A1

Maddy Chmyzinski had an amazing night, hitting six 3-pointers, five free throws, and three 2-pointers for 29 points. Dabney Rollins (13) and Abby Loynd (10) also hit double figures.

Chloe Ellis added 4 points, Aliyah Sanders hit 2 free throws, while Hailey Bogosz sunk a freebee.

On Friday the 16th, the Blue Ladies went up to Northfield to play the Pioneer Panthers. The mood at the game was light. There was no pressure on either team and the fans went along for the ride.

Turners had already made the playoffs, while Pioneer was looking forward to next year. So the fans cheered on their own teams with no malice toward their opponents. Particularly striking was respectful silence when a girl went to the foul line.

Turners took a 15-8 lead after one period, and the Cats were forced to play catchup ball. But Blue maintained their lead, pulling off a 46-39 victory.

Chmyzinski again led Blue with 13 points, Ellis scored 9, and Aliyah Sanders and Loynd each put up 7. Rollins (4), and Taylor Murphy, Karissa Fleming, and Bogosz (2) also scored for Blue.

Then on Tuesday, the girls went to

Southwick to play the Rams. Turners had a strong first half, but were outscored 18-10 in the second half to lose the game by 5 points.

Loynd was Turners’ top scorer in this game with 10. Ellis got 9, Sanders scored 7, and Chmyzinski added 6. Rollins (3) and Murphy (2) also scored points for Blue.

Boys Basketball
Hopkins 74 – TFHS 44

On February 15, I traveled down to Hadley to see the boys’ basketball team play Hopkins Academy.

I knew that the game was probably going to be one-sided. After all, this was a rebuilding year for Turners. They finished with a record of 5–14, and were 0–8 in the Hampshire South Conference.

On the other side of the gym, the Hopkins Golden Hawks were sitting pretty atop the HSC. They finished their regular season 18–2 and were undefeated in the conference. So even though Turners was the decided underdog, it was their last game of the year, and the last time three boys would ever play high school basketball.

As expected, the Birds shot out to an early lead and never looked back. But as the game became out of reach, Turners began to play for fun. Fun and pride.

And in the waning minutes of the game, the Turners players demonstrated wonderful teamsmanship. They began chanting “Get it to David,” encouraging senior rookie David Tricolici to score.

Sophomore Anthony Peterson led Blue with 17 points while junior Tyler Lavin scored 10. Jimmy Vaughn had 6 points, while fellow senior Javoni Williams hit three free throws. Jake Dodge, Jon Fritz and Ryan Kucenski each scored 2 points.

Ice Hockey

Since the Olympics began, I’ve been able to watch Ice Hockey every day. As you may know, the American Women’s team is again playing for a gold medal. On Thursday, they take on the Canadians for top honors so yet again North American women’s ice hockey is the best in the world.

Speaking of ice hockey, Cassi Wozniak and Mason Whiteman are now skating on the Greenfield hockey team, and their production has helped Greenfield get into the playoffs. So far this season, Wozniak has scored 7 goals and gave 8 assists for 15 points. And Whiteman has earned 7 points off 3 goals and 4 assists.

As of Tuesday, Greenfield is 13–4–2, and leads the Wright League with a record of 7–0–2.



NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Officials: “There’s No Way Out” in Budget

By ROB SKELTON

Leverett’s fire and police departments defended their proposed budgets to a combined meeting of the selectboard and finance committee on Tuesday. Efforts to “professionalize” both departments met with mixed results, as the boards were slow to embrace police chief Scott Minckler’s assertion that incomplete local coverage was a public safety issue.

Fire chief John Ingram made better headway, getting authorization for a new deputy forest warden position, as well as sympathy for his department’s longstanding “stepchild” status. Both departments have traditionally been run “on a shoestring”; both have recently-hired chiefs tasked with modernization.

Police expenses discussed included calibration of radar devices, replacement of dated bulletproof vests, Narcan expiration dates, snow tires, and Taser maintenance. Fire expenses included a \$3,000 line item for uniforms, which fin-committee-woman Ann Delano questioned.

The selectboard explained that the highway department set up a uniform account – not a line item, but from already budgeted monies – at a meeting that Ingram happened to be at, upon which he decided to press for uniform budgeting also.

“We want uniforms, too,” said town clerk Lisa Stratford and administrator Margie McGinness.

CPR standards are changing and towns will have to buy a new “dummy” with computerized calibration for training purposes. “What do you do with the old one?” asked selectman Tom Hankinson.

“Whataya want it for?” ribbed Peter d’Errico and Julie Shively, his fellow board members.

“You need a friend?” asked Ingram, who estimated \$1,300 per to outfit his staff, including \$300 for “the hat.”

Selectboard chair d’Errico and the fin com’s Tom Powers made the analogy of an ocean liner, unable to stop or turn on a dime, for Leverett’s fiscal outlook.

“There’s no way out. We have to start making changes now to avoid hitting the wall,” said Powers, urging budgetary stringency and 1% annual increases.

D’Errico mentioned that Wendell was recently warned off by the state department of revenue as it approached \$25 per \$1,000 valuation, which triggers state micro-management.

Asked about taxing non-profits, such as the Dakin animal shelter, which pay no taxes and are thus subsidized by the remaining taxpayers, the board demurred. Many towns engage with their non-profit institutions through the “payment in lieu of taxes” (PILOT) program, which is an opportunity for civic groups to avoid “freeloading” off their host towns.

The only non-profit in Leverett that has made such an arrangement is the Mount Toby Friends Meeting (Quaker) on Long Plain Road.

As for assets the town could sell, one is the old library.

“I’d love to sell that,” said d’Errico, though it currently houses historical artifacts and has no septic system.

“We avoided buying the post office,” said Powers.

There was grumbling by d’Errico about CPA funds earmarked for land preservation resulting in properties being removed from the tax rolls. Bill Mitchell’s farm on Teawaddle Hill was cited as an example of an individual profiting from town largess: Mitchell gets to keep his land and work it, but no longer has to pay taxes on it, and gets a cash windfall to boot, according to a former town official. Another example is Cynda Jones, who sold her vast holdings to the state, yet continues to log them, and no longer pays taxes.

“Our zoning requires relatively expensive houses,” said Powers. “The few things we’re allowed to tax are hotels, meals, pot and property.”

Bids for school sprinkler repair came in at wide divergence. D’Errico ordered another round of bidding.

Delano urged residents to attend next week’s budget conclave, Tuesday, February 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the town hall.

Wendell Scholarships Help Minds Grow!

It’s time to apply for scholarships from Dollars for Wendell Scholars! All students who live in Wendell and will be pursuing any kind of accredited post secondary education next year can apply by completing the short and easy application.

Applications for the scholarship are available at local high schools and at the Wendell Free Library. They must be returned to the address

below by April 15.

Our fourth annual fundraiser was initiated with a mailing to all Wendell residents in February.

Donations are now tax deductible! Donations may be made to Dollars for Wendell Scholars, P.O. Box 232, Wendell, MA 01379 with checks payable to Dollars for Wendell Scholars. Or go to our crowdfunding site: www.youcaring.com/dollarsforwendellscholarsIV. Please help us support Wendell residents seeking post-secondary education (college/university/technical school).

For more info, contact Carolyn Manley at (978) 544-7028 or dollarsforwendellscholars@gmail.com, or Christine Heard at (978) 544-2282 or cheard59c@aol.com. You may also speak with Joy Brenneman at the Wendell Free Library.

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LEGAL NOTICE of PUBLIC MEETING
Leverett Conservation Commission

The Leverett Conservation Commission, in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c.131 §40), will hold a public meeting on March 5, 2018 at a meeting beginning at 7:15 p.m. at the Leverett Town Hall, 9 Montague Road, Leverett, MA to review a Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Cold Spring Environmental Consultants, Inc for septic and well repair at 5 Shutesbury Road. The application is on file and is available for public inspection in the Conservation Commission Office on Mondays, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. or by appointment at (413) 548-1022 ext. 3. This notice is also available at <http://masspublicnotices.org>.

LOOKING BACK
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was February 21, 2008: News from The Montague Reporter’s archive.

Turners Falls RiverCulture
Scores Adams Grant

The Massachusetts Cultural Council’s John and Abigail Adams Arts Program grant website does not mince words: “The grant application process is highly competitive and not all applicants are likely to be funded.”

If you scroll down the page, the truth of the warning becomes more evident. Only two organizations in Franklin County were awarded funding this year. One of them, for the third straight year in a row, was our own Turners Falls RiverCulture.

Lisa Davol, RiverCulture coordinator, said she couldn’t be more pleased that Turners will be receiving grants for each of the next two years to support arts-based economic development in the downtown.

Town Ambulance Service
Proposed for Montague

The prudential committee of Turners Falls Fire Department is looking into the possibility of adding a municipal ambulance service, and will be meeting with the Montague selectboard in the weeks to come to discuss that possibility. Prudential committee member Mark Allen said his committee is exploring the idea for two reasons: to increase the level of service the fire department can provide to Montague residents in a medical emergency, and to increase revenues for the fire department.

At the selectboard meeting on Monday, chair Pat Allen said the idea of adding a town ambulance service “makes sense to me,” and, referring to the selectboard, said, “Obviously

we have to be involved.”

During the run-up to last year’s townwide vote in favor of building a new police station next to the Turners Fire Department on Turnpike Road, to create a safety complex centrally located for all five villages, Turners fire chief Ray Godin and police chief Ray Zukowski said the new facility would be large enough to handle the addition of an ambulance service.

At a public meeting on the new safety complex held in Millers Falls in September 2007, Godin pointed to the success the Orange fire department has had operating a municipal ambulance service, saying that service was bringing in \$400,000 a year in revenue to the department, a figure Orange fire chief Dennis Annear confirmed this week.

Hundreds Turn Out for
“Town Meeting” on Iran

The Pioneer Valley Coalition to Prevent War in Iran held a “town meeting” with Congressmen John Olver (D-Amherst) and Richard Neal (D-Springfield) at the American Legion hall in Hadley on Wednesday. Nearly 300 area citizens jammed into the room to hear six speakers and to take part in a question and answer session about the possibility of the United States initiating a second pre-emptive war in the Persian Gulf, this time against the nuclear-enriched mullahs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

“We’re holding this town meeting because of our deep concern that the Bush Administration is planning to launch a military attack on Iran, and that this could cause vast human suffering and damage US national interests,” said Dr. Ira Helfand, former president of Physicians for Social Responsibility, one of the night’s speakers.

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LOCKOUT from page A1

After the strike was authorized, US Representative Jim McGovern, whose district includes the city, contacted both parties offering to host negotiations. On February 13, the union announced they would accept the offer and “urg[ed] BFMC to do the same without delay.” Baystate declined McGovern’s offer and the company has offered no public explanation of its decision.

According to the MNA, Baystate announced Monday that it will lock the nurses out of the hospital beginning at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, 12 hours prior to the scheduled start of the strike. Citing minimal contractual obligations to temporary staff, Baystate says it will keep them locked out for 72 hours.

In response, MNA representatives and members of the Greenfield city council, including council president Karen “Rudy” Renaud, attempted on Wednesday to meet with Baystate CEO Dr. Mark Keroack at the company’s Springfield headquarters.

Donna Stern, a registered nurse serving as senior co-chair of the union’s bargaining committee at the hospital, said the contingent was turned away. “Supposedly Dr. Keroack is not at headquarters,” she said. “I find that hard to believe.... They knew well we were coming down, because security was waiting for us.”

The cost to Baystate of locking out the nurses last June totaled around \$1 million, as reported by the *Boston Business Journal* last

July. “What’s disturbing to us is that they’re willing to do this again,” said Stern. “They’re using taxpayer money to lock their own nurses out again – they’ll spend well over a million dollars rather than come to the table and settle this contract.”

An MNA press release points out that “[d]ata provided to the state’s Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA) shows that 69% of BFMC’s revenues come from public sources – Medicare and Medicaid.”

The First Strike

Last June, as the union approached the six-month mark without a contract, the nurses authorized a 24-hour strike. Baystate responded by announcing a three-day lockout, barring nurses from the facility and hiring temporary staff. The company’s stated reasoning for the duration of the lockout was due to 72-hour minimum contracts for the temporary nurses they hired as replacement workers, as noted in *The Montague Reporter’s* coverage.

Baystate also filed an injunction with the regional National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in an attempt to prevent the June strike. According to the union, the NLRB “declined to even hold a hearing on the motion.” Baystate then filed a formal charge that the strike was illegal. The company later withdrew that charge, and it was officially dropped on October 5.

“One thing we will never know,” Donna Stern wrote in a union press release in October, “is whether Baystate filed the charge as a publicity

stunt for the headlines, knowing all along that it was baseless, or whether they actually believed that the nurses have no right to strike even for a day.”

Baystate and the MNA met to resume negotiations on July 21. The nurses, the union claims, presented a revised proposal, but Baystate “flatly rejected it and gave nurses a pre-printed ‘best and final offer.’” The nurses rejected that offer on August 15.

Sticking Points

The primary issues that remain unresolved in the contract negotiations are RN staffing and health insurance plans. Staffing issues at the Greenfield hospital, according to the MNA, include management “failing to schedule enough nurses” and “forcing nurses to work through [their] meal breaks and routinely past the end of [their] shifts.”

The union adds that “[n]urses worked, were pressured or forced to work 3,980 shifts of 12 hours or more in one year. National best practices say nurses *should not* work more than twelve hours.”

The nurses say they are seeking staffing improvements “in specific hospital units,” as well as limits to the amount of patient care Baystate assigns to charge nurses, in order to leave them enough time to properly supervise other employees.

While the previous contract was still active, Baystate changed the health insurance it provides the nurses. The plan is offered through Health New England, which is

owned by Baystate and has the same CEO, Dr. Mark Keroack. Employees were originally able to choose from three levels of coverage, but Baystate eliminated first the top level and then, later on, the second.

The nurses are calling for Baystate to restore the original plan options. “Baystate Health has the financial means to provide safe staffing and fair RN benefits and wages,” the union argues, adding that in FY’16, the Greenfield facility “reported \$2.2 million in profits.”

Nurses at another Baystate Health hospital recently finished a lengthy negotiation. The MNA nurses at Noble Hospital in Westfield began negotiating with the company in February 2016, and ratified a collective bargaining agreement in late November 2017, after also authorizing a strike. The new agreement, among other changes, reinstated the second level of the health insurance plan which the Greenfield nurses are currently pushing for.

The Rematch

Baystate spokesperson Hazlett said Monday that the company had been aware of the potential for a second strike, and “will move forward with plans to assure that our community has access to quality health care services during this event.” These plans were not specified, and the lockout was not mentioned in Hazlett’s comment, it was announced to staff at BFMC the same day, as reported in *The Greenfield Recorder*.

According to Hazlett, “[e]arlier

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this week, we provided dates in late February to meet and continue our dialogue.” Baystate, she wrote, has brought new proposals regarding staffing and health insurance to the MNA in the last month.

But the union claims Baystate “is refusing to negotiate with nurses ahead of our one-day strike.... They even cancelled one session on February 26 that they had offered before the strike date.”

The MNA says that in the course of negotiations, it “has filed more than 20 unfair labor practice charges against Baystate... for, among other reasons, failing to bargain in good faith over mandatory subjects of bargaining such as workload and health insurance.”

“Baystate keeps saying that they’re bargaining in good faith,” Donna Stern said on Wednesday. “We don’t know what their definition of that is, because ours is that you have to actually return phone calls, and sit across the table to negotiate.”

Attempts to reach out to Baystate Health for a comment regarding their decision to implement a lockout were not answered as of press time.

Additional reporting
was contributed by
Mike Jackson.



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The Hounds of Montague: A Police Log Retrospective

Compiled by EMILY ALLING Illustrations by NINA ROSSI

Saturday, 6/22/13

4:55 p.m. Caller reported that a friendly golden retriever had just shown up at his door on G Street.

Saturday, 7/20/13

11:47 a.m. Woman who entered river by the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge to try to rescue her dog was reported to be in distress by a friend. TFFD responded and, along with officers, rescued swimmer. Dog made his way back.

Saturday, 9/7/13

2:31 p.m. Report of dog left in pickup truck full of trash parked at Food City. Responding officer advised that there was no dog in truck; no room for any animals in there.

Saturday, 10/26/13

5:23 p.m. Loose collie wearing blanket reported near Carnegie Library.

Saturday, 11/23/13

2:44 p.m. Motorist locked out of car by dog at FL Roberts.

Wednesday, 12/25/13

2:40 p.m. Caller reported two dogs wearing sweaters running in traffic in front of the Wendell State Forest. Referred to Shelburne Control.

Sunday, 2/9/14

6:17 p.m. Dispute over custody of two Chihuahuas. Determined to be a civil matter.

Tuesday, 3/4/14

9:28 a.m. Loose golden retriever wearing a red vest, orange collar, and bandana report-

ed in Third Street area; tag reads "Preacher."

Friday, 3/14/14

4:10 p.m. Eyewitness report of a woman allowing her dog to defecate on the sidewalk in Montague Center without cleaning it up. Caller upset about this rampant problem in town.

Monday, 3/31/14

12:35 p.m. Complaint regarding speeding cars and defecating dogs on Montague Street.

Thursday, 4/10/14

7:35 a.m. Golden retriever wandered into Turners Falls High School through the front door. Staff unable to catch dog. Dog caught and transported to shelter.

6:04 p.m. Caller reported seeing small dog fall into canal at the beginning of Migratory Way; dog being taken with current. Dog pulled safely from water.

Friday, 4/11/14

6:43 p.m. Friendly dog who wandered into a yard on Dell Street transported to kennel.

Thursday, 4/17/14

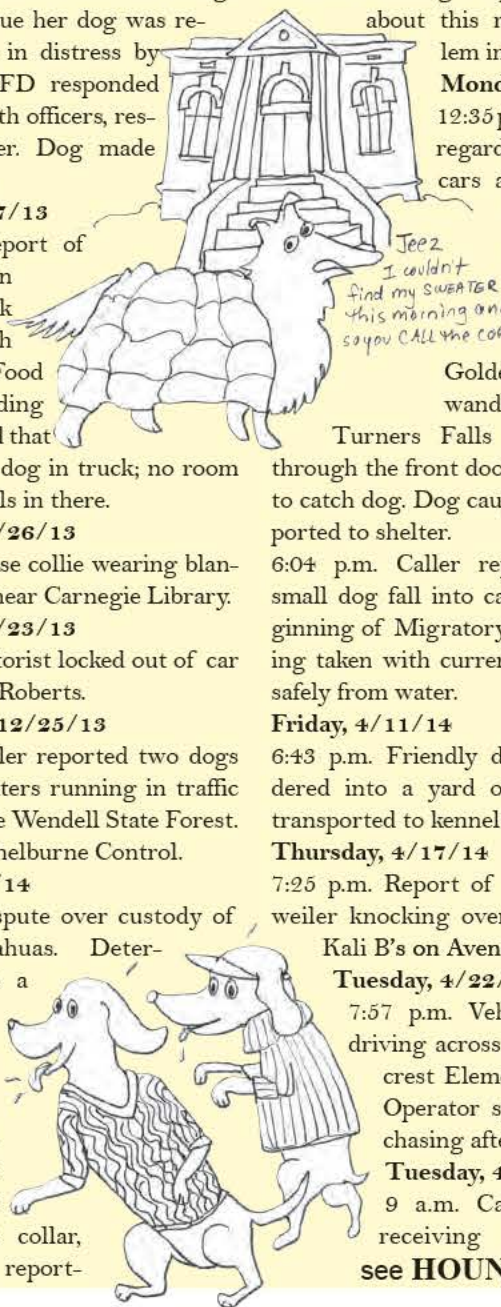
7:25 p.m. Report of a loose Rottweiler knocking over a child near Kali B's on Avenue A.

Tuesday, 4/22/14

7:57 p.m. Vehicle observed driving across grass at Hillcrest Elementary School. Operator spoken to; was chasing after her dog.

Tuesday, 4/29/14

9 a.m. Caller reported receiving a voicemail see HOUNDS page B4



THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Southern Arrivals II

By LESLIE BROWN

CRESCENT BEACH, FL – We have spent the first week or so here acclimatizing to our area, learning the location of restaurants and grocery stores, walking the incredibly white sands of the beach, and finding places we'd like to visit and park trails we'd like to walk.

We have also made two trips to favorite haunts mid-state: once to Haw Creek, and another trip to meet Ken's nephew in Crescent City, the place his mom and two aunts and uncles wintered in for at least twenty-five years.

Daily pleasures are: walks on the beach at all tides, at least twice a day; keeping windows open all day and at night; sitting outside reading and wearing light clothing. The last two trips we made to northern Florida we experienced temperatures between fifty and seventy.

Here at Crescent Beach, the coolest day has been in the high fifties but more often sixties and even high seventies. We tried to pack a range of clothing. On our first trips I often wore my light long underwear under cotton sweaters; I recall wearing a pair of shorts twice.

I began in my jeans here, but soon changed for crop pants and short sleeved tops. We have not brought as many warm weather clothes as we might wish, and my long underwear remains in the drawer. Happily, the manager of our place has allowed us to use the office laundry facility.

February 12. We drive about fifteen miles to play tourist in St. Augustine.

If you were not born in New England, you can never be a true New Englander. Just the same, we have lived here all but eight years of a long life and seem to have acquired many native qualities. One: a preference for clear, clean lines over frilly ones. Two: a somewhat reluctant effusion of emotion, a liking for the classical and a preference for history in the form of museums of colonial life, dioramas of natural history, historical pieces.

St. Augustine is the exact antithesis. Born as the oldest American city and rife with history, its presentation is flamboyant, gushing with attractions excepting the Old Town with its simple, stark buildings carefully preserved much as they were: the oldest house; the first wooden

see GARDENER'S page B2

Dog Walking for Fun and Profit

By GEORGE BRACE

FRANKLIN COUNTY – The saying "dogs are man's best friend" is an old one, and it should be. Dogs are generally believed to be the first animal domesticated, sometime between 15,000 and 30,000 years ago. Over those many thousands of years people have been walking side by side with their canine friends to their mutual benefit.

In today's world, though, people do not always have time to walk their dogs themselves, or are unable to have a dog of their own. Opportunities to address these situations abound, however, from voluntary dog walking at shelters, to friends and neighbors who walk each other's dogs, to local dog-walking services. Recently, Uber-like sharing apps have also appeared, which match dogs in need of walks to walkers via phone or computer.

Taking shelter dogs for walks is one of the many volunteer opportunities available at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office Regional Dog Shelter and Adoption Center, located in Turners Falls. The shelter provides housing, care, and adoption services for lost, stray and abandoned dogs from 21 towns in Franklin County. Funded partly through the Sheriff's Office, but mainly through local contributions, the center has two paid workers and a staff of approximately 25 volunteers.

As the office manager of the shelter Gabi T. puts it, "A tired dog is a happy dog," and making their dogs' lives healthy and happy is part of the shelter's mission statement. What's not part of the mission statement, but apparent from seeing the volunteers, is that it's a two-way street. Time spent caring for the dogs looks like it has a healthy and happy effect on the volunteers, too.

In order to be taken on as a walker, people need to fill out an application and be vetted. Once accepted, they go through various levels of training depending on what they'll be doing. Beyond the direct benefits of getting to take an appreciative pooch for a walk, volunteer dog-walkers are also receiving useful experience and training in shelter safety protocols, which cover both dog and walker.

As a business, dog walking can take a variety of forms, from a neighbor or friend who walks dogs occasionally as a favor or for which they may receive a small "thank you" payment or gift, to full-time dog walking services, sometimes with specialties.



Happy dogs on a pack outing with the Bernardston-based company Hiking Paws.



Rover user Sarah H. enjoys the outdoors with some of the dogs she walks through the website.

Hiking Paws of Bernardston is an example of the latter. Run by "Pack Leader" Margot Van Natta, who is certified in dog handling and trained in canine first aid, Hiking Paws offers on-leash walks, but specializes in off-leash, group hikes in the woods.

Van Natta cites fresh air, friends, socialization and greater sensory stimulation as the benefits of off-leash pack hikes in the woods or parks. She and her assistant, Virginia Madsen of Gill, who is certified in canine CPR/first aid, provide a pick-up service and offer a free initial consultation for customers and their dogs to get to know the pack leaders.

Van Natta also has an observation on tired dogs: along with being happy, "a tired dog is a good dog." This points to one of the benefits of dog-walking services for pet owners: people with busy lives may sometimes need a break from an energetic pup when they get home from work.

There are also smartphone app-based matchmaking services such as Rover (rover.com), Care.com, and Wag! (wagwalking.com). These are similar in structure to the ride-sharing service Uber, and offer a range of dog-related services such as boarding, drop-in visits and walking. Providers who sign up with these services are independent contractors, rather than employees of the companies.

Each of these companies provides an infrastructure which makes it easy for providers and clients to find each other. In return, the service receives a percentage of the fees. To sign up, walkers fill out a profile with pictures, qualifications, information about themselves, and their rates.

In the case of Rover, profiles are reviewed and a see WALKS page B4

THE AUTHORS' CORNER: LOUIS SACHAR

By IZZY VACHULA-CURTIS

TURNERS FALLS – Hi! I'm Izzy Vachula-Curtis. Recently, I wrote an article about the Gill Montague



Our correspondent, with a review edition of Louis Sachar's Fuzzy Mud (2015).

Regional School District food drive for the Montague Reporter. I really enjoyed writing it, so I reached out to the editors to ask if I could write a column about authors. They said yes! So from now on, I will be writing an Author's Column. Enjoy!

My first column includes an interview with Mr. Louis Sachar, and a book review of one of his books, Fuzzy Mud. When you think of Louis Sachar, you may think of his most famous book, Holes. Today I'm going to be talking about one of his other books, Fuzzy Mud which you may not have heard of before.

Fuzzy Mud is about two kids, Tamaya and Marshall. They walk home from school together every day, but one day Marshall decides to take a shortcut through the "Off-Limits Woods." Tamaya reluctantly follows, but Marshall soon learns that going into those woods was one of the worst decisions of his life.

This book is very suspenseful, and one of the main characters learns a very important lesson. This book is really, really, good, and I highly recommend it to anyone who likes suspenseful, and lesson-learning stories!

A super-duper cool interview with Mr. Louis Sachar follows below...

Izzy V-C: What was your favorite book to write?

Louis Sachar: My favorite to write was probably The Cardturner. I remember thinking while writing see AUTHORS page B3

Pet of the Week

We use our whiskers to feel around and check the weather!

We communicate with each other using sounds you can't hear.

I like to tuck myself into small places. Give me a box to hide in and I'll fluff up a soft nest.

An exercise wheel in my cage helps keep me fit and healthy.

Mice like a varied diet: seeds, but also fruit and vegetables.

Keep me busy with things to crawl through and chew on - cardboard tubes make great toys!

Ask an adoption counselor about other personality traits we have!

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



“SPOUT”

Senior Center Activities FEBRUARY 26 to MARCH 2

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

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

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

Tues–Thurs Noon Lunch

M, W, F 10:10 a m. Aerobics 10:50 a m. Chair Exercise

Monday: 2/26 NO KNITTING
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday: 2/27
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

Wednesday: 2/28
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach
12:30 p m. Bingo

Thursday: 3/1 No Tai Chi or Yoga
10:30 a.m. to noon: Brown Bag
1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday: 3/2
1 p m. Writing Group

LEVERETT

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

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

Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednes-

day for a reservation.

ERVING

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

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

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

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

Monday: 2/26 No Lunch Served
9:30 a m. Healthy Bones
10:30 a m. Tai Chi

Tuesday: 2/27
8:45 a m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch

Wednesday: 2/28
8:45 a m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo, Snacks, Laughs

Thursday: 3/1
8:15 a m. Foot Clinic
8:45 a m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
11:30 p.m. Brown Bag Pick Up

Friday: 3/2
9 a m. Quilting Workshop
9:30 a m. Fun Bowling
11:15 Music, Movement, Mayhem!

WENDELL

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

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!

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GARDENER’S from page B1

schoolhouse; the old jail.

This city did have operatic beginnings, with piracy and battles in a land so rich in climate and natural resources that three nations (France, Britain and Spain) not to mention the Native American tribes wished to claim it. Now it presents itself as the home of historical artifacts melded with attractions which allow the visitor to be a pirate for a few hours, take an after-dark ghost tour, or zipline over live alligators.

February 13. After an 80-degree day in the city, today dawns gray and damp, with a brisk wind out of the northeast and a temperature which refuses to climb above 56 degrees. We go out for breakfast, run a few errands and return to hunker down with books, the newspaper and our warm layers again.

It turns out to be much the same on Valentine’s Day although there is a glare in the sky and unlike yesterday, no rain. However, future forecasts promise temperatures will return to the seventies.

In that spirit of improving weather we hike into the Moses Creek state park. The Creek is a tributary of the large Matanzas River. The trail is broad enough for the Ranger vehicles as we travel the edges of swampy land full of the thick growth of palms, shrubs, grape vine and, on the eucalyptus, Spanish moss.

Spring has come to North Florida. In the jungle-like woods we see violets, a form of blue-eyed grass, and other tiny flowers we cannot name. On top of one of the light towers in the grocery store parking lot there is an osprey nest, and the parents are busy feeding a large fledgling with fish caught in the nearby river. In town there is a delicate, feathery flower on the newly sprouting

green of a palm tree.

In the backyard of our neighbors’ suite is a large burrow habituated by a huge turtle aptly named a “gopher tortoise.” These large creatures are herbivores eating grasses, gopher apples, pawpaw and saw palmetto berries. Their huge burrows keep them warm in winter, cool in summer and safe from fire and predators. This one we saw when it came out to sun itself; once it is at home below, it is invisible underground.

Their mating season begins in April and lasts into November. Breeding females burrow in the sand and lay their eggs in the open where they often fall prey to raccoons, armadillos, skunks, foxes and alligators. The tortoise has also been an historic source of meat for humans, but this tortoise is under conservation protection as a keystone species because its abandoned burrows also serve as homes for the burrowing owl, certain snakes, and gopher frogs.

February 16. A warm day which promises to be hot. Just the same, we drive to St. Augustine, find a parking spot in a residential area and walk the three blocks or so to the downtown. We arrive late morning and it is already bustling with tourists.

We walk the streets, unsure of where we want to go, but it is so much easier to take in a place on foot than while driving in busy traffic. We stroll a street of galleries, another of gift shops, and admire the Spanish Renaissance architecture of Flagler College, originally built as the “Hotel Ponce De Leon” by Henry M. Flagler, an industrialist and railroad baron.

St. Augustine is an open, friendly city. The streets are broad, the sidewalks many, and the town is punctuated with small parks and

green areas which welcome the foot weary. There are also two businesses which run trains and trolleys throughout the city, as well as the characteristic horse and buggy trade for those wanting to go at a slower, old-world pace.

We both buy hats at the Panama Hat Company, and Ken also treats himself to a special hand-rolled cigar. When we have walked as far as we wish, we relax with a cold glass of beer and a restorative lunch. We are enjoying so much the plentiful offerings of fresh fish: local shrimp, mahi-mahi, and crab.

At night the sky is an inverted bowl of pink at sunset. Even the waves glow pink as they caress the beach.

February 18. We have but ten days left of our Florida sojourn. It has been wonderful to escape from the cold and snow to shorten up the winter. Yet now that spring is starting here, our thoughts begin to turn homeward. We look forward to seeing friends and family, to our cat and our own space. The tomato seeds will have arrived and it will be time to plant them.

We imagine that sugaring season will begin before too long. Seeing the sap buckets hanging feels like the beginning of spring in New England. Soon to follow will be the first few shoots of daffodils on the side hill. The redwings will return in large groups and will chatter together in the trees. Perhaps we will bring them back with us.

But before then, a few more adventures in this place of sun and sky and water. Something about Florida engages an inner laziness: a desire to sit at length with a good book, to walk the beach early mornings and sunset time with a lovely sense of nowhere



Franklin County Technical School 2017-2018 Honor Roll Semester 1

Seniors	Juniors	Sophomores	Freshmen
HIGH HONORS Nicholas Baronas (Leyden) Jacob Desbiens (Erving) Krystal Finn (Buckland) Hunter Sessions (Buckland) Kevin Shimeld (Sunderland)	HIGH HONORS Zackery Conway (Greenfield) Bryant Fisher (Montague)	HIGH HONORS Benjamin Bardwell (Whately) Benjamin Blais (Whately) Joshua Blais (Whately) Sierra Conversano (Buckland) Jocelyn Crowningshield (Rowe) Joel Smiaroski (Conway) Jonathan Tan (Amherst) Hunter Wozniak (Heath)	HIGH HONORS Cody Baranoski (Deerfield) Lydia Barrett-Miller (Colrain) Hunter Drost (Greenfield) Joelen Dunbar (Buckland) Noah Fuess (Northfield) Alex Griffin (Pelham) Autumn Harris (Greenfield) Kimberly Pichette (Montague)
HONORS Samuel Bobala (Montague) Korey Bousquet (Montague) Cameron Chase (Conway) Elias Collins (Greenfield) Dakota Deane (Ashfield) Adam DePretto (Deerfield) Michael Dobias, Jr. (Erving) Jack Fuller (Conway) McKenzie Gancarz (Charlemont) Martin Given (Northfield) Maxx Hagen (Greenfield) Matthew Huber (Northfield) Timothy Hutt (Deerfield) Ian Lesko (Sunderland) Matthew Lively (Hea h) Devin Marz (Orange) Evelyn McCassie (Northfield) Haylie McQuade (Greenfield) Daniel Momaney (Montague) Patrick Monaghan (Amherst) Erin O’Neil (Bernardston) Tyler Raymond (Bernardston) Dylan Robinson (Orange) Jaxon Rollins (Erving) Kristin Slowinski (Colrain) Kaeden Socquet (Greenfield) Ashley Townsley (Ashfield) Sohan Tyner (Leverett) Samantha Vatalaro (Greenfield) James Waldron (Heath) Mitchell Wells (Greenfield) Brian Zamojski (Montague)	HONORS Bryan Allen (Heath) Nathaniel Bellows (Charlemont) Jared Bergmann (Erving) Alec Blake (Greenfield) Daniel Boulanger (Montague) Gwyneth Clark (Heath) Javier Colon (Greenfield) Joseph Dufresne (Greenfield) Elliott Friedrichs (Sunderland) Summer Gaudreau (Wendell) Deven Goshea (Deerfield) Kristen Griswold (Heath) Hailey Holst (Erving) Jordan Johannsson (Orange) Eliza Kelton (Greenfield) Leah LaTulippe-Case (Orange) Alexander LaValley (Greenfield) Cole Littlewood (Orange) Edward Lopez (Sunderland) Alexia Matuszko (Orange) James Morris (Greenfield) Michael Patnode (Montague) Jonathon Pichette (Montague) Raven Rich (Greenfield) Brooke Romanovicz (Conway) Ta iyana Rosario (Charlemont) Kyle Roy (Erving) Nathan Smith (Northfield) Keltyn Socquet (Greenfield) Hannah Solar (Deerfield) Samuel Trudeau (Bernardston) Tyler Trudeam (Greenfield) Amber Westort (Charlemont) Dylan Wheeler (Orange) Damian Willor (Northfield) Brody Wood (Leverett)	HONORS Andria Ames (Montague) Jesse Archambault (Deerfield) Joelle Baranoski (Greenfield) Kyle Brunelle (Montague) Vincent Buccaroni (Orange) Aaron Care (Montague) Brody Church (Greenfield) Kevin Clarke (Greenfield) Garret Cole (Warwick) Isabelle Duga (New Salem) Mekhai Felton (Bernardston) Cooper Gilkes (Greenfield) Molly Hall (Orange) Jordan Hurlbert (Warwick) Hailey Jackson (Erving) Autum King (Bernardston) Christopher LaCoy (Bernardston) Ida LaFortune (Greenfield) Michael McGoldrick, Jr. (Leyden) Tucker Millane (Montague) Stephanie Pearson (Montague) Jordan M. Smith (Greenfield) Alyah Sutton (Montague) Shawn Telega (Deerfield) Jenna Thebeau (Orange) Lucas Upham (Erving) Kelsey Winship (Northfield)	HONORS Ryan Artus (Bernardston) Anthony Barilone (Orange) Chase Barton (Bernardston) Cooper Barton (Leyden) Anthony Benedetti (Greenfield) Caitlin Bistrek (Shelburne) Conner Bobala (Montague) Jacob Bordeaux (Bernardston) Dylan Boutwell (Shelburne) Joseph Boyden (Northfield) Gabriella Castagna (Erving) Tyrone Coaxum (Greenfield) Sadie Corey (Greenfield) Austin Demers (Montague) Dylan Demers (Montague) Emmalee Dobosz (Montague) Cody Gibbons (Warwick) Dylan Houlberg (Deerfield) Abigail Hoynoski (Montague) Phoenix Kimball-Phillips (Montague) Allana Losacano (Greenfield) RaeAnn Loura (Montague) Dylan McLaughlin (Montague) Starr Morin (Erving) Ardis Picard (Whately) McKailya Popkowski (Montague) Matthew Regnier (Wendell) Annastasha Rider (Greenfield) Brianna Snyder (Greenfield) Shelby Terounzo (Montague) Hunter Tetreault (Colrain) Kristin Verdieck (Orange)

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AUTHORS from page B1
it, that I really liked it, but I didn't know if anybody else would.

Izzy V-C: Do you have any advice for young authors?

Louis Sachar: Advice to young authors. You have to be willing to do lots of revisions. I rewrite each of my books at least six times, making lots and lots of changes each time.

Izzy V-C: How long does it take you to write a book?

Louis Sachar: It takes me about two years to write a book.

Izzy V-C: When your books are made into movies, like Holes, do you have a part, or do you help write the script?

Louis Sachar: *Holes* was my only book made into a movie, and I was fortunate to be included every step of the way. I wrote the screenplay, and I also was in the movie for two seconds. Sam sells me onion juice to pour on my head.



Louis Sachar

Izzy V-C: How do you get your first book published?

Louis Sachar: My first book, *Sideways Stories From Wayside School*, was published in 1978.

Thank you for reading this. I will be writing another column soon!

Izzy Vachula-Curtis is a student at Great Falls Middle School. She is also the CEO of a rival publication, the Turners Falls Waterfall.



MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week at MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

We hope you're finding some renewed energy during this February spring-weather tease! This week, we bring you new videos from Montague Community Television:

- Northern Roots Festival at the Brattleboro Music Center: Now in its 11th year, Northern Roots brings beautiful traditional music to the intimate air of your living room! That last part – getting it on TV – is courtesy of MCTV and Ray Sebold; the event itself took place in January 2018.

- Montague Special Town Meeting, 2/15/18.

Don't forget that local meetings air live on a weekly basis. Montague

selectboard meetings air Mondays at 7 p.m., finance committee meetings air Wednesdays at 6 p.m., and school committee meetings air biweekly on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

You can also see them after the fact – please check our TV schedule at montaguetelevision.org/p/55/TV-Schedule.

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, montaguetelevision@gmail.com, or stop by 34 2nd Street between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We'd love to work with you!

TV REVIEW

Beyond: Season 2 (Freeform)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – *Beyond* was a TV series that premiered on Freeform last year. From what I saw of it then, it looked like a cool supernatural/sci-fi show. To recap, the plot was about an individual named Holden, who wakes up from a coma after 12 years with supernatural powers. He deals with people who have a weird interest in him because of his supernatural powers, and his being in a place called the Realm.

The first season ended with a cliffhanger. Some of these characters are still part of the story. The cliffhanger connects with the Realm now coming to him, instead of him being in the Realm.

I watched the two-hour premiere for Season 2 on January 18. It was good. Some people have called it a bit slow at times, but it wasn't, for the first hour.

A preview special, and a couple of previews for Season 2, featured what I said about the cliffhanger from last season. As promised, the new season features more people like Holden, who have been in the Realm. The first person we saw other than Holden was this girl named Charlie who, as a result of her experience in the Realm, can do something with numbers. It was a few

episodes into last season before we saw her. This time, with a new character, we didn't have to wait.

I remember seeing all of those Realm scenes that were created by special effects during the first season, and they were very cool looking. That's part of what I felt made the show itself very cool. In the new season, those effects seem to be part of characters' day to day life. So things should get to be very interesting, in terms of what happens next.

What I mean is that before, the combination of what was everyday life to these characters, with flashbacks of Holden's time in the Realm and him using his powers at times, made the show seem half drama and half sci-fi. Now it seems it's turning into a very full-fledged sci-fi show. It's definitely a new angle, and maybe it will help with bringing it back for a third season.

In whatever way the show presents itself, it is a good show, in my opinion. I really hope it gets a third season – people who watch it, and the people behind the Freeform channel, would be fools not to help it get renewed.

Things slowly began to build last season leading up to the cliffhanger, and I predict it will go that way again this season.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Hole Coned; Jeep Lewd; Dog Eats Rat Poison; Multiple Hit-And-Runs and 911 Misdials

Monday, 2/12

6:18 a.m. 911 caller reporting car into large rock planter in yard on Sunderland Road. MCFD and MedCare contacted. Medical attention refused. Vehicle towed. Written warning for speed issued to operator. Officer spoke with owner of planter and property.

7:07 a.m. Officer advising of a large pothole in the southbound lane of Main Street south of Old Sunderland Road. Hole is approximately one foot deep and two feet around. DPW advised. Officer left two MPD cones at pothole; DPW will return same when done.

7:40 a.m. Report of possibly rabid raccoon on Avenue C. Animal control officer advised. Gone on arrival.

7:55 a.m. Caller from Montague Avenue requesting to speak with ACO; her dog got out yesterday, and when it came home, it vomited up rat poison and dog food. Dog is OK now, but caller is concerned that someone put out poisoned food to kill local animals. ACO advising it is more likely that the dog got into the poison separately from the food and that the poison will make a dog ill but is not fatal.

7:18 p.m. Officer reports someone has dumped a bunch of trash bags at the yellow gate that goes to the river on Newton Street. Message left for DPW.

11:42 p.m. Caller from Wentworth Congregate Housing reports what sounds like two people shoving and pushing each other in the hallway. One party taken into protective custody.

Tuesday, 2/13

8:40 a.m. Multiple 911 calls reporting vehicle fire in parking lot of Connecticut River Internists. TFFD and PD units advised.

11:22 a.m. Caller from K Street reports forced entry into attic storage area. Caller did not notice anything missing; suspects someone has been squatting in the attic. Report taken.

5:50 p.m. Caller from Twelfth Street requesting assistance mediating a dispute between herself and a delivery driver who is parked on a sidewalk blocking the caller's driveway. Caller advises that this has happened before and that when the caller has asked the driver to move her vehicle, the driver refused. Officers spoke with involved parties. Driver advised not to park in that driveway when delivering to the adjacent house.

8:43 p.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant reporting that a male broke into her house; this has happened before. Requesting to speak with Sgt. Laster.

Wednesday, 2/14

6:17 a.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant and cited for a motor vehicle violation.

8:12 a.m. Emergency 911 button activation at Colle Opera House. Party advises she accidentally hit the button. Officer confirmed misdial.

3:59 p.m. 911 caller reporting hit-and-run accident that occurred at Hillcrest School around 3:15 p.m. Caller states that a dark colored SUV backed into her car and tore the bumper off while she was inside the school. Car will be brought to the police station so that the damage can be documented.

5:44 p.m. Caller states that a blue Jeep Cherokee is driving dangerously in front of her and that it pulled up next to her and called her a lewd name before turning onto Grand Avenue. Vehicle located, parked.

Thursday, 2/15

1:43 a.m. Female caller from L Street aggravated about noise coming from second floor apartment; ongoing issue. Landlord has been notified. Caller is upset that her children have been woken up multiple times tonight by the noise from above. Officers clear; quiet upon arrival.

[There was a gap between 6 a.m. on February 15 and 6 a.m. on February 16 in the logs provided the Reporter upon our request. This is a chronic problem.]

Friday, 2/16

12:26 p.m. Passerby reporting low-hanging wires across Randall Road. Officer confirms that wires are hanging low enough to possibly be a hazard to larger vehicles. Eversource

notified; Eversource on scene advising that these are phone wires, not electric. Verizon notified.

12:29 p.m. Store manager at F.L. Roberts reporting larceny of around \$200 worth of lottery tickets.

1:54 p.m. Caller reports that she posted something on the MPD Facebook page about a man from New Hampshire and now she is receiving threats. Advised caller to call the police in the town she lives in and advise them of her concerns.

3:15 p.m. Caller from Dell Street advises that a yellow Lab and a chocolate Lab are running loose in the area. Referred to an officer.

5:48 p.m. Caller from Farren Care Center reporting a past assault and battery on a patient; incident occurred yesterday. Report taken.

Saturday, 2/17

6:35 a.m. Caller from Masonic Avenue complaining of neighbor's rooster waking him up. Caller concerned about number of animals on the small property. Copy of call left for ACO.

8:56 a.m. Caller advising there is a person with a dog on the ice adjacent to the dog park on First Street. Party does not appear to be in any distress, but caller is concerned that the ice may not be thick enough to be safe. TFFD and MPD checked area; unfounded.

1:14 p.m. Caller requesting assistance speaking with a resident who threw snow into the road on Laurel Lane. Caller advises that other residents are complaining that their cars cannot make it up the road due to the snow piled in the road. Officer advised caller of options.

3:29 p.m. Caller reporting a very large pothole on Third Street hill as you go up to Unity Street. Message left for DPW. Officer advises pothole is in front of 144 Third Street, in the

middle of the travel lane.

5:47 p.m. Greenfield PD states that they took a 911 hang-up call from a cell phone located in Montague; they spoke with a female party who stated that the kids she is babysitting locked themselves into the bedroom, but while on the line, she was able to gain access. Officer checking up. Kids are fine; stories matched up with what was told to GPD.

7:20 p.m. Caller reporting that a van almost hit him at the intersection of Avenue A and Seventh Street; vehicle crossed General Pierce Bridge heading towards Deerfield. Shelburne Control advised.

7:48 p.m. Caller from Laurel Lane reporting that her neighbor is shoveling snow from a big pile in his side yard into the road. Caller advises she already called her landlord last night about the same problem and they had to have someone come out and plow it out again. Officer advised. Spoke to caller again; she advises that the man stopped shoveling the snow; will call if he does it again.

8:33 p.m. Caller from K Street reports that someone has kicked in her locked basement door; damage discovered about 45 minutes ago. Officer advises no one is in attic or basement; spoke with tenants as well. Investigated.

Sunday, 2/18

2:49 p.m. Hit and run accident reported at Seventh Street and Avenue A. Caller advises she witnessed the accident and that the vehicle that left the scene ran a red light and struck the vehicle that is still on scene. Suspect vehicle last seen heading towards Cumberland Farms. No injuries, smoke, or fluids. Greenfield PD advised to be on lookout. One vehicle towed.

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WALKS from page B1

third-party background check that Rover provides access to is required. Once a walker has begun working, reviews, feedback, and ratings from customers also appear on their profile. Dog owners fill out profiles as well, so the walkers are also able to learn something about their potential dog clients on the site.

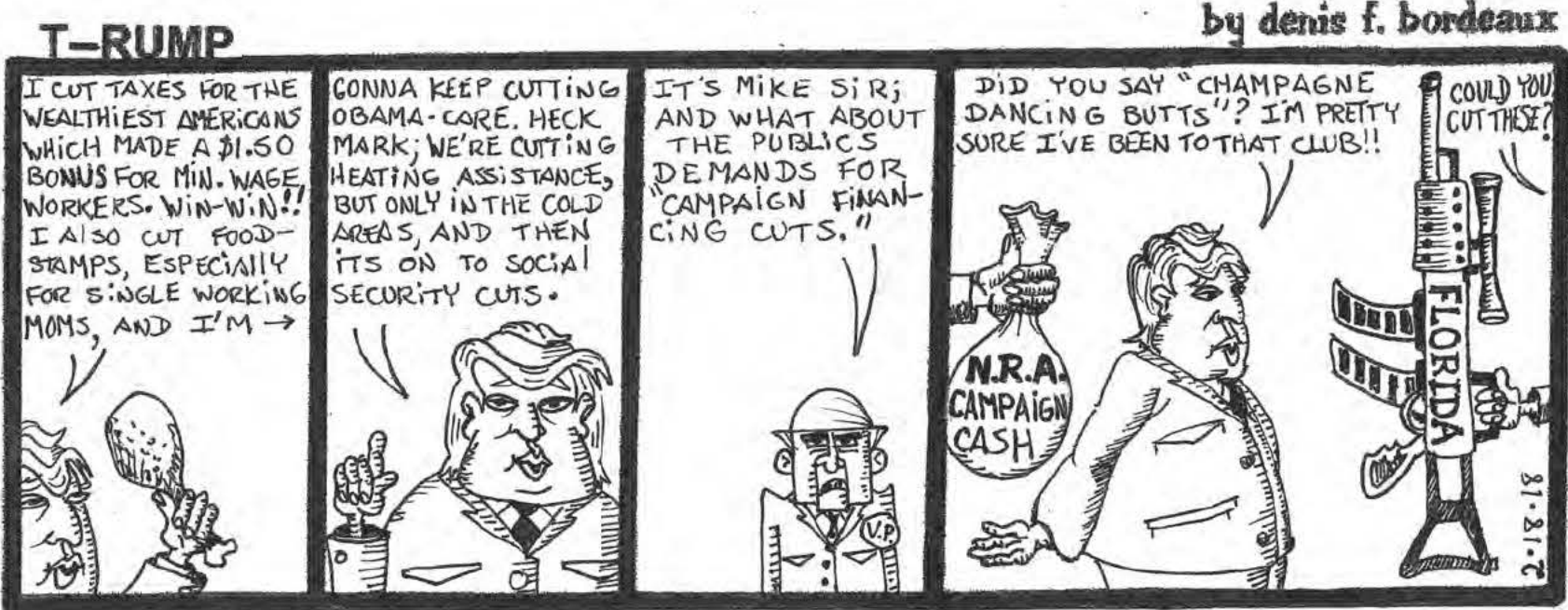
Dog owners begin the process of hiring a walker by reviewing profiles and contacting a walker they feel is going to meet their needs through the app. The walker then reviews the dog and owner's profile, and the two message each other with any questions they may have and to iron out details. If each of them feels it's a good match, the customer books a walk through the service.

One of the attractive features of services like this for walkers is the ability to choose when and how much walking they want to do. Another is the ability to reject dogs they do not feel are a good match for their skills. Many of the providers do it part-time to supplement their income, but seemingly with a healthy dash of just plain enjoying the company of dogs and walking them.

One such walker is Sarah H. of Greenfield, who signed up with Rover several months ago and reports it is working out well for her. Sarah is a life-long dog lover, with a pup of her own, and has been walking her own dog and those of friends for many years. She also has experience managing livestock, and a host of related qualifications that potential customers can review on her Rover profile.

Sarah has a full-time job, but had been doing so much dog walking for friends, and enjoying it, that she decided to give it a try as a side job which might fit well into her schedule – particularly in winter months, when things are slower at her regular job. One day she thought, "Why not? Just give it a try."

As a dog owner herself, she says she saw the value in the service for people who worked long or irregular hours and were unable to walk their dogs themselves. She also knows that things come up which may put people in a pinch, and the app can function as a safety valve, with herself and others able to provide a degree of flexibility for people. She likes that it



gets her name out there, provides insurance for clients' dogs and limited liability insurance for her, and opens a line of communication with potential clients. She also enjoys being able to connect with different dogs and owners, and establish continuing relationships.

Sarah currently has three regular clients for whom she provides two to three walks per week. One is a young pup, another an adult dog, and the third an older dog. She says she particularly likes getting to know the dogs, and seeing their attitude go from, "Who are you?" to "This is awesome."

This process of developing relationships and comfort levels with the dogs has been a high point for her. Overall, Sarah says, "It's been working out, and continuing to grow, which feels great."

A closing thought was provided by Chuck McCarthy, "The People Walker," who runs a similar service in California walking with people, rather than dogs. While there are differences, there are also similarities, and McCarthy was happy to comment on something he is passionate about. "Walking is just as much about freedom as it is about exercise," he says. "Watch a dog leaving the house for a walk. Needing freedom is an animal instinct, and dogs are all instinct."

"We need to remember that we can be free too. We're the guards and wardens of our own cages. We can get out and walk. We need to get out and walk."



Sarah H. uploads evidence of her care from her charges to her Rover profile.

HOUNDS from pg B1

overnight stating that there was a dog "floating between yards" on Meadow Street and acting lethargic.

Wednesday, 5/14/14
8:20 p.m. Complaint regarding dog allowed to defecate on the bike path daily.

Saturday, 5/17/14
2:21 p.m. Report of barking dog on Central Street. Dogs barking upon arrival. Owner stated that smaller dog is hyperactive; will work on issue.

Saturday, 8/16/14
9:45 a.m. Complaint of a barking dog on Carlisle Avenue. Officer spoke with dog's owner, who blamed the other dogs in the neighborhood for his dog's behavior. Owner advised. Owner, in turn, had a concern over the location of a boat. Boat owner spoken to; agreed to move boat.

Wednesday, 9/10/14
12:18 p.m. Report of a dog on the roof of a porch on High Street. Animal control officer advised. ACO and neighbor got dog back into house via open window.

Monday, 9/15/14
5:31 p.m. Caller reported what appeared to be a dead animal in the front yard of a house on Sunset Drive; not sure, but it looked like a dog. It was still there when he went by several hours later. Responding officer found that it was a toy.

Wednesday, 10/22/14
2:43 p.m. Caller reports that a dog is locked in a car on Fifth

Street and that items in the car appear to have fallen on the dog, who seems stuck. Responding officer reports that the dog does not seem to be in distress and is nestled in. Owner came out and moved the stuff, which was a garbage bag full of laundry.

Friday, 1/9/15
11:35 a.m. Report of suspicious parties in green truck at Millers Falls Rod & Gun. Parties were chasing down a lost dog. All is well.

Tuesday, 5/5/15
3:26 p.m. Caller reports being knocked down and injured by a loose dog on West Chestnut Hill Road. Dog seemed friendly, but caller is of small build and the dog was overpowering her. Referred to animal control officer, who will follow up with dog owner.

Monday, 5/11/15
11:51 a.m. Report of multiple dogs outside on a third floor porch on Third Street; ongoing issue. Animal control officer spoke with female, who brought the dogs inside.

Monday, 6/22/15
12:41 p.m. Officer observed a black lab mix run in front of his cruiser on First Street. Officer pulled over to check on dog, who ran across the road a few more times and was almost struck again before running to a subject in the parking lot who was on his cell phone loading



Friday, 7/10/15
4:10 p.m. Caller stated that there was a little Corgi type dog with wheels for his back legs walking down Greenfield Road. Caller attempted to catch the dog, but it ran away. Dog picked up by owner.

Tuesday, 8/4/15
1:08 p.m. Report of a dog barking for the past hour somewhere near the L Street end of the alley between Second and Third Streets. Per animal control officer, the dog in question is fine; his owners are playing with him, and the barking is playful and sporadic.

Monday, 8/10/15
6:27 p.m. Report of loose bulldog in roadway coming up from Unity Park toward Unity Street. Dog, who seems friendly, located and secured in kennel; has Greenfield tag. GPD advises that they may know the dog's address and that his name may be Winston.

Saturday, 8/15/15
5:52 p.m. Caller reports that she left her dog "Fluffernutter," a Shih Tzu, in the care of a neighbor when she had to go out of town. She reportedly had arranged for her daughter and her daughter's father to pick up the dog. Caller reports that the neighbor is now refusing to turn the dog

over to the daughter, claiming that the caller abandoned the dog. Officer spoke to both parties; neighbor was advised that she needs to return the dog.

Friday, 9/11/15
1:16 p.m. Report of a black dog and a white dog hanging out near Sheffield Elementary School.

Tuesday, 9/15/15
5:04 p.m. Caller from Sherman Drive found two dogs running in the area. One of them is wearing prosthetic wheels on its back legs.

Wednesday, 9/30/15
3:44 p.m. Caller from Crocker Avenue reports that an unknown dog is curled up/lying down on his neighbor's lawn.

Wednesday, 10/7/15
10:37 a.m. Report of a loose dog near the treatment plant on Greenfield Road. The dog is disabled and has a prosthetic with wheels on his back legs. The dog is struggling to get back up the hill.

Tuesday, 12/1/15
8:50 p.m. Caller from Second Street requests an officer, as there is a vehicle that has been sitting outside for 10 to 15 minutes. Caller did not recognize the vehicle, and caller's dog is very upset about a car being there.

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

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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. See article this section. Reception February 23 at 6 p.m. Through March 31.

Hope and Feathers Gallery, Amherst. *Spring in the City: Urban Landscapes* by painter Mishael Coggeshall-Burr of Montague. Through March. Opening reception Thursday, March 1.



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

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

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..* 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 contributed 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. Through February 26, when "Sweet" becomes the theme for March at the gallery.

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.

Brain Habits, Sinking, Tiny Hue-man, The Basement Cats. In the Perch. 9 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. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Ricky Ford Quartet*. Jazz in the Perch. 7 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Jen Tobey's Alter Ego/ Reverend Dan / Invade the Sun / Celseigh*. 8 p.m. \$

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Rodney Madison Art Reception*. 5 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Monte Belmonte 40th Birthday Bash*. Variety Show, Roast, benefit for the theater. 7:30 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Perceptionists (Mr. Lif and Akrobatik)*. 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Deep C Divers*. Opening act *The Wendell Warriors Drumming group & The 2 Elements* Original funky alternative pop rock and reggae. 8 p.m. Cover charge after 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Chris Lomma*. Singer/Songwriter pop and rock. 9:30 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Smith College, Northampton: *"#TimesUp on period stigma: Why Menstrual Equity Matters."* Jennifer Weiss-Wolf, author of *Periods Gone Public: Taking a Stand for Menstrual Equity*. How and why periods have become a prominent political cause, and what's next for this agenda. 4 p.m., Campus Center 102, 100 Elm Street.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Deja Brew, Wendell: *LA Wood*. acoustic folk/rock. 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Wiki, Eratt, Wiki Good*. 8:30 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*. American roots, folk, jazz. 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton's 1940s Hit Parade*. Hits from the swing era. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Medicinal Purpose* with *Tidwell's Treasure*. Psychedelic soul steeped in blues. 9 p.m. \$

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell Old Town Hall: *Viva Quetzal*. Preceded by an open mic. Door proceeds will benefit the Community Network for Children. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Dead Prez, Tang Sauce, RIQQY, Don Lox*. Hip-hop groups with politically charged lyrics that produce a style that sets them apart. 9 p.m. \$

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Green Houses Attract Photographer’s Eye

By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS –I sat down with photographer Peter Monroe to talk about his show, “Green Houses in the Connecticut River Valley of Massachusetts,” which opens this Friday, February 23 at the Greenfield Gallery.

Peter was born and raised in Queens, New York, came to the area in the 1970s, and settled in Turners Falls about 16 years ago. At the time, he used a small plane to get back and forth to NYC frequently, and liked that the airport was nearby and the cost of housing lower than some other towns in the Valley.

Peter is often seen walking around town, and likes riding the FRTA buses to get around Franklin County. His faded backpack and jeans and long grey hair draw suspicious looks from “the cops,” he says, but Peter likes the view of the world he gets as a pedestrian and mass transit user.

Since the world of photography went digital, and Kodak stopped making everything that he needed to develop film and print it in his home darkroom, Peter has been mining his past work for images to work with.

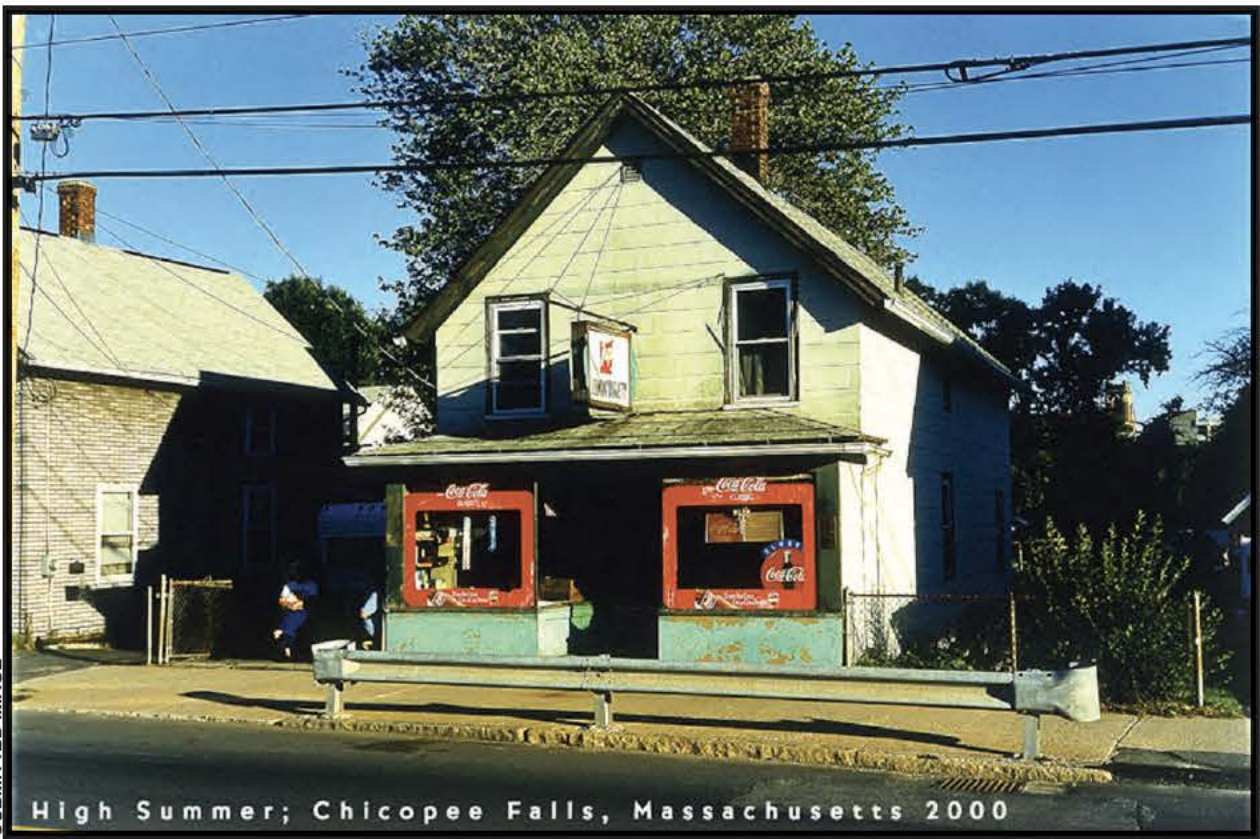
His first show in Franklin County was a collection of prints created from film he shot in the 1970s, with

hand-typed relevant text that sometimes ran to several pages per image. “Negatives from the 70s” premiered at Nina’s Nook in Turners Falls in September, 2012. For the show, he scanned the negatives to get prints. For the last four years, he has been working on turning the work for that show into a book.

For “Green Houses of the Connecticut River Valley,” Peter is exhibiting all analog work that he showed previously in New York City in 2005. He hasn’t taken a picture of a green house in 17 years, he noted, though people are always helpfully pointing him towards one once they know about his series. Peter photographed the structures using color negative film in a 4x5 camera, facing them squarely and with a variety of trees and wires, cars and people between the viewer and the house.

What was his criteria? Would any green do? “Well, it has to be pretty; that’s a word I don’t mind using. It needs to be appealing. I need to like the color; it’s not too dark, it’s not garish. And there’s something interesting about all of them,” explained Peter, who included 23 different houses in this series. Also, he says, “there should be technique, combined with feeling, or something like heart-felt interest.”

Peter is full of praise for the Green-



“High Summer; Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts.” Peter Monroe, 2000. Analog print.

field Gallery, and is glad to be having a show there. “I was framing my work at a place in Keene for many years. Maybe six or seven years, maybe 100 to 150 pieces I paid them to mat and frame for me,” he said.

The framers had work for sale in the shop, but never wanted to exhibit Peter’s pieces. “I took two prints to get matted at Greenfield Gallery, and they said, ‘Oh my God do you have any more work? We want to give you a show.’ The very first time I come in. They have a great eye there.”

The relevant text will be short-

er than his usual offerings, and be mostly about the architecture of the houses as well as some of his usual remarks. All the prints were developed right in Turners Falls in his home darkroom, which he dismantled several years ago.

Was it hard to take the darkroom down? “Everything at this age, 65, is like taking down one thing after another,” observed Peter. “I said 20 years ago I don’t like the way things look these days, and I am only interested in old stuff. I have the rest of my life to go through this stuff, all my negatives, and write about it.”

Peter Monroe also has an ongoing exhibit in the offices of Greenfield Auto Salvage on Deerfield Street – mostly pictures of cars, but also some people. Look for them near the carburetors.

And come out to Greenfield on Friday night, February 23 at 6 p.m. to meet the artist at the reception for “Green Houses of the Connecticut River Valley of Massachusetts.” The show runs through March 31 at The Greenfield Gallery 231 Main Street, Greenfield. Visit Monroe’s website for more information on the artist and his work: nothing-matters.com.

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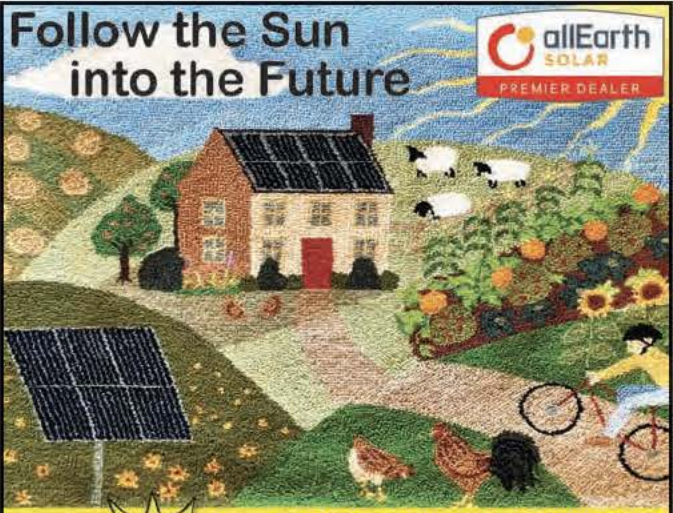
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