



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 16 – NO. 20 also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell \$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES MARCH 8, 2018

## Chief Dodge Resigns, Will Remain On Payroll

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – On Monday, March 5, after a brief executive session, Montague selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz announced that the board and police chief Charles “Chip” Dodge had reached a negotiated separation agreement. Dodge has “voluntarily agreed to resign,” but will remain on “paid administrative leave” – his status since October 2017 – through February 12, 2019. “But he will have no active or passive role in the management of the police department.”

The agreement ends a saga which began when state police descended on the Montague public safety complex in June 2016 in response to complaints that Dodge may have mishandled drugs from a prescription drug drop box located at the complex. No charges were filed, and the state closed its investigation, but the regional district attorney suspended the town from both the drop box program and an anti-crime taskforce.

In October 2017, the *Greenfield Recorder*

published an article, based on the state police investigation, which revealed that Dodge was in recovery from an opioid addiction.

At Monday’s meeting, town meeting member Ariel Elan asked what the total value of Dodge’s salary and benefits would be for the remainder of the period negotiated. Kuklewicz responded that Dodge’s annual base salary was approximately \$105,000, and did not disclose the cost of his benefits, nor his status within Montague’s retirement system. A clause in Dodge’s prior contract ensuring him six months’ severance pay has been superseded by the new agreement.

Kuklewicz also announced that “the board will now take affirmative steps to appoint a permanent police chief.” In response to a question from the audience, he said acting police chief Christopher Bonnett will remain as interim chief while the town “begin[s] the steps” of hiring a replacement for Dodge. “There are some discussions that we need to have as a board,” he added.

see CHIEF page A4

## School Committee Endorses Police Officer Funding Plan

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – School committee members voted 7 to 2 on Tuesday night to support an effort to hire a school police officer next year for the Gill-Montague district. The position, which was proposed last week, is estimated to cost about \$67,000 per year. The working proposal is for one-quarter of the officer’s time to be spent working for the town of Montague, and for that town to therefore contribute one-quarter of its cost.

“I think it’s important that our kids be around police officers that they feel comfortable with,” said Montague member Cassie Damkoehler, “having a resource officer around, and approachable.... That can also make a big impression on a child [who] may not otherwise have that experience.”

Superintendent Michael Sullivan said that in previous years, the administration had worked with former Montague police chief Chip Dodge to identify grants that could fund such a position. “The grant process was really extensive,” he explained. “They wanted you to have a vision and everything.”

He also added that last year, former Gill chief David Hastings had given his “blessing” to have the officer cover Gill Elementary.

Montague member Michael Langknecht recommended that the officer “be for a lot more than just security purposes,” because in the district’s past experiences, the position “is one of the most popular cuts.” He said he hoped the town would vote to fund it every year, perhaps using a town meeting article.

“If we’re going to be able to continue to

see GMRSD page A8

## TFHS Sports: Mount Everett Ends Girls’ Basketball Season

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – Last Thursday March 1, the Turners Falls Girls Basketball team lost against the Mount Everett Eagles 60-55. The home loss came in the second round of the MIAA playoffs, and marked the end of the high school careers of several young ladies and their families.

The game was decided at the line. At the end of the game, Turners needed to get the ball back; to get it back, they needed to foul. Unfortunately for Blue, Mount Everett kept hitting free throws. And as a result of these intentional fouls, two Turners Falls veterans fouled out of their last high school basketball game.

Before that, Turners was in control. In the opening minutes, Maddy Chmyzinski, Abby Loynd, and Aliyah Sanders all hit 3-pointers. Add a field goal and a free throw by Chloe Ellis, and Turners was up 12-6.

“They’re playing like it’s their last game,” someone observed as

see TFHS SPORTS page A5



Turners Falls’ Chloe Ellis makes a left-hand layup as Mount Everett’s Sarah Beckwith defends.

## Two Montague Candidates Join Race for State Representative

By MIKE JACKSON

Since state representative Steve Kulik’s surprise announcement last month that he would not be seeking reelection this year to the First Franklin seat he has held since 1993, five Democratic candidates have declared themselves publicly. Two live in Montague, the district’s most populous town: Francina Wisniewski and Elizabeth Swihart. We spoke with both this week.

Francina Wisniewski, who has extensive experience in local social services, holds a masters degree in education and works in early childhood literacy. She was a school committee member in Greenfield before she moved to Montague last year with her family.

Wisniewski now serves as a Precinct 2 town meeting member, and is the chair of the recently established Hampshire-Franklin Commission on the Status of Women and Girls. “I like



Francina Wisniewski (left) and Elizabeth Swihart (right) threw their hats in the First Franklin ring this week.

seeing my community improve and grow, and I’ve always been thinking of this as a goal,” she says. “As a state legislator, you have the ability to create an impact on the community.”

Elizabeth Swihart grew up in Leverett, studied criminal justice, and became a lawyer; she is an assistant district attorney at the Northwest District Attorney’s office in Orange. She is passionate about environmental and climate issues, and says

she wants to focus on public transportation and education. She moved to Turners Falls four years ago.

“My grandmother ran for the legislature in the ‘60s, so I’ve always had the idea in the back of my mind to follow in her footsteps,” Swihart says. “A state rep’s job is to bring those small, local issues to the ears of everyone involved.”

Here are some excerpts from our conversations.

see STATE REP page A5

GILL SELECTBOARD

## Northfield Mount Hermon Donates \$300,000 For Gill Fire Vehicles

By GEORGE BRACE

At their March 5 meeting, the Gill selectboard accepted a gift of \$300,000 from the Northfield Mount Hermon School (NMH) for the replacement of two of the town’s aging fire department vehicles: Engine #3, and the department’s rescue van.

The school does not pay taxes on the main part of its Gill campus, and has historically made an annual gift to the town to defray the cost

of emergency services, recently \$25,000 per year. The donation announced this week is the result of years of work by an *ad hoc* committee formed to address the town’s aging fleet of fire vehicles, involving the fire department, selectboard, board of engineers, administrative assistant Ray Purington, and officials from NMH.

According to Purington, the group developed an overall strategy for dealing with the fleet of trucks, and had de-

cided that the two vehicles in question should be replaced by used vehicles, which must meet a certain set of criteria. Purington said NMH’s gift “should come pretty close to covering the full cost” of the two vehicles.

Selectboard member Greg Snedeker, who had served as a lead member of the committee, was unable to attend Monday’s meeting, but provided a statement of gratitude and congratulations which

see GILL page A6

## One of Our Own: School Librarian Recognized for Lifetime Achievement

By JERI MORAN

MONTAGUE – Montague Center resident Leslie Lomasson has just been awarded the 2018 Peggy Hallisey Lifetime Achievement Award from the Massachusetts School Library Association for her work at the Amherst Regional High School (ARHS) as the school’s librarian.

What Lomasson really wants to emphasize, however, is what a collaborative effort was necessary to accomplish this benchmark.

She says that the commitment of her school administration, her “wonderful” library staff members Anne Figliola and Ken Ramos, the supportive faculty who help their students use the library’s programs, an IT department that makes sure everything electronic is working, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, and the Massachusetts Library System, which provides thousands of dollars in databases and resources free to most libraries in the area, are all critical to the library’s success and her resulting award.



Leslie Lomasson has worked at the Amherst regional public high school library since 2006.

Research Support

Lomasson adds that the collaboration even spans back before she became the librarian, as the former ARHS librarian – Janis Wolkenbreit, whose son Matthew also lived in Montague – set the library up as a learning center. This includes teaching classrooms within the library where faculty can bring their entire class, and each student can have access to a

see LOMASSON page A7



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## Safety First

Within six months of each other, the towns of Gill and Montague have both unexpectedly lost their police chiefs mid-contract.

David Hastings abruptly retired after a court ruled that, as a condition of a restraining order requested by a family member, he should not be allowed to carry a gun. Chip Dodge negotiated a voluntary resignation, having apparently lost the confidence of his department's rank and file after publicly admitting he battled addiction.

Key details of both cases have been withheld from the public record for the sake of each man's privacy. Town elected officials were discreet, dealing with both matters behind closed doors, hopefully focused on preserving the double bottom line of public safety and the public treasury.

We don't wish to belabor this point – all over the world, most hires disappoint their bosses sooner or later – but we think the troubles faced by the towns' top cops are pertinent to the shared school district's recent decision to hire a police officer to help deal with children.

School police are widely known by the euphemistic term "school resource officers."

"In interviews," an article in Sunday's *New York Times* reads, "school officers around the country spoke of performing multiple adult roles, having to alternate between nurturing and authoritative, with a guiding philosophy known in the field as 'the triad' – counselor, teacher, law enforcement officer."

One part of that triad, of course, is more essential to the job than the others. The basic certification for the job offered by the National Association of School Resource Officers, and our state's own Basic School Resource Officer Certification, both require *forty hours* of education.

Do we hire teachers or counselors for our schools after *forty hours* of training? Of course not. Police are able to be wise and helpful and friendly, and provide positive role modeling to youth, but so are many adults, of many vocations.

School resource officers are

police who have adapted to make themselves useful in a school environment between incidents requiring them to exercise their police power; the ultimate underlying purpose of their presence is security.

So what makes people convinced that American schools need regular police presence now, where before they didn't? Is it that American children are more threatened now, or more threatening?

And are more and more towns, cities and school districts funding these police positions *despite* a generalized crisis of funding for education leading to layoffs of teachers, counselors, and paraprofessionals, or *because* of it?

Those are questions the public should be engaging, but the actual security needs and concerns of Gill-Montague district schools, however valid they may be, have been sequestered from public debate in the most basic sense. Before their 7-2 vote to endorse hiring an officer on Tuesday, school committee members discussed "the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto" *in executive session*.

The core principle underlying open meeting law is that members of the public at large should be able to at least follow and understand why public officials make decisions to spend public money. But security is the eternal exception to democracy.

We wonder whether any of our neighbors who considered tyrannical the committee's decision to offer the superintendent a \$7,900 raise in closed-door bargaining will respond proportionately to its decision to find \$50,250 under the district's couch cushions to hire a cop.

Or to the Montague selectboard's extension of nearly a year's worth of severance pay to Dodge, which will cost the public well over twice that sum – for reasons we may never learn, since all parties at the table signed a gag order.

Police have a weird job, but they're humans like the rest of us.

The only unique thing an officer will bring into a school is a loaded gun, and the lessons it teaches.

## CORRECTION!

In last week's edition, Jeff Singleton's book review (*Our Beloved Kin: A Much-Needed Social History of King Philip's War*, page B1) referred to the 1704 Greenfield killing of the elder Eunice Williams "at the Deerfield River."

Jeff meant the Green River – near the Eunice Williams Covered Bridge, and a state historical marker.

Kudos to Rob Skelton for noticing and calling it in! We are always eager to set the record straight when we get it wrong.

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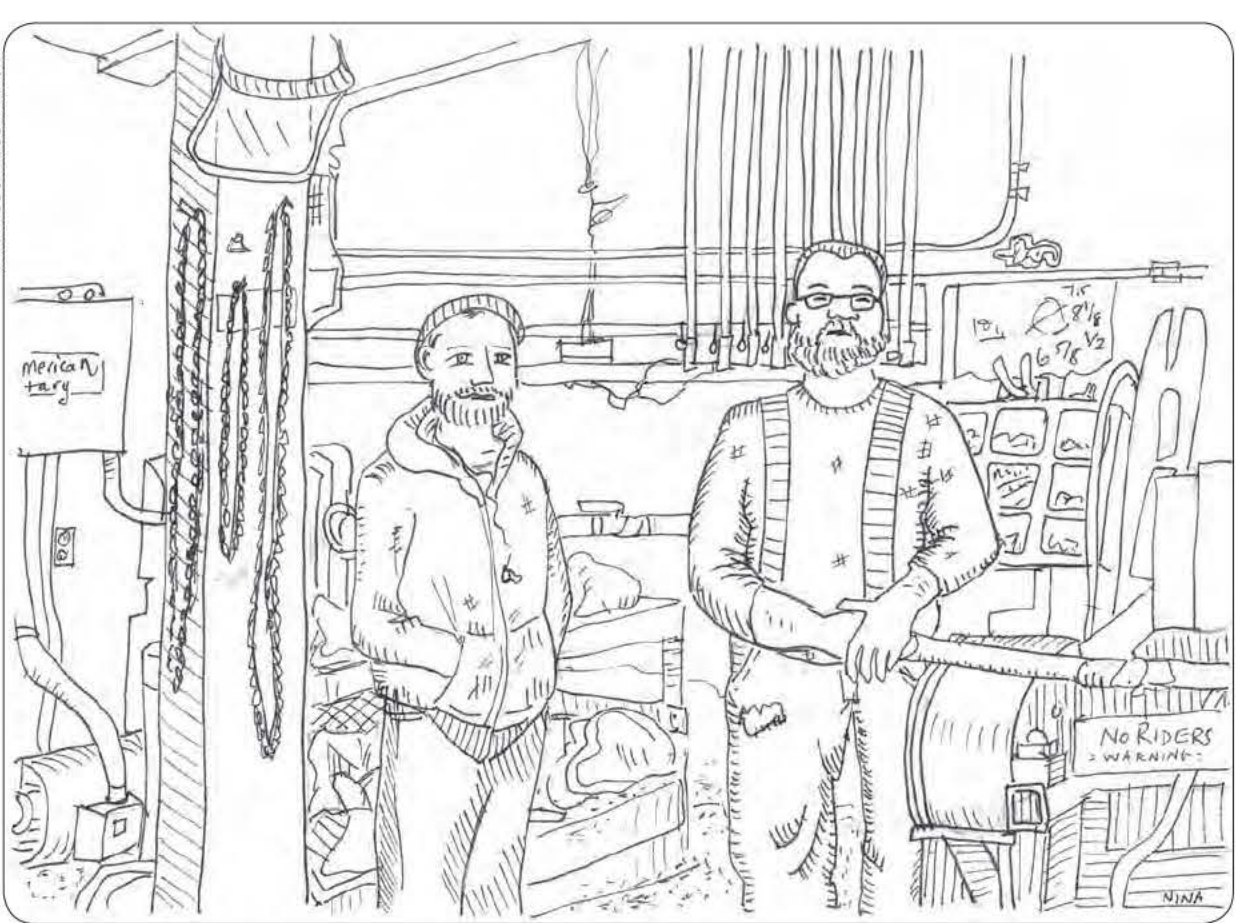
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Wesley Otto and Jay Rider make the wood go 'round at the Peterman's Boards and Bowls workshop in Gill. Peterman's uses already-fallen, or already-felled, trees to make their products. They have a showroom on Route 2 as well as at the Boston Public Market.

Letters to

the Editors

## Notable Content

Every now and again an issue of the *MR* will have some remarkably in-depth article which serves to set the paper in a unique category of excellence.

In the March 1 issue I very much appreciated Jeff Singleton's carefully researched and written review of *Our Beloved Kin*. I had bought the book a couple of weeks ago based on the review in the *Amherst Bulletin*, but I had thought to wonder how the book was perceived by readers who were more familiar with the period than I am. Jeff's review is marvelous in its even-handed (and

most courteous) discussion, and the background he presents of other recent writings on the era.

Then, on top of that, is Lyn Clark's amazing article about Atherton, overlapping the same period of Massachusetts history, and sketching out the colonial government-sanctioned violence against "indians" and also "witches" and Quakers.

Thanks to both writers.

George Drake  
Leverett

## Time to Make a Plan

Who, or what, drives the masterminds of Montague? Hopefully not some clown in a clown car which always seems to be in the breakdown lane, barrel rolling over and over again to no good end.

I remember shopping at the Railroad Salvage and thinking, *how cool, hip, and local can you get*. Watching bale after bale of waste paper going into the Strathmore, *man, talk about a paper trail*. Walking by the Crock-er Building and wondering what the hell was going on in there, just before the worst of tragedies struck.

So how many tax dollars have been spent so far on these sites alone, and what will it cost in future lost revenue? Is attrition the principal architect of the future of Montague?

Finger pointing is beyond boring, unfair, and counter-productive; it is the underlying currents of fear that are resistant to anything resembling significant change that are the real problem.

This "life in a biodome" mentality does not jive with reality. The masterminds have to wrap their collective mind around the fact that becoming more self-sustaining

is the only real path to jobs that pay a living wage.

In a *Guardian* article dated February 24, "Trump at CPAC: the invasion of the body snatchers is complete." It was stated that "Shiva Ayyadurai, challenging Elizabeth Warren for her Massachusetts Senate seat, was distributing a flyer that mocked Warren's claims to American Indian heritage with a doctored photo of her wearing a feather headdress and the slogan: 'Only a real Indian can defeat the fake Indian.'"

This clown could get some of the same 1,000 voters in Montague who voted for expletive Trump in 2016's presidential election. Are the over 2,000 voters who voted for anyone but that expletive, expletive – and I could go on – being represented?

When you fill out a voter registration card, there is no requirement to list where you attended high school. What is needed are open forums to discuss immediate and long-range goals and policies to meet these goals.

The masterminds seemed to have circled their wagons around them with their supporters, which puts the

masterminds on the slippery slope of groupthink. Always a disaster for any community, particularly one as vulnerable as ours.

The town of Montague is being administrated to perfection, by a great group of professionals who will bend over backwards to help you out. As a matter of fact, they are the "Top of the Pops" as far as I'm concerned.

The issue I am addressing is the lack of acknowledgement from the masterminds themselves about the more pressing issues, like the median income being at poverty levels. An economic downturn of any significance would be devastating to our already frail local economy.

Yeah, I'm ringing the bell on the town common – call me a "*con-nard*," you won't be the first. The sky is falling. We will pay for expletive, expletive, #45's sins sooner than you think.

It's time to make a plan, Stan; without it we will miss the bus, Gus. And trust me, that will just suck.

Charlie Kelley  
Great Falls

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

**Daylight savings time** begins this weekend! Don't forget to "spring" your clocks forward one hour Saturday night...

This weekend at the Shea, the Franklin County Technical School Players present **A Night of Theater with the FCTS Players!** Enjoy a night of laughs as students present two plays, both designed to tickle your funny bone and make you cry with laughter.

The first is "Good Cop Bad Cop" by Ian McWethy and Jason Pizzarello. A catastrophic street sign switcheroo has two rookie detectives grilling a motley crew of suspects and witnesses. Everyone from the high school mascot to a guy who may be Super Mario is pumped for information... and while these suspicious characters are combative, ridiculous, and downright incompetent, none of them seems guilty. With the clock ticking and their jobs on the line, can this good cop and bad cop collar a suspect before it's too late?

The second is "21 Guaranteed Ways to Get Detention (Even When Your Principal Doesn't Want to Give You One)," by Ian McWethy. The quota is clear: the principal of McKinley Grove High School and his new assistant can't give out more than twenty detentions per year. But this student body breaks the rules in such ridiculous ways, they might hit the maximum in just one day. Meet the world's most obvious cheater, a ruthless Girl Scout cookie mogul, the captain of the Cat Football League, and many more in this cavalcade of hilariously bad behavior.

Held at the Shea Theater on Friday and Saturday, March 10 and 11, starting at 6:30 p.m. both evenings. Tickets are \$7 for general admission, and \$5 for students and seniors.

**Quilting is alive and well in Montague!** Two members of the local group, Tina Tyler and Sue Sansoucie, will host an informal, educational hour at Greenfield Savings Bank Saturday morning, where folks can drop in free of any pressure.

Tyler and Sansoucie will have a

"trunk show" along with information on quilt and fabric shops in the area. The presenters are hoping to have a machine along with a few helpful gadgets and techniques for all levels of sewers. Of course, socializing and the sharing of styles always weave nicely into such a gathering.

No reservations required; the bank will provide light refreshments. Held in the community room at the Turners Falls Branch of GSB from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. this Saturday, March 10.

**The Leverett Elementary School** will hold an all-school music and art celebration on Tuesday, March 13 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Greenfield Public Library, along with youth career specialists from the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board, will present a monthly series focusing on **providing job skills to younger teens and tweens.**

Each month will focus on a different skill including resume writing, job applications, dressing for success, workplace behavior and more through games and fun activities. The final workshop will include mock interviews with area professionals and a volunteer & job fair for summer opportunities in the area.

Workshops will be held downstairs at the Greenfield Public Library on three Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.: March 14, April 11, and May 9.

The program is free and intended for youth 7th grade and up.

Pre-registration is recommended; call (413) 772-1544 x 5123, or drop by the library's adult circulation desk to sign up.

The Friends of the New Salem Public Library will host the third **"Reading Aloud for Grownups"** program of the year at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 14, at the New Salem Public Library.

The Friends welcome newcomer Martha Von Mering, a former New Salem resident and popular performer in 1794 Meetinghouse plays, now head of special education for the Springfield schools.

Sally Howe, from Orange, who has been a past reader, came to the rescue after the scheduled reader bowed out. Howe, a retired teacher from Athol High School, has acted in plays at UMass, Barre Players, and other venues as well as locally at the 1794 Meetinghouse, and will be sure to entertain the audience with her selection.

Wine, cheese, coffee, tea and special desserts will be offered during the program. There is no charge, but the Friends are always grateful for any donations. In the event of snow, the program will be held on March 21. For questions or additional information, call (978) 544-8916.

Send your local briefs to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

#### NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

## Intense Debate Over Leverett Elementary Budget

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Leverett selectboard met for over approximately four hours on Tuesday, March 6, a good deal of which time was spent on the town's revenue projections and their impact on the elementary school budget. After several meetings spent reviewing the budget requests of individual departments, this was a hearing to discuss the overall budget, and the revenue projects that would finance it.

Selectboard and finance committee members sat at the front table, while the town hall audience was packed with supporters of a proposed school budget request which had been reduced by those sitting at the table. Each side periodically said they felt "attacked" by the other.

The meeting began with a presentation by finance committee chair Tom Powers concerning the "Proposition 2½ Tax Cap." Powers explained that state law places a "hard cap" on local property tax rates at \$25 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. Any property tax rate above this triggers a budget reduction of up to 15% per year.

(This tax rate cap should not be confused with the law's provisions that total tax collections must be below 2.5%, and can only increase by 2.5% annually. These limits can be overruled by voter "override" votes. According to Powers, towns may not override the cap on the tax rate except to finance specific capital projects – what is known as a "debt exclusion.")

Powers presented estimates of budget trends that would cause Leverett to reach the \$25 cap. If the budget were increased by 2% annually, the town could reach its cap in 7 years. A budget increase

of 1% would produce the \$25 rate in 12 years.

The discussion of the cap was a prelude to Powers' rationale for holding "discretionary" spending increases by town departments to 2%. He showed data on the impact of police, fire, and school department requests above this amount. The finance committee and selectboard have provisionally rejected most of these requests, including requests of \$24,626 to allow for the hiring of a third full-time police officer, and \$45,011 to make up for lost school choice and grant revenues at the elementary school.

The proposed cut in the school department request appeared to be the reason for the large crowd at the meeting, which lasted two hours beyond its proposed closing. Numerous community members argued that school budget cuts would lead to programmatic cuts. Speakers stressed that they had moved to Leverett due, in part, to the quality of the schools. They argued that budget cuts could produce further enrollment declines, including declines in school choice revenues, and perhaps even a decline in local property values.

Several school committee members suggested that the \$45,000 cut from the elementary school should be placed on a separate article on the annual town meeting warrant, so voters could decide for themselves whether they wanted to cut the school's budget by that much.

Selectboard and fin com members frequently expressed support for the elementary school, often bristling at what they believed was the suggestion that they did not support education. They argued the advocates for higher spending did not show an understanding of

townwide budget realities.

"There is no sense of prioritization of what else should be cut in order to fill in the \$45,000," said Powers. Another town official complained that the school "is not subject to the normal budgetary process."

In response to a suggestion that the \$36,300 reduction in the regional high school assessment be used to fund the elementary schools, Powers asked whether a future increase in the regional assessment should therefore trigger cuts at the elementary level.

There was a good deal of discussion of increasing revenue by increasing Leverett's overall tax base. School advocates pointed to zoning restrictions and increases in land under conservation restriction as one cause of the problem. Selectboard members agreed, but said those policies were under the control of the planning board and conservation commission. They also stressed the limited opportunities for commercial and industrial development unless zoning laws were changed.

In the end, school committee members said they would meet and attempt to come with some alternative options for either cutting their budget or funding a proposed increase beyond 2%.

#### Capital Projects

The room cleared out significantly prior to a presentation by members of the town's capital planning committee. Wes Goscenski presented a chart of planned capital improvements, and their funding, projected over the next twenty years.

The items planned for next year (2019) are a trash compactor, projected to cost \$15,000, and a "fire chief vehicle" projected at \$38,184.

Since money has already been set aside in the town's stabilization fund, the amounts to be appropriated at this spring's town meeting for these items are estimated to be \$1,850 for the compactor and \$18,184 for the fire chief car.

There were a total of 19 capital items on the committee's list, each with a replacement year, total projected cost, and amount to be appropriated at the May meeting. The total to be appropriated for 2018 was \$183,642.

There was a good deal of discussion of putting money from the town's free cash reserve into stabilization, and of using other financing mechanisms, such as debt and long-term leases.

#### Other Business

Margot Lacey, the elementary school principal, discussed the ongoing problems of the school's sprinkler system with the board. She stressed that one of the main problems with the system is that it is vulnerable to freezing because it travels through uninsulated portions of the building's attic. She said that current diagrams of the system did not appear to match the system itself, thwarting the work of consultants evaluating the issue.

Police chief Scott Minckler discussed the consequences of the rejection of his proposal to hire a third full-time police officer. He suggested that a number of shifts would remain uncovered if the town continued to rely on part-timers. But he did not sharply contest the rationale for imposing a 2% cap on his department's budget growth.

The meeting adjourned at just after 11 p.m. The next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, March 20 at 7 p.m.

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**Grade 8**  
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## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

# Board OKs Budget, Accepts Conservation Land

By KATIE NOLAN

Erving voters will consider a \$10.3 million operating budget for the 2019 fiscal year at the annual town meeting in May. This is a slight increase over the FY '18 budget of \$9.9 million.

The proposed FY '19 budget was reviewed and approved at a joint selectboard and finance committee meeting on Monday. It contains a 2% cost of living adjustment for town employees, including elected and appointed officials who receive a stipend.

The major expenditures in the operating budget include \$4.98 million for education (Erving Elementary School, Franklin County Technical School, and tuition for secondary education); \$1.9 million for employee benefits; \$822,000 for general government; and \$779,000 for public safety (police, fire and emergency management).

The selectboard is proposing to establish a capital improvement stabilization fund starting in FY '19, to pay for large capital expenses.

The annual town meeting warrant, which includes the FY '19 budget, will be finalized at the selectboard's March 12 meeting.

## Conservation Land

The board accepted the gift of 55 acres of conservation land on Old Stage Road from the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. "We've got people who want to build trails

up there already," conservation commission chair David Brule told the board on Monday night. The land is located next to the Poplar Mountain Conservation Area.

In 2015, the land trust, which had received the land as a donation from the Mackin estate, offered to pay closing costs for obtaining the land from the Mackin family, clear up title problems, and pass it on to the town.

That year, Mount Grace's Matthias Nevins told the board that the landlocked lot had originally been part of the Guinesz farm property, which the town had accepted with a conservation restriction in 2006.

## Special Town Meeting

The board reviewed and approved the warrant for the March 26 special town meeting. The sixteen articles of the warrant include:

- Using \$203,390 from free cash to pay final bills for the completion of Riverfront Park.
- Using \$14,493 from free cash to correct budget lines missing from the FY '18 operational budget.
- Using \$4,200 from free cash to increase substitute librarian funding up to 14 hours per week.
- Using \$1,800 from free cash to buy two laptops for public use at the Erving Public Library.
- Using \$15,000 from free cash to pay for signs and safety improvements on roadways in Erving Center.
- Using \$110,000 from free cash

to replace the highway department's 2010 Ford F550 dump truck.

- Using \$5,871 from free cash to pay bills from FY '17.
- Amending the winter snow, ice, sleet, and parking bylaw to make the fines specific.
- Allowing the selectboard to erect traffic safety signs on municipal roadways.
- Amending the bylaws to affirm that the planning board will consist of five members.
- Allowing the selectboard to appoint an associate member to the planning board when needed.
- Amending the zoning bylaw to allow home-based businesses to sell retail, regardless of where the product is produced.
- Amending the zoning bylaws to allow retail sale of marijuana in the Central Village and French King Commercial districts with a special permit issued by the planning board. Additionally, this bylaw would allow for the cultivation, testing, and processing of marijuana products in the Central Village, French King Commercial, and Rural Residential districts through the special permit process.
- Amending the zoning bylaws to establish a 90-day deadline for a decision by the planning board after the closing of a public hearing.
- Allowing the Phase Growth Bylaw that expired December 31, 2015 to remain in effect until December 31, 2023.
- Allowing the selectboard to

obtain temporary and permanent easements in order to complete the Route 63 Streetscape & Pedestrian Improvement Project.

## Opportunity Zone

The town will apply for a federal "opportunity zone" designation. Under the new federal tax law, investors get a federal tax break for investing in real estate or businesses in qualified low-income communities.

According to administrative coordinator Bryan Smith, the towns of Wendell, Warwick, and Erving are part of a shared census tract that is qualified to be an opportunity zone.

Smith said he had approached town administrators in Wendell and Warwick and had not found much enthusiasm for the idea. However, the Erving board felt that Smith should apply for the designation, as it might help in finding a developer for the town's former mill properties.

## Other Business

The board reviewed a draft information technology (IT) support survey, to be filled out by department heads, board, committee or commission chairs and other town staff. The board will use the results of the survey to determine the type and amount of IT support needed by town department and officials.

Former highway supervisor Paul Prest was the only bidder for the 1997 John Deere loader auctioned by the town. His bid was the minimum acceptable amount of \$17,000.

## CHIEF from page A1

When asked whether those discussions will include whether the position should remain under the state's civil service system, Kuklewicz responded, "Potentially." He indicated that any change in the chief's civil service status would need to be approved by town meeting, and he agreed that if the goal was to hire a new chief in the near future, that decision would probably need to go before annual town meeting in May.

In 2002, Montague town meeting rejected a proposal to take the police chief position out of the civil service system.

In response to public records requests, town clerk Deb Bourbeau has released the text of the separation agreement, as well as a report by the firm APD Management, who the town hired to conduct an independent investigation of Dodge in November and December.

The settlement agreement states that Dodge will, upon his retirement, be "entitled to all the benefits and considerations the Town affords its retired police officers." There was no indication in the agreement whether the extension of Dodge's paid leave into 2019 would enhance his retirement status or benefits. Town officials contacted by this newspaper would not comment or speculate on this issue.

The agreement prohibits both the town and Dodge from making future "claims, demands, and/or liabilities whatsoever of every name and nature" against one another.

## APD's Laundry List

The investigation by APD, conducted by the firm's founder Alfred P. Donovan, was initiated by the selectboard in November after it placed Dodge on administrative leave. The board's actions followed the disclosures in the *Greenfield Recorder* and a no-confidence statement endorsed by members of the Montague police and dispatch unions. The unions were responding in part to statements by Dodge that appeared to suggest other members of his department may have been stealing from the drop box.

The APD report shows the investigation ordered by the selectboard had a narrow



REPORTER FILE PHOTO

*Dodge's resignation marks the end of a saga that began in June 2016. Acting chief Chris Bonnett will continue to serve as interim chief while the town determines its next steps.*

focus. APD was charged with determining whether Dodge violated a specific "Town, Departmental or agency rule, procedure or protocol" in his handling of the drop box program, and whether Dodge's actions had "negatively impacted his ability to run the police department." The firm was not tasked with determining whether Dodge stole medication deposited in the box.

The report found that Dodge had violated eighteen Montague Police Department Rules or Police Ethic Codes. At least six of these involved failure to disclose his opioid addiction and recovery when he was a police officer, during the hiring process, and when he was police chief. Although mention of Dodge's opioid use has been redacted from the report, the heading which summarizes the department policies he violated refers to "Intoxicating Beverages or Drugs, Use of."

Three of the charges fall under the category of "Conduct Unbecoming an Offi-

cer." Here the report cites Dodge's decision to assign the collection duties to himself, his failure to follow established procedures for handling controlled substances, and his handling of material in the box "without any legitimate law enforcement purpose." Additional charges appear under a header "Incompetence," including a complaint that Dodge failed to implement any clear drug box policy prior to the state police investigation, and failed "to take proper precautions" after master keys to the public safety complex went missing.

Beyond this list of violations, Donovan's report includes a transcript of his interviews with Dodge, as well as broadly critical commentary. He described Dodge's storage of surplus prescriptions in his office as "improper, unsecure, suspect, dangerous, unprofessional and incompetent," and the former chief's testimony as "deflective, vague and self-serving, offering not even a hint of con-

cession or remorse."

Donovan wrote that when he asked Dodge why he left cardboard boxes containing medications in his office, Dodge stated that "he had no way of knowing there were controlled substances in the boxes"; on the other hand, state police investigators had reported Dodge had explained to them that he had "rummaged through the medications and dropped 'addictive drugs' to the bottom of the box so his co-workers would not be tempted to take them."

"The only way to reconcile these two inconsistent statements is to conclude that one of them was a lie," Donovan wrote. He also recommended that the department review whether Dodge, given his actions, is a "suitable person to retain" his license to carry a firearm (LTC).

## Leaving on Good Terms

The Montague selectboard has not publicly commented either on Dodge's handling of the prescription drop box, nor on the reason for his suspension. The town has not officially accused him of wrongdoing, and his resignation comes after a series of closed-door executive session discussions.

The separation agreement between Dodge and the town specifies that it is not "an admission or assignment of fault, liability, wrongdoing, unlawful conduct or violation of any contractual or other provisions."

The town agrees to provide potential employers of Dodge with a "neutral reference consisting of dates of employment and positions held," and the selectboard, town administrator Steve Ellis, and the selectboard's office staff are prohibited from "any oral or written communication... which has the effect of damaging [Dodge's] reputation, or otherwise working in any way to [his] detriment."

When asked why the board had decided to extend Dodge's paid administrative leave by another eleven months, Kuklewicz said that "we did what we thought was best for the town and the Department. It was a negotiation. We started at different positions, and came to an agreement in between."



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**TFHS SPORTS** from page A1  
the girls hustled on the floor.

But that lead wasn't to last. Before the game, a source told me that Mt. Everett junior, Gwendolyn Carpenter, had scored more than 1,500 points. It was actually 1,553, and — spoiler alert — she would finish the night with 1,588. In the last minute and 23 seconds of the first quarter, Ms. Carpenter and company scored three 2-pointers to knot the game at 12.

But Turners Falls has a pretty good team themselves, and they play together as a team. To open the second, Ellis and Dabney Rollins both hit shots to make the score 16-12. Ellis sank a couple of foul shots to put the Tribe at 18, and Sanders hit a field goal to make the score 20-12 Turners.

Powertown did open the lead to 9 points halfway through the quarter, but the Eagles clawed their way back into it, and at halftime, Turners was only up by 5 points, 28-23.

The game was nip and tuck for most of the third quarter, and Turners held a 40-33 lead with 3:27 left in the period.

And again, the Eagles pecked

their way back into it. Turners was held to 3 points for the rest of the third while Everett scored 7, and after three periods, it was anybody's game at 43-40 Blue.

Then came the final quarter of the year. Everett came right out and hit a 3 to tie it up. Then a traveling turnover gave them possession again. Turners coach Ted Wilcox called a timeout to settle his team. They did score the next basket, but then the Birds went on a tear. A 3-pointer, two foul shots, and another 3 put Everett up 51-45, and with three minutes left in the game, the Blue Ladies suddenly found themselves down by 6 points.

Turners made one last valiant effort, pulling within two points, 53-55, with 42 seconds on the clock. It was still anybody's game.

That's when the intentional fouls came, that's when Loynd and Chmyzinski fouled out, and that's when Everett couldn't miss.

Turners had a final last chance. It was a 3-point game with 5.9 seconds left in regulation, and they were again forced to foul. Carpenter went to the line and hit both shots, giving Everett the win, and ending

the basketball careers of several Turners Falls seniors.

Chloe Ellis led Blue with 16 points. She forced her way inside, and in the process drew fouls. At the line she was money, scoring 8 of her points from the foul line.

Aliyah Sanders was hot on the outside, hitting three 3-pointers and finishing with 12 points. Chmyzinski was also accurate from the outside. She made two 3-pointers, and also hit double digits with 10.

Loynd scored 9 points off four field goals and a free throw. Rollins and Taylor Murphy hit buckets for 4 points each, with Emma Miner, Hailey Bogosz, Karissa Fleming, and Sarah Waldron also getting court time.

I'm going to miss the camaraderie with the parents and grandparents I've sat with for years: the Ellises, the Lloyds, Dan Miner, Razor Rho Sanders, and the two Mr. Chmyzinskis, to name just a few. We've witnessed some remarkable games throughout the years, and they've given me priceless insight into the dynamics of the team.

Next week: Winter stats!



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**STATE REP** from page A1

**Francia Wisniewski:**

**MR:** *What made you decide to run this year?*

**FW:** Kulik retiring! I feel like always I've been working with the community, and I enjoy supporting people to achieve their life goals.

**MR:** *How do your experiences affect the role you would have in the legislature?*

**FW:** So, there are three parts of my background. One is in education, I was a teacher; I taught in rural communities. My very first job here was in Montague Catholic Social Ministries as an after-school program support staff, and then I went to UMass to get my masters in education.

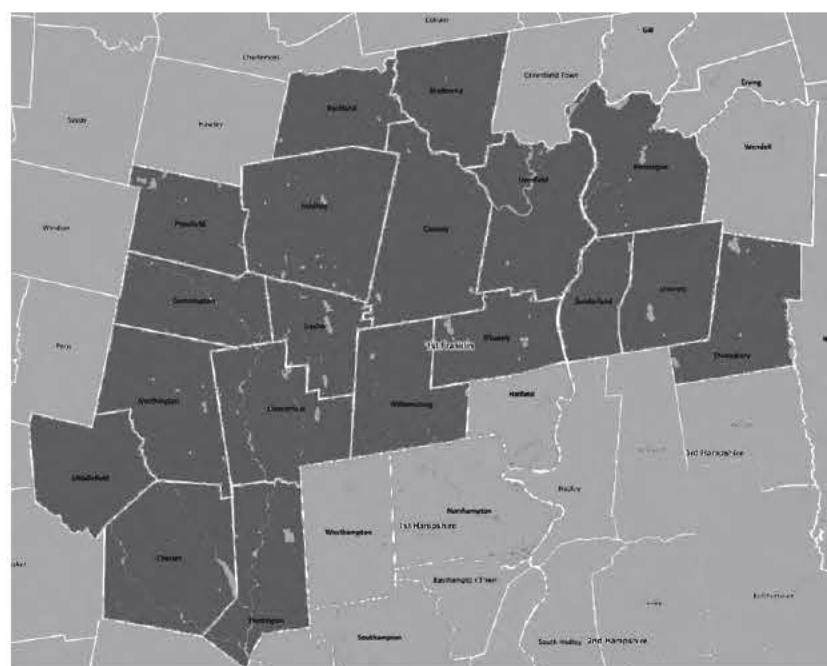
Through the school committee, I really learned the many aspects that are needed to orchestrate and deliver, as efficiently as we could, a fair education system. From the collective bargaining table — making sure our teachers have a contract that's compliant and fair — to health and safety. We were able to bring a conversation about healthy lunches for children; we engaged the community farm as a local resource. And hiring a superintendent... All these things required community engagement.

The second piece is the nonprofit world, which provides concrete support in times of need to families. I worked at Community Action for over ten years: I was a food pantry assistant, a Family Center coordinator. I was helping families, my neighbors, get access to USDA food, or trying to collaborate with the farmers market to bring resources... helping families navigate the system; housing and healthcare....

My third component is how we're part of the local economy. I've been a volunteer for the Greenfield Business Association... Here in my community, I'm part of the Shea Theater board. When I first came, I said, *okay, the Shea Theater*; an artistic center — and then I [realized] how incredible it is to be part of something that really affects all the downtown, and how they bring progress....

All these three components are what makes the community that we live in a whole. And if you have access to childcare, and higher education, you have a thriving economy, and the community grows.

So I want to help, through policy



*The 19 towns of the First Franklin state house district.*

and legislation, supporting all of these initiatives, and the local aid support systems that our legislators have worked on. I'm not going to reinvent the wheel. Collaboration has been incredible in Western Massachusetts; the legislators really work closely to support us.

**MR:** *Can you expand on the ways you've seen legislators supporting these things locally, having been on the other side of it?*

**FW:** I understand many aspects of the community. I cannot pretend that I understand every different aspect, but I have been here in such a diversified way that I think I know what living in poverty, and oppression and despair, means for so many individuals and families.

To me, the opposite of that is community. I know that when you are able to provide some basic support, or some hope to people, people can fare better in life.... I'm very thankful to the legislators for all the work they have done — and they've been great mentors to people.

I think it's a great wave of opportunities for other people who are going to bring a unique set of skills, and collaboration. This is why you need people who understand the community, and you don't need somebody who's going to perpetuate the bureaucracy, or status quo. You really need somebody who understands well what are the very issues people are living here.

**MR:** *It's already a crowded field —*

*is there any talk about having a primary debate or forum?*

**FW:** Kulik surprised us all with his announcement that he's not running. He's been such a legacy, so maybe we thought he had a couple more years. I hope the opportunities will be there for us to have a healthy debate, and really bring our best. I think it's really exciting that citizens will have choices and options.

**Elizabeth Swihart:**

**MR:** *What brought you to town?*

**ES:** We were looking for the least expensive home ownership possibilities, and we found that in Turners Falls. I'm so happy to be here — I love it. We live on Park Street, which is a really nice street, and the park is in walking distance; I go there all the time with my kids.

**MR:** *And you commute to Orange. What does your job there look like?*

**ES:** I handle arraignments, motions, pretrial conferences, and one week per month we have trials — I was in court this morning.

**MR:** *If you get to Beacon Hill, where would you start in terms of trying to address some of the issues folks out here are facing?*

**ES:** Things that don't affect other places, like our lack of transportation; [it's a] big geographic area, of course. The opiate crisis of course is hitting everywhere, but in these rural areas it's even stronger than other places. Those are two areas that are

unique for us. I have kids about to go into public schools, and I was proud to have a public school education for myself... I want our public schools, especially our rural ones, to reach the Top 50 goal. That would be my goal as a state rep: to get the funding we need in order to get really good resources out here.

**MR:** *Do you have solutions in mind for transportation?*

**ES:** Everything is on the table.... What I see every day is people who have their licenses taken away for one reason or another, and they can't get to court, they can't get to their jobs because their jobs aren't close by; they can't get groceries and medical care, necessarily. So it's a real issue, and it ends up being the police that are enforcing this licensing issue.

We need better bus systems to get from one place to another, but it's a funding issue, obviously....

**MR:** *There's such a contradiction in this region: our public transit needs to show ridership in order to get funding, but can't provide service to school districts; and then school districts aren't fully reimbursed for transportation by the state —*

**ES:** Yeah, and I think that's happening with schools, too; there's these huge school buildings, and not enough kids to fill them. So many school districts have an overpopulation problem, and for us it's really the opposite: do we have enough kids for all of the funding?

And at this point we don't. And the state has said, "we'll give you the funding anyway," but that's going to make other towns eventually say "hey, why are they still getting the money, for the lack of kids they have?" And all of a sudden, there's this deficit.

So I want to ensure that there's still a really strong voice out there for our rural schools.

**MR:** *What do you see as the main drivers for economic development here?*

**ES:** I'm a big proponent of small local business. I love the local bookstores, and the local venues for music, and food, and I'd really like to see those thriving, because I think that those are the unique places that bring a lot of people into our towns.

**MR:** *Do you see those sectors as being a potential source of job growth?*

**ES:** Absolutely. I can see that it brings in employment opportunities, of course — these small businesses, often they're run by the owner, but they usually need a few extra people to run their shops all week long.

**MR:** *Before [your role as ADA], you were focusing on climate-related legal issues?*

**ES:** In law school, I had been on the *Journal of Climate and Energy Law* as an editor. I've always been very interested in the environment, and environmental resources. But the hard part of environmental law is that it's very regulatory, and so often where people end up, in order to make any money whatsoever, is on the wrong side of the issue.... I decided the better path for me was to continue with criminal law.

**MR:** *What's your take on what's happening in terms of the state's climate goals and energy mix?*

**ES:** I'm always proud to be from Massachusetts where we're on the leading edge of alternative energy. I love seeing windmills put up; I like seeing all the solar panels on the houses.... I look forward to introducing more possibilities for that.

Wisniewski and Swihart join three other declared Democratic candidates: Kate Albright-Hanna of Huntington, a journalist and documentary filmmaker; Casey Pease of Worthington, a volunteer firefighter and the youngest paid staff member on the Bernie Sanders campaign; and Sunderland's Natalie Blais, a former aide to Jim McGovern who has been executive director of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce since last summer.

"I think that it's really exciting that citizens will have choices and options," Wisniewski says. "I think this year has been remarkable for people who want to take initiative, people who want to be part of the change — this is a ripple effect of intentions for engagement."

"There's some really great candidates," says Swihart. "I've met most of them, and they seem like really wonderful people. I think it's going to be a fun race — let the best woman, or man, win!"



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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

# Board Endorses Carbon Fee Resolution, So That One Energy Committee Member Can Sleep

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard, at its Monday, March 6 meeting, voted to place a resolution on the May annual town meeting warrant calling on the state legislature to establish “Greenhouse Gas Emission Pricing to Curb Climate Change.” The phrase “carbon tax,” a common term to describe this policy, was studiously avoided in the resolution and by Chris Mason and Sally Pick, both of the Montague energy committee, who presented the proposal.

In a somewhat confusing turn of events, the selectboard also voted to “endorse” the proposal after several members had just emphasized that they were not yet ready to endorse it.

Introducing the proposal, Mason noted the state’s Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008 mandated that it reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2020, and 80% by 2050. “We have to do it,” he said. Mason emphasized the environmental, health, and economic benefits of making Massachusetts a “leader” in attacking global warming.

He then went on to argue that the most effective way to reduce greenhouse gases is to create a market mechanism to make carbon emissions more costly. “Right now, there is no economic incentive not to use fossil fuels,” he said. The solution he proposed would be a “fee” on products that produce carbon emissions, such as oil, propane, and gas. (Electricity generation would not be subject to a fee, because it is already subject to carbon regulation under another state policy).

Pick said the fee would not be a tax, because under bills currently before the legislature, the funds collected would be reimbursed to taxpayers. The “rebate,” Mason said, may be higher for people in rural areas – “because we drive more” – and to low-income residents.

The town meeting resolution would not endorse a specific proposal to achieve these goals, but Mason described three bills currently before the state legislature that could create the carbon fee. One of the bills would allocate 20% of the revenues to programs aimed at reducing greenhouse gases, “so that would be a tax,” said Mason.

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz responded to Mason and Pick by stating that he thought that town meeting was the proper body to consider such a proposal. “I don’t want to argue the pros and cons of the request,” he said. “But I think this is a more appropriate item to bring before town meeting...”

“I would certainly endorse putting it on the town meeting agenda, but would wait and let town meeting voice their opinion.”

Selectboard member Mike Nelson nodded in agreement, and member Chris Boutwell “agreed 110%.”

Ariel Elan, who is also a member of the energy committee, suggested that the board might want to meet again to discuss endorsing the reso-

lution. “Putting it on the town meeting warrant, yes...” she said, “but the Energy Committee would certainly want your recommendation.”

Nelson noted the selectboard generally decides whether to recommend town meeting warrant articles later in the process, after the warrant has been created.

“I just don’t want this to be construed as our approving this resolution before town meeting has had a chance to review it,” said Kuklewicz.

Then Nelson made a motion. “So that Ariel can sleep for the next three months,” he said, “I move that we put on the annual town meeting [warrant], and endorse, the resolution calling on the Massachusetts legislature to establish greenhouse gas emissions pricing...”

His motion passed unanimously.

### Colle Repairs

The board approved an agreement with Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno to work on a proposal for a Massachusetts Historical Grant to rehabilitate the Colle Opera House on Avenue A.

“The Colle needs some work,” said Sawyer-Lauçanno, adding that the Center for Responsive Schools, which leases much of the town-owned building, “has been complaining about some things.”

He said he had gone through the building several times to prepare an estimate for the work that needs to be done. “There’s a tremendous amount of deterioration in the pointing,” he said; “there’s some leaks, the rear section was poorly patched and now the bricks are beginning to fall out, the flashing is gone.... and it’s a very difficult place to get to.”

Sawyer-Lauçanno said the town would probably apply for “close to \$100,000” from the state, and that funds would be matched by money already in the “Colle fund.”

The board voted to allocate \$3,000 to pay Sawyer-Lauçanno for his work on the proposal. It also voted to support the application to the state, and designate town planner Walter Ramsey as the project’s coordinator.

### Other Business

The board approved the warrant for the March 29 annual town meeting. The town meeting is devoted to a discussion and vote on a proposed new \$11,146,762 facility on Turners Falls Road for the town’s public works department. The board voted both to put the proposal on the warrant, and endorse it.

The only other article on the warrant would appropriate \$756 to “pay a bill of the prior fiscal year.”

The board held an executive session to discuss “complaints and potential disciplinary action against a public officer...”

When the board emerged from the private session after twenty minutes, Kuklewicz announced that police chief Chip Dodge, who has been suspended with pay since October, has resigned, but would remain on paid leave until February 12, 2019 (*see story, page A1*).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG

Unattended Death; Chief Has A Close Call; 5 of 13 Entries Were Mutual Aid; 10 Involved Cars

Friday, 2/2

7:27 a.m. Chief Minckler and Officer Sawicki assisted Sunderland PD with an unattended death.

Saturday, 2/3

12:51 p.m. Officer Sawicki stopped a motor vehicle on Long Plain Road for numerous motor vehicle equipment violations. After a brief investigation Officer arrested the male operator for operating under the influence of drugs. The vehicle was towed.

Sunday, 2/4

5:20 p.m. Officer Gralenski assisted Shutesbury PD with a car vs. pole motor vehicle crash.

Wednesday, 2/7

5:23 p.m. Officer Sawicki responded to Teawaddle Hill Road for a suspicious person. Officer located the

person in question and the situation was handled.

Thursday, 2/8

5:24 p.m. Officer Sawicki responded to a motor vehicle crash on North Leverett Road. The vehicle hit a patch of black ice and crashed into the concrete guardrail posts. No injuries.

Friday, 2/9

5:45 p.m. Officer Sawicki stopped a vehicle on Shutesbury Road because the operator had a suspended license. Officer issued a criminal summons to the operator for operating after a suspended license. Vehicle was towed.

Monday, 2/12

5:51 a.m. Chief Minckler responded to a motor vehicle crash on Shutesbury Road in the S-turns. The

roads were very icy, and highway department was requested. No injuries.

6:29 a.m. Chief Minckler was requested for a roll over motor vehicle crash on North Leverett Road. The Chief cleared the crash he was handling and responded. The vehicle lost control on the icy roads and rolled over into a ditch. No injuries.

6:49 a.m. While Chief Minckler was investigating the roll-over crash on North Leverett Road, a vehicle lost control on the icy road and smashed into a guardrail approximately 150 feet from the Chief’s location. No injuries.

Wednesday, 3/21

11:30 a.m. Officer Sawicki stopped a vehicle on Shutesbury Road for an

equipment violation. After a brief investigation the operator was issued a criminal summons for negligent operation of a motor vehicle. The vehicle was towed.

Friday, 3/23

7:25 a.m. Chief Minckler assisted Shutesbury PD on Leverett Road with a motor vehicle stop. The operator was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol.

10:10 a.m. Officer Bancroft assisted Shutesbury PD with a motor vehicle crash on Leverett Road. No injuries.

Wednesday, 3/28

5:34 a.m. Chief Minckler assisted Sunderland PD with the arrest of a subject that had violated an abuse prevention order.

GILL from page A1

was read aloud. Snedeker extended his appreciation to those involved in the project, naming NMH head of school Peter Fayroian, assistant head of school Charles Tierney, and chief financial officer John Alden, along with the school’s board of trustees for approving the gift. He also congratulated the fire department and the rest of the ad hoc group for their work.

Selectboard chair Randy Crochier and member John Ward also expressed their gratitude, and thanked Snedeker and Purington for their work on the project. The board will consider the next steps in the acquisition process when Snedeker is present to take part in the discussion.

### Historic Photo Exhibit

Historical commission member Lynn Stowe Tomb appeared before the board and received permission to display an exhibit of historical photographs of Gill Center in the town hall, in celebration of Gill’s 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The commission has printed and matted approximately 25 pictures of various sizes, mostly in black and white, but several in sepia print. She also showed the board a Gill “timeline” poster the commission has created, which will be displayed along with the pictures in the exhibit.

Tomb said she expects the exhibit to be on display beginning in early April, and explained that additional funding for the project came from the the Gill Cultural Council. Tomb also noted that a different set of historical photographs provided by the commission are currently on display at “The Mill,” the recently opened convenience store on Route 2.

### Town Hall Basement

Town resident Bill Tomb provided an update on the volunteer work he is doing in helping to facilitate a solution to the problem of water and dampness in the town hall basement.

He reported that in the course of investigating the problem, Purington had suggested that he speak with retired highway superintendent Ernest Hastings, who had informed him, among other things, that one of the drain pipes leading away from the hall would some-

times become plugged up with roots growing into it, perhaps causing water to back up.

Tomb suggested that it would be a good idea to try the no-cost approach of clearing this pipe before moving on to more costly measures. He also reported on paneling and other wood in the basement which is in need of rehabilitation due to the moisture, and possible changes to consider in the way the building’s rain gutters are directed.

As an aside, he mentioned a small leak in a filter attached to a fuel oil tank in the basement, which results in a strong odor of fuel oil and a small amount of oil in a catch can under the filter, and suggested that the leak should be repaired.

### Door-to-Door Bylaw

The board discussed a proposed bylaw requiring a license for door-to-door canvassing and solicitation, drafted by Purington at the suggestion of a local resident.

Purington reported that independent of the suggestion from the resident, police chief Chris Redmond had recently brought up the same idea, and had been looking at similar bylaws in nearby towns.

Crochier said he had also been thinking about it, and suggested that it was reasonable to pursue the matter. He said that the next step would be to hear what Redmond had to say, as the proposed bylaw would require significant responsibilities from the police department.

### Energy Grant Application

Energy commission chair Vicky Jenkins appeared to seek selectboard sign-off on a group of competitive Green Communities grant applications totaling \$143,365. The program is offered through the state’s Department of Energy Resources (DOER). Gill previously qualified for it by becoming designated as a Green Community.

Jenkins’ applications included requests for funding for LED lighting, insulation for the ceiling, attic and basement, and an air-source heat pump system for the Slate Memorial Library; a “variable refrigerant flow” heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system and insulation for the town hall; and heat-saving window inserts for the Riverside municipal building. The proposals

included a commitment to a \$15,000 contribution from the town.

In regards to the library, the planned insulation work would return the building to its original historic vaulted ceiling design by removing a drop ceiling which would not be replaced.

Jenkins and the board discussed several “what if?” scenarios, if some parts of the proposal were approved and not others, particularly regarding the library’s LED lighting. Ward and Crochier both remarked that the town would commit to ensuring the lighting was taken care of if that aspect of the grant were not approved by the state.

The board approved submission of the applications.

### Other Business

Randy Crochier estimated 50 to 60 people attended the second 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary community skate event at McCollum arena at Northfield Mount Hermon school.

He thanked the school for providing use of the facility, and for communication and scheduling work required due to the 70 degree weather four days before the event. Cold weather returned in time for the rink to refreeze, he reported, but it was a close call.

Purington notified the board of a letter from the state about FY ‘19 Chapter 90 highway funds, designating the amount to be \$148,221. Chapter 90 funds are provided for the purpose of road and highway improvement.

Purington noted that the amount is \$493 less than the FY ‘18 allocation, and surmised that “our roads didn’t get any shorter, so some other towns’ roads must have gotten longer.”

The Friends of Gill 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary pancake breakfast at the Gill congregational church will be on Saturday, March 17, from 8 to 10:30 a.m. – not on March 24, as previously advertised, due to a scheduling conflict.

There will be a discussion group on “re-envisioning sustainable rural schools” on Saturday, March 24 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Greenfield Community College. Representative Paul Mark will be one of the hosts of the event.

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**LOMASSON** from page A1  
computer while they learn the basics of research.

Lomasson has built relationships with the teachers so that they value the help the library can give to their classes. For example all 9th graders, who are required to take a health course, are assigned to do a research project and come to the library as a class for four weeks, approximately 15 sessions, working with Lomasson and their teachers. During that period they are given group time and individual help on how to shape a research question, to find reference sources to refine that question, to use online databases provided by the MBLC and additional ones that the library itself has purchased, and finally to create a scholarly search online, which involves evaluating websites for accuracy and quality.

It's important to understand that these databases which the students use contain thousands of reference and periodical articles that are not available online otherwise. The library subscribes to a database called Britannica Image Quest, which allows the student to use artwork and photographs without copyright infringement.

They discuss plagiarism and its dangers, and they learn how to cite all their sources for their papers and projects. The health faculty even include Lomasson in the grading process, as she evaluates the bibliographies of the finished projects to determine the quality of the students' searches, and the correctness of their citations.

**Staff and Grants**

To most school librarians, this will seem like a luxury of time and resources available to the librarian. Lomasson recognizes this, and says it is why she feels so strongly about noting the collaboration of all the players that make this a success. As an example, she cites that the school's commitment to what she is doing in the library has resulted in her having the invaluable assistance of two full-time library staff.

One is Anne Figliola, who has helped write grants to bring in more money for special projects. Figliola supervises student workers, who earn course credit for their work in the library, and she catalogues items in a way that links them to other re-

sources. Lomasson calls the records Figliola creates as "works of art in themselves," and Figliola as an "intellectual powerhouse."

Figliola and the other staff person, Ken Ramos, worked with the social studies classes which were studying the Middle Ages so that they could reproduce medieval Asian art. Ramos, who was inspired by working there and now has a graduate library degree, is also a photographer; he took photographs of all the social studies students' works so that they could be published on *BiblioBoard*, an online resource that the library has also uploaded the school's year-books onto.

Ramos also handles circulation duties at the library, helps create and compile LibGuides – online tools the library itself creates for classes' specific assignments – and functions as the special collection archivist. The library's online website won the MA School Library Association's Web Seal of Excellence in 2017.

Much of this can be accessed by anyone at the library's website: [arhs.arps.libguides.com/ARHS-Library](http://arhs.arps.libguides.com/ARHS-Library).

Lomasson's department, like so many schools and libraries, has had to deal with budget cuts each year. But the team's success at writing grants has bolstered the library's budget, allowing it to keep pace with the increasingly sophisticated resources that the students want and need.

While there are still stereotypical cartoons and TV commercials featuring librarians shushing to prevent people from working in groups, or just from socializing, these really are libraries of the past. ARHS received, as did the Greenfield Public Library, a legacy grant from a University of Kansas librarian, Ann Louise Hyde. The grant was formed in memory of Hyde's close friend, Sandy Mason, who grew up in this area and remembered fondly how much she loved these libraries and how they nurtured her as she was growing up. Mason even became a librarian herself.

With this money, the ARHS library staff physically reimaged the library space. It is now a social gathering place for students with comfortable chairs, sofas, and windows, with a pleasant view outside.

**A Late Arrival**

What makes all this even more remarkable is that Lomasson has only been a librarian since 2006. Before that, her major area of interest was labor relations.

She grew up in New Jersey, went to school in West Virginia, went to Boston to work in labor organization, and then came here to do graduate work at UMass-Amherst, where she stayed as an educator and labor organizer.

After 20 years of working mostly on grant money that made her work life tenuous at times, she started to rethink her career path. When she was in graduate school, she says, she was really struck by how enthusiastic and knowledgeable the university's librarians were, always gladly helping her in ferreting out resources. It seemed an attractive career that would allow her to continue in the education field.

In 2003 Simmons College in Boston, which has one of the nation's top-rated library schools, started a satellite program at Mount Holyoke, and Lomasson enrolled, allowing her to work on her degree largely without going to Boston. Knowing that she wanted to work in a school setting, she sculpted her coursework so that online resources for students and LibGuides were already a part of her toolbox by the time she was hired at ARHS in 2006.

Lomasson has been an active member of the Massachusetts School Library Association, serving as the area director for the western part of the state, and served on the committee that launched a pilot e-book project for the Massachusetts Library System in 2013 that ultimately resulted in affordable access to e-books for libraries across the state.

Being a librarian is an exceptionally fulfilling job; working full-time in this job can be all-consuming. Lomasson is going to retire at the end of this school year to begin the next chapter of her life with her husband, who is already retired.

Her award would seem to be a very well-earned achievement for the work she has done. One wonders if one of the students her creativity has touched will be the next one to leave a legacy to the library.



## March 17: Two Films for a Future Worth Winning

**ATHOL** – As part of the "Reverence, Resistance, Resilience" film series, two short films will screen next Thursday, March 17 at 6 p.m. in the large program room at the Athol Public Library. Light refreshments will be provided, and a discussion will follow.

*The Economics of Happiness* (20 minutes) describes a world moving simultaneously in two opposing directions. On the one hand, government and big business continue to promote globalization and the consolidation of corporate power. At the same time, all around the world people are resisting those policies, demanding a re-regulation of trade and finance.

And, far from the old institutions of power, communities are coming together to build more human scale, ecological economies based on a new paradigm – an economics of localization. We hear from a chorus of voices from six continents that tell us that climate change and inequality give us lit-

tle choice: we need to localize, to bring the economy home.

*Joanna Macy and the Great Turning* (26 minutes) is about the opportunity we have to come alive to our truest power, to "look straight into the face of our time, which is the biggest gift we can give," and to participate in the Great Turning.

What is the Great Turning? It is, as Joanna describes it, the shift from the industrial growth society to a life-sustaining civilization. It is, she believes, the third major revolution of human existence, after the agricultural and industrial revolutions.

Conversation will follow the film screening, led by Anna Gyorgy. Anna has long been active in ecological and peace work: writing, editing, organizing – and gardening – with hope for the future. Locally she is part of the Wendell Energy Committee, Traprock Center for Peace & Justice, and Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution.

This film screening is a collaboration between the Athol Public Li-

brary and North Quabbin Energy.

North Quabbin Energy is an informal network in north-central Massachusetts, started in 2005, supporting and facilitating communication among people and town energy committees to share ideas and projects related to energy use.

Members educate themselves and their neighbors about the true social and environmental costs of current energy consumption patterns, and work to find ways of changing individual and collective habits of energy use through conservation, use of renewable fuels, and support for local and regional enterprises that reduce dependence on imported resources. See [northquabbinenergy.org](http://northquabbinenergy.org) for more information.

Thursday's event is free and open to the public; the library will provide light refreshments. The library is located at 568 Main Street, Athol. Seating is limited, so call (978) 249-9515 to reserve your spot.



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LOOKING BACK:  
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

*Here's the way it was March 6, 2008: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.*

Return of the Landfill

"It's time we re-address the landfill issue," said Allen Ross, at the Montague selectboard meeting Monday night.

At stake: a long-contentious question of what the town should do with a state permitted 34-acre landfill site off Turnpike Road. The town has worried about the issue since at least 1987, when town meeting first appropriated \$40,000 to conduct a study for expansion and development at the existing Turnpike Road landfill. That site has since been capped in compliance with Department of Environmental Protections standards.

In 1989 town meeting turned down a proposal to open a new landfill, but then in 1991, turned around and rescinded the authority it had granted to sell the landfill expansion area. Throughout the '90s and early '00s, the question of how to proceed with this land was repeatedly raised without resolution.

The selectboard, minus chair Pat Allen who recused herself because she is an abutter to the landfill property, voted to reform a landfill committee to consider issuing a new RFP for the site.

GMRSD Rolls Out \$17 Million Budget

"We are not underperforming, we are under-resourced," said superintendent Ken Roche, in a defiant retort to the Massachusetts DOE, at Tuesday night's presentation of the Gill-Montague schools' (GMRSD) preliminary \$17,068,078 operating budget for FY'09.

Last June, just as Roche came on board as interim superintendent for the beleaguered district, the DOE placed the GMRSD on watch as an underperforming district due to what it termed a lack of educational leadership, and a lack of fiscal resources to meet educational goals.

The proposed budget amounts to a 5.5% hike over the GMRSD's present operating budget. Sounding a familiar refrain from recent budget struggles, Roche said, "We're trying to strike a balance between

what our students need and what our towns can afford."

One factor in the unfavorable financial conditions is declining enrollment in the school system, with students choosing out. A second factor is declining state aid.

Sheffield principal Chris Wood said, "There are a lot of budget injustices out there, and the stakes are higher, and the needs are deeper. All our public departments, from the fire department to the highway are just getting by." Wood talked of positive developments at district elementary schools, where Responsive Classroom professional development training, with the assistance of Turners Falls-based Northeast Foundation for Children, has taken hold and improved student participation in the learning process.

Representative Donelan Attends Erving Selectboard

State representative Christopher Donelan (D-Orange) made an appearance Monday night at the Erving selectboard meeting. Donelan offered straight talk to constituents about the prospect for state aid in a year when Massachusetts is dealing with a \$1.3 billion budget gap.

Asked if he thought it was realistic that Erving stood to make any gain in state aid over last year from Governor Deval Patrick's optimistic budget forecast, Donelan replied "How realistic is it? Not very. There is virtually no chance it will affect this year's budget."

Donelan cited non-recurring revenue and a shortfall in lottery money as some of the factors working against the governor's budget. "When people who like to play scratch tickets every day get a \$600 bill for oil, that's going to cut into their desire to play," Donelan opined.

When it came to Patrick's plan to build three casinos in Massachusetts and apply revenue from licensing their construction to this year's state budget, Donelan said, "Everything is speculation at this point."


However, Donelan told the selectboard the state was not looking at any "big cuts," and only an extreme downturn would change the overall picture.

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**GMRSD** from page A1

commit to it, year after year, foreseeable," he said, "there needs to be some sort of sustainability plan for it."

"It will be under the microscope, like everything else, as we go," Sullivan said, noting that the district had eliminated 17 professional positions in the last five years. "We're also mindful of not wanting to ever add things that we know are only going to be short-lived."

Seven committee members voted to support the proposal moving forward. Heather Katsoulis and April Reipold, both of Montague, cast opposing votes.

"I'm very uncomfortable supporting this," Katsoulis said. "I'm a parent; I have a daughter in the middle school; I get it... But I would just rather see that money going to support staff that would be mental health-trained, adolescent-trained."

The committee also voted 7 to 1, with Reipold opposing and

Katsoulis abstaining, to endorse a plan to fund the position by cutting \$15,000 from transportation, \$20,000 from technology, and \$15,250 from the school choice revolving fund.

Business manager Joanne Blier said she was "very hopeful" that the transportation spending cut will be made possible by route consolidations, the current subject of a study funded by a state regionalization and efficiency grant. Sullivan said past technology upgrades have been successful enough that money can be saved from next year's budget.

**Affordability Restored**

In recent weeks, the administration had been scrambling to close a budget gap created when the town of Montague's "affordable assessment" figure, including debt payments, was revised from \$9,811,160 to \$9,745,317. However, according to Sullivan, as of February 28 that estimate had risen

back to its original level.

"Montague has expressed to us that they can afford that total operating assessment," he said. "That's really excellent news for us."

He recommended the committee approve a budget along the lines of the "preliminary" budget it had voted on in January, with the only major change being the school police officer. The budget would eliminate four educator positions.

At Montague's annual town meeting in May, besides the operating assessment, the district plans to request several capital improvements to that town's schools. These include new intercom systems at Sheffield and Hillcrest elementary schools, at an total cost of \$55,000, and \$80,000 for a system to regulate the temperature of computer equipment.

One capital request, an estimate of \$12,000 for the installation of locking double doors at Hillcrest, was not recommended by Montague's capital improvements com-

mittee, because that cost is beneath the \$25,000 threshold the committee considers the lower boundary of its jurisdiction.

The school committee, which

had added Tuesday's meeting during an off week in its regular schedule, is expected to vote on a final budget on March 13.

**PRESS RELEASE**

## Montague Dems Elect Mark Wisnewski Chair

**TURNERS FALLS** – In a well-attended Montague Democratic Town Committee meeting last Thursday night, Mark Wisnewski was unanimously elected to the chair. He succeeds long-time Committee leader Jay DiPucchio who decided not to seek re-election this year.

Committee officers Al Cummings and Christopher Boutwell were re-elected to the positions of vice chair

and treasurer, respectively.

During the same meeting delegates were elected to represent Montague at the 2018 State Democratic Convention. Elected as delegates were Elizabeth Irving, Anne Jemas, Mathew Lord, Steve Winters, and Francia Wisnewski. Elected as alternates were Jay DiPucchio, Sita Lang, and Cynthia Tarail.

The Committee also voted to support a motion brought forward

by Judith Lorei entitled "The Unity Reform Commission" which calls upon the Massachusetts Democrats to change the manner in which "super-" delegates are allotted. It calls for an increase in transparency and inclusivity in the delegate process. The motion passed unanimously.

For more information contact [mpwisnewski@gmail.com](mailto:mpwisnewski@gmail.com) or (413) 588-6307.

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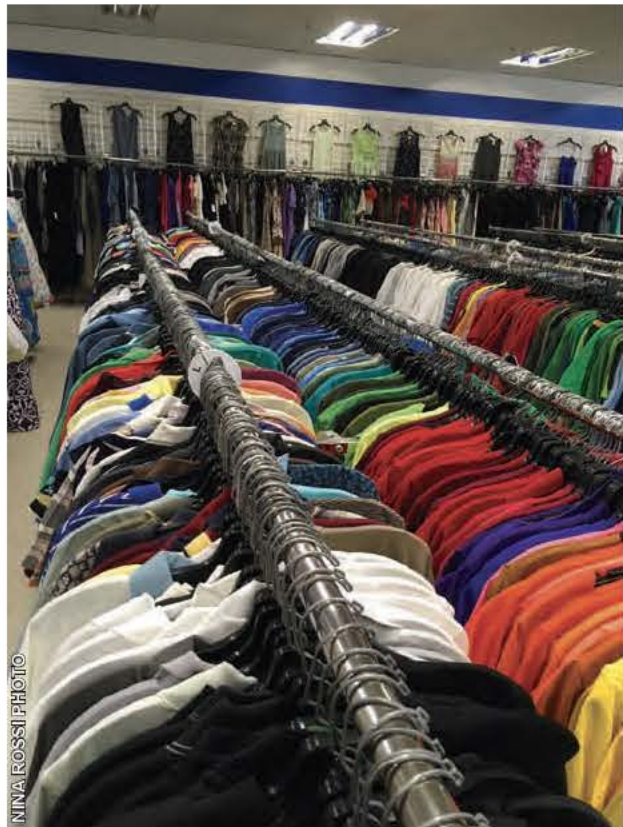
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## Renewable, Affordable, Apparel: What Are The Options?



The racks at a local thrift store. About one-fifth of the clothing Americans pass on ends up re-used domestically.

By EMILY MONOSSON

**MONTAGUE CENTER** – It's nearly spring! While shopping in our small but struggling-to-re-emerge old mill town, I was happy to support a new local clothing store. Happy enough to drop more than I usually would on leggings and a flannel tunic – but it was local! The leggings were recycled! The flannel was...well, cute. I felt transformed.

That's one reason we buy clothes. They make us feel good. While picking through the racks, the owner asked if there was anything I needed. "Just looking," I said.

Then she said something odd for a shop owner: "We don't really need anything, do we? We really just buy different styles of the same thing, over and over again."

Which is true. So what happens to last year's stuff? And the year before that? And the decade before that?

Each year here in the US, we toss out about 13 million tons of clothing. Even those of us who are squeamish at the thought of not recycling a plastic bottle don't think much about bagging up our clothes. After all, they'll go to someone who needs them.

If you are curious about the afterlife of your cloth-

ing, check out *fashionista.com*. It says that about 20% of our clothing ends up on the backs and bottoms of our friends and neighbors, and about one billion pounds are baled up and exported to far-flung places. Some will be resold and worn. Other items will be sold and recycled.

Perhaps more problematic is the cost of making all those clothes. Releases of tributyltin (TBT), known to cause female snails to grow penises on their heads, for example (yes, you just read that), or releases of the persistent thyroid toxicants PBDEs, and other endocrine disruptive chemicals, including phthalates.

Some of these chemicals, like those belonging to the PFOS family, help to keep us dry, but also eventually collect in the fat stores and mother's milk of polar bears and whales.

Viscose and rayon rely in part on logging, as trees are transformed into tees that will be worn for just a fraction of the lifetime of an old growth tree. Cotton is a notorious pesticide-needy crop. And there is the potential health cost to those who produce the textiles, the vibrant blues and reds of our fabric, and stitch them into the treasures we find on the rack.

The point is, as much as we love our clothing, there are costs involved both to human health and to the environment.

So I was happy to read in *Yale Environment 360*, "In the US and around the world, a growing number of environmentalists and clothing industry executives say it's time to end the wasteful clothing culture and begin making new apparel out of old items on a large scale."

I am cautiously hopeful. This isn't just about recycling shirts and socks, but about closing the loop on all parts of the business. Reducing chemical waste and toxic chemicals – which will in turn help reduce environmental and human exposures (to a point).

The idea of "closing the loop" has been out there for decades, but advances in technologies may move this forward, making it increasingly more feasible. Here's one example: the Fabric of Change network "re-envision[s] a fair, sustainable apparel industry and a future in which all stakeholders are empowered to ensure that people and the planet are respected." They've partnered with other foundations to encourage emerging innovative thinking in the apparel industry. (For more information from Fabric of Change, search for "2016 Fabric of Change Challenge Winners" on YouTube.)

We ought to wear our clothes over and over and over again... but that doesn't mean we have to wear the same thing. And we ought to all be able to afford

see RENEWABLE page B2

## iChoque! Numero 2: A World Music "Collider" to Benefit Workers Center

By DK KNAUER

**WILLIAMSBURG** – The Williamsburg Grange will be the site for another "Collider" event on March 17. "iChoque! Numero 2" will be held as a benefit for the Pioneer Valley Workers Center. What is a Collider event? It is a coming together of different forms of music in a joyous collision of sound and dance. This event features Betsayda Machudo Y La Parranda, a Venezuelan Afro-Soul group, along with Kotoko Brass, a band that combines West African drums and brass music. In between sets, the Peace & Rhythm DJ's will be providing great recorded music to keep the party flowing.

The brainchild of Edo Mor of Momo Glassworks in Haydenville,

along with help from friends and from Laudable Productions, Collider was founded in order to bring together different forms of world music. "World music" is generally defined as music considered to be indigenous to cultures outside of the US. Mor felt there was a niche for the music in the Pioneer Valley and that people here would be eager to support it. Given that the first Collider event sold out, it would appear that he's right.

Most commercial music venues in the area are focused on profit and booking known talent, making it hard for unknown musicians like these groups to get on the schedule. What makes Collider events even more worthwhile is that they always benefit a

see COLLIDER page B8



Betsayda Machado, La Parranda El Clavo's leader, has been heralded as the new queen of Venezuelan Afro-Soul music.



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

## Southern Arrivals III

half attends to keeping them from drowning.

Perhaps we use half of our brains to sleep, and the other half to create those absurd dreams we sometimes remember on waking.

February 23. We have been enjoying a string of heavenly bright days with ocean breezes and temperatures in the high seventies. Perfect weather for beach walks, more sightseeing in the state park, and just enjoying being outside.

We are nearing the end of our visit, with just a few days until it is time to head home. We've been glad to see that there have been some balmy days back home as well, and have heard through the family grapevine that the sap buckets have been hung on the maples.

February 27. We prepare to leave for home, pack and clean up our suite, and say good-bye to the new friends we've made here. We'll be leaving a state that has rushed into spring with extreme vigor. Everyday there a new blooms to see: cactus flowers, bromeliads, and even gaillardia out on the dunes amidst the wild grasses and random cactus plants. The tortoises are more active and spend much of the daytime outside of their burrow foraging for food.

We have also seen more activity of salamanders and snakes. There are several black snakes around the property. These are harmless, yet still produce a startled human when

see GARDENER'S page B2

## TFHS Musical Preview: Dorothy in Wonderland

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – The students of Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School are pleased to present *Dorothy In Wonderland*, a musical that takes two beloved stories, *The Wizard of Oz* and *Alice in Wonderland*, and combines them to create a fun and playful musical adventure.

Musical director Kayla Roth has brought together a large cast, offering students many opportunities to play a variety of characters from both stories. The play brings Dorothy and her dog Toto, along with the Scarecrow, Tin Man and Lion into Oz, where the Wizard is about to help them get back to Kansas in a balloon.

Only just as they are about to go home, a storm comes up and they are swept away to Wonderland, where they meet Alice, the Mad Hatter, the Queen of Hearts and many others. There they face many challenges.

Once again we get a chance to see the talent of these young people on display with song, dance, and musical numbers that share the joy and energy of performance as only young people can express. This show promises to be a fun event for the whole family.

*Dorothy in Wonderland* will be performed at Turners Falls High School auditorium on March 15, 16 and 17 at 7 p.m. and March 17 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors.



Students rehearse Monday for *Dorothy in Wonderland* at Turners Falls High School. Above: Mercedes Morales as the Queen of Hearts and Korey Martineau as the Tin Man. Below: Sheala Arce and Maria LaBelle, who play Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum in a scene with Ian Farrick who plays the Lion.

ELLEN BLANCHETTE PHOTOS



# Pet of the Week

From over the hilltop come the thundering squeaks of Rosie and Cotton, last of the great Guinea Riders of Harveldale. *Whheeeet wheeeet*, they cry, their chirpy voices resound down into the canyon, striking fear into the hearts of the weasel warriors.

Once, these Battle-Guinea Pigs defended all of Harveldale in the great campaign against Vergel the Vicious and his band of villainous vole-weasels. Now in retirement, Rosie and Cotton are looking for a home where they can live out their days in the company of one another and some kindly human companions. They like munching on greens (Guinea Pigs require vitamin C in their daily diet), climbing in a spacious habitat, and napping.

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



GALEN HUCKINS COLLAGE

## ROSIE AND COTTON

### Senior Center Activities MARCH 12 to 16

**GILL and MONTAGUE**  
The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 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–Fri Noon Lunch**  
**M, W, F** 10:10 a.m. Aerobics;  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
**Monday 3/12:**  
8 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Tuesday 3/13:**  
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga w/Andrea  
**Wednesday 3/14:**  
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach  
12:30 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday 3/15:**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga  
1 p.m. Cards & Games  
**Friday 3/16:**  
12:30 p.m. Writing Group

**LEVERETT**  
For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or [coa@leverett.ma.us](mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us).

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Monday 3/12:** No Lunch Served  
9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones  
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi  
**Tuesday 3/13:**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
12 p.m. St. Patrick’s Lunch  
**Wednesday 3/14:**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch  
12 noon Bingo & Snacks  
**Thursday 3/15:**  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Create 2 Donate  
**Friday 3/16:**  
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.

**GARDENER’S** from page B1  
they appear unexpectedly.

Ken experienced the frightening acquaintance (very brief) with a copperhead. He was sitting out near the thick vines and brush which border the property, enjoying the sight of the near full moon, when this poisonous snake appeared, perhaps attracted by the warmth of the human body. Never mind!

Both snake and human left the area with considerable speed.

*February 28.* We drove the two and a half hours south to Orlando, returned the rental car – much more expeditiously than when we first collected it – and then hung around until flight time.

We landed just after six o’clock and were delighted to be met by Ken’s son Tim, who was kind enough to pick us up. We were back home a little before 8 o’clock and were glad to be there.

Traveling of any type always seems to take it out of you. It was

good to sleep in our own bed. March sure made its initial arrival like the proverbial lamb. We awoke to a beautiful day, near sixty degrees, which made it much easier to be back in New England. While the cat gave us a rather cool reception when we got home, she is warm and cuddly today, and is excited to be able to explore the yard again.

As the next day promises to be more March-like, we crank up the wood stove in the evening. We awake to a mix of rain and snow with wind to come. The cat is housebound and grumpy. We promise her a sunnier day for the next one with nap time in the sun room and perhaps at least a brief venture outside again.

We make a comfort dish of chicken, tomatoes, mushrooms and garlic with a bit of curry and white wine, retreat to our reading and to the warmth of the wood stove. We are intensely grateful that the storm is minor, with no accumulation of snow.

The seed order is waiting on the

dining room table and tomorrow I plan to start the tomatoes. It is a bit strange to find everything at home just as it was, when we have traveled so far and done so much. It was pure pleasure to get away for a chunk of the winter and to look forward to the arrival of spring, even if it comes with one step forward and two back.

Florida is a lovely place to visit and escape part of the winter, but now the heat and humidity will be arriving before long. These are not conditions we enjoy. We also revel in the changes of the seasons and will watch now as the first bulbs emerge, the garlic and shallots peek from the raised beds, and will listen for the song sparrow and the red-wings’ return.

Stretching out these gifts extends the pleasure, and anticipation is a joy of its own. Watch for these gradual changes and savor each and every one as spring comes on tiptoe to New England.



**RENEWABLE** from page B1  
responsible textiles.

If you are so inclined, here’s a random list of companies making an effort – though not all are affordable to all, which is why I begin with an “affordable” list from Ecocult:

- **Sustainable and affordable** brands: [ecocult.com/the-18-most-affordable-places-to-buy-ethical-fashion/](http://ecocult.com/the-18-most-affordable-places-to-buy-ethical-fashion/)
- **Groceries Apparel** (sold, by the way, at Honey&Wine in Turners Falls!): [groceriesapparel.com/pages/wholesale](http://groceriesapparel.com/pages/wholesale)
- **Patagonia:** [wornwear.patagonia.com](http://wornwear.patagonia.com) (Yes, yes, you are still paying over \$100 for “worn wear”! But they are trailblazers in the clothing industry, and hopefully others will follow.)
- **Timberland:** [timberland.com/responsibility.html](http://timberland.com/responsibility.html)
- **Eileen Fisher Renew:** [eileenfisherrenew.com](http://eileenfisherrenew.com)

(No animals were harmed in writing this essay, but my mother and I did just purchase two black velvet jackets from Eileen Fisher Renew.)

If you are interested in the process on a large scale, check out this site: [thebalance.com/i-co-provides-fashion-recycling-options-2877813](http://thebalance.com/i-co-provides-fashion-recycling-options-2877813)

a thrift store are baled and sold to brokers or graders who sell to overseas markets. In developing nations, used clothing and textiles supply local enterprises with materials to repair and resell.”

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



Some clothing should be recycled!

#### MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

## New Millers Falls Library Assistant

By LINDA HICKMAN

**MILLERS FALLS** – We are very pleased to welcome Melinda Georgeson as the new branch Library assistant at the Millers Falls Library. She started on February 27. She replaced Liza Graybill, who left in January.

Melinda has lived in Millers Falls for over twelve years. She is “thrilled to work at the library,” and is excited to meet more Millers Falls residents.

Her love of libraries is lifelong. Her mother was a librarian; as a child Melinda would meet her at the library after school. She started volunteering in libraries as a teen, running story times. She volunteered at the Carnegie Library for over four years and also at the West Stockbridge Library in a variety of roles.

Melinda retired from the Norman Rockwell Museum after 18 years, during which time she worked her way up to serve as the Director of Education. Preceding that, she was an art educator and elementary classroom teacher. She received a Master of Science Degree from



Melinda Georgeson

Long Island University in education with a fine arts minor. She is a certified art and elementary teacher.

Melinda is a painter, singer/songwriter, creative writer, and harp player. She is very proud of her solo Christmas CD, which she performed, recorded, and produced.

Melinda is very positive, friendly, hard-working, and creative. We

hope you will come meet her at an open house in her honor and welcoming spring on Tuesday, March 20, from 3 to 6:30 p.m., or visit her during the library’s regular hours, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2 to 7 p.m.

Linda Hickman is library director for the town of Montague.

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# Montague/Turners Falls: List Your Event!

RiverCulture is compiling a spring cultural event calendar for events happening between March 22 and June 21 in Montague.

The calendar will be posted on the RiverCulture website, in social media, and included in the March 22 edition of the *Montague Reporter*.

To list your exhibition, talk, musical performance, theater performance, craft show, workshop, etc., submit event details to Suzanne Lomanto by Friday, March 16: [RiverCulture@montague-MA.gov](mailto:RiverCulture@montague-MA.gov).

For any questions, call (413) 835-1390.

## FROM A KID'S POINT OF VIEW

# The Bitzer Fish Hatchery

By FINTAN ANDREW JONES

**MONTAGUE** – Hi, I'm Fintan. I am 8 years old. I live in Greenfield and go to school at The Discovery School at Four Corners. I'm in the third grade. I love math, golf, cello and writing. I have decided to write for the *Montague Reporter* because I think it's cool and fun. I'm going to write about the Bitzer Fish Hatchery. I hope you like it!

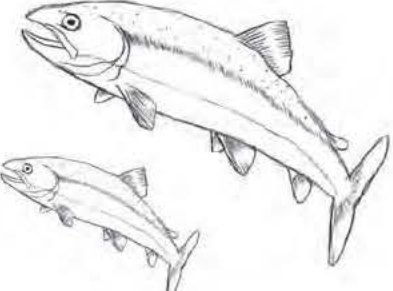
The Bitzer Fish Hatchery is located on Hatchery Road in Montague. I interviewed Joe and Chet for information about the hatchery. There are long, long nets that cover about half a million fish in the summer to keep eagles, blue herons, ospreys, otters, raccoons and minks from eating the fish.

The hatchery is 100 years old and has from little two-inch long

fish to foot-long fish that will be released into local rivers. All the rainbow trout, brook trout, and brown trout eat small fishmeal pellets made from other fish. There is an old breeding house that is caving in and might fall down.

The Bitzer Fish Hatchery is also an Official Game Check Station for coyote, deer, turkey, and bear.

If you like "From a Kid's Point of View," get the *Montague Reporter* and watch for the next column!



## MOVIE REVIEW

# Thank You for Your Service

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – When it comes to films I go to see, I like to watch drama, and I occasionally watch drama films involving the military. Among the latest is *Thank You for Your Service* (2017).

The movie involves the aftermath of service for military veterans. It deals with them coming home, focusing on two of them who have issues with PTSD from their time in the service. For these individuals, it was connected to decisions they made in combat, and questions of "what if" when it came to things that happened there.

If what the veterans go through to get help at the VA was portrayed accurately in the film, then it's kind of amazing that any of them have gotten help for their problems. Beside it being amazing that veterans get help at all for their problems from the VA, I think veterans would also appreciate that the film seems to realistically show what they deal with in combat, and the aftermath of that.

One soldier in the film had to wait for a spot to open at a treatment center for his PTSD, and on top of that, the center was also rather far from his home. Then he gives his friend and fellow soldier, who suffering from PTSD himself, his spot at the center. To me, that is helping his friend out in a big way, because as far as I know help though the VA consists of going through a long list of vets in front of you, and then having to go far from home for treatment.

He also goes to see another fellow soldier, whose combat injury he feels guilty about. But this individual holds him no hard feelings for that,

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Suspicious Condolences; Power Outage; DPW Worker Said To Yell At Crash Victims

**Monday, 2/26**  
5:36 p.m. [REDACTED] was arrested on a default warrant.  
9:11 p.m. [REDACTED] was arrested on a default warrant.  
10:09 p.m. Anonymous caller states that a dog has been barking/howling on Elm Street for the last hour. Contact made with dog owner, who is bringing dog inside for the night.  
11:55 p.m. Report of disturbance near the bar on Bridge Street. Officers clear; incident stemmed from parking issues. Minor damage to door; tenant and landlord are aware. Report taken.

**Tuesday, 2/27**  
1:29 p.m. Walk-in party reporting possible fluid spill in uphill travel lane on Unity Street. TFFD responding.  
2 p.m. Caller wanted it on record that a male and female showed up to offer "condolences" for her recently deceased husband. She does not know them and thought that it was suspicious. No vehicle seen.  
2:43 p.m. DPW reporting that someone has pulled up to the old landfill and is trying to dump a bunch of stuff. Officer spoke to driver of vehicle and advised him of the law. Male party has left.  
10:25 p.m. 911 caller reporting vehicle parked in Fourth Street lot with trunk open. Vehicle known to park in lot all the time but has never been seen unsecured. Officer clear; vehicle secured; owner informed.

**Wednesday, 2/28**  
7:34 a.m. 911 abandoned call. On callback, male states he mistakenly hit redial; the last call he made last night was 911.  
11:08 a.m. School resource officer from Franklin County Technical School advising that an unruly parent was causing a disturbance inside the school. When parent was escorted out of building and told she was not allowed back, she took off at a high rate of speed. Area checked; unable to locate.  
1:13 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street states that her front door was vandalized again and would like this on record. This is the third time her apartment has been vandalized. Maintenance is fixing the issue.  
2:34 p.m. Caller states that someone backed into him while he was picking up his daughter at Turners Falls High School. Her foot may be injured. Report taken.  
2:53 p.m. Report of an

assault at Unity Park. Investigated.  
6:40 p.m. Report of youths riding bikes in the middle of First Street and coming dangerously close to vehicles; unknown if they are doing this intentionally. Officer spoke with three youths at the skate park and advised.  
11:48 p.m. Caller reporting that a possibly intoxicated male party can be heard yelling in downtown Millers Falls. Unfounded.

**Thursday, 3/1**  
8:08 a.m. Officer received information from off-duty officer that Eversource is working without a detail replacing poles on Swamp Road. Upon arrival, officer observed two poles on the ground but no crews working; will continue to monitor area. Officer later spoke with Asplundh crew; advised that a detail would be needed and that if they are seen working without a detail officer again, the job will be shut down. Detail officer arranged for today.  
9:31 p.m. Caller from N Street advising that the neighbors' dog has been outside barking for around 45 minutes now. No one appears to be home. Officer advised. Caller called back and advised to disregard; owner brought dogs inside. Advised caller that calls would be printed and passed on to the animal control officer tomorrow.  
9:42 p.m. Officer advising of intoxicated male party yelling and causing a disturbance in front of Connecticut River Liquors. Later advised to disregard; party went inside Power-town Apartments.  
11:12 p.m. 911 caller (involved party) reporting two-car collision on Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Caller was hit head-on by a vehicle that crossed into his lane. Caller reports no injuries; fluids leaking from both vehicles. Vehicles are still in traffic approximately 100 feet north of Town Hall. Officers *en route*; TFFD and MedCare

both advised and *en route*. Rau's has one vehicle; operator of same being transported to hospital; dog of same being transported to kennel (due only to owner going to hospital). Officer advises dog has been secured at kennel; possibility that owner will not try to claim dog. Officer out at hospital to serve paperwork. Citation delivered in hand.

**Friday, 3/2**  
7:45 a.m. 911 call reporting two-vehicle accident at North Leverett and Ripley Roads. One vehicle off road into a ditch; one vehicle with entrapment; no apparent injuries. MPD, MCFD, and MedCare responding. Citation issued to one operator for a marked lanes violation.  
7:51 a.m. Caller requesting to file a report against a DPW driver; advises that while she was on scene assisting the parties involved in the accident from the previous call, a DPW driver came up to her and started yelling at her and insisting that the vehicles be moved. Vehicles could not be moved due to one vehicle having entrapment and the other being heavily damaged. Officer advised caller that this would be on record at MPD and left contact number for DPW superintendent.  
8:16 a.m. Multiple 911 calls reporting vehicle off road into a brook on Montague City Road. Vehicle had one occupant; she is out of the vehicle and stating that she is not injured. TFFD and PD *en route*. Citation issued for revoked registration.  
1:09 p.m. Party into station reporting that he was just struck by a vehicle in the Food City parking lot; advising man stopped and made sure he was OK, then left. Did not get plate number, but does have a witness's contact information. Officer will follow up with Food City managers and speak with witness. TFFD in lobby assessing report-

ing party for injuries.  
1:50 p.m. Received several calls advising that the power is out downtown at the Third Street lights and in several other areas. DPW *en route* to try and reset lights. Officer advising that all power is out downtown. Eversource notified. Officers and DPW putting stop signs and cones at intersections.  
3 p.m. Greenfield PD requesting that MPD close Canal Road due to tree being on wires. Roads toward this area are barricaded. Officer out at this location with a vehicle that went over barricades.

**Saturday, 3/3**  
11:10 a.m. Caller from Twelfth Street advising that her house was hit with paintballs, probably sometime during the overnight. Officer clear; one paintball struck house. Report taken.  
6:21 p.m. Caller states that he is following a vehicle that is all over the road and has crossed lines and hit curbs. While caller was on phone with dispatch, suspect vehicle collided with another vehicle head-on near the White Bridge. Accident occurred in Greenfield; GPD advised.

**Sunday, 3/4**  
2:20 a.m. TFFD advising that a pole is on fire at Turnpike Road and Park Villa Drive. Eversource advised and *en route*.  
8:50 p.m. Caller states that there is a barrel with a fire inside it on Canal Road. Officer confirmed; located behind old Housing Authority building. TFFD responding. Fire was being monitored by someone who is staying inside the building temporarily. He has been advised of the dangers. Fire extinguished by TFFD.  
9:34 p.m. Caller from Second Street states that a child on the first floor is being so loud that the people who live upstairs cannot sleep. Ongoing issue. Summons issued.

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MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week at MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

This week, look for “Making African Dolls with Belinda Lyons Zucker” on Channel 17, or find it online at [montaguetv.org/p/76/Latest-Videos](http://montaguetv.org/p/76/Latest-Videos). It’ll be a real treat if you do.

This video documents an event (February 17, 2018) at Greenfield Savings Bank where community members were invited to make “Ode to Spring” dolls with Belinda Lyons Zucker, a very skilled local artist.

Watch this video to see Lyons Zucker provide support for event attendees in their diverse expressions of Ode to Spring dolls at the event;

to see her present her doll Miss Cora, explaining how she made Miss Cora and the meaning behind her choices; and to hear intimate conversations with Lyons Zucker about the use of dolls to stand in place of departed loved ones in African cultures.

Lyons Zucker says she learned a great deal about the use of African dolls from researcher Elisabeth Cameron, who has a book called *Isn’t S/He a Doll: Play and Ritual in African Culture*.

To see more of Lyons Zucker’s work, visit [picturetrail.com/bee-z-dolls](http://picturetrail.com/bee-z-dolls). You can contact her about handmade dolls and dollmaking

parties at [beeartdolls@gmail.com](mailto:beeartdolls@gmail.com) or (617) 818-1970. Belinda Lyons Zucker also has a gallery in Shelburne Falls you can visit – the Artisan Gallery, which is not open on Tuesdays. Check it out if you can!

Is there something going you’d like others to see? If you get in touch, we can show you how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment.

Contact us at (413) 863-9200, [infomontaguetv@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguetv@gmail.com), or stop by 34 Second Street between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We’re excited to work with you!

CULTURAL ANALYSIS

Black Panther (2018)

By GEORGE SHAPIRO

**LAKE PLEASANT** – *Black Panther* is the latest superhero action movie extravaganza from Marvel Studios, the burgeoning film production division of the venerable comic book publisher. The title character is a prince named T’Challa, from the mysterious African country of Wakanda who has a masked identity as the crime-fighting hero Black Panther, costumed as an anthropomorphized panther, who is black.

The comic books upon which the movie is based first came out in 1966, by some strange coincidence the same year that the apparently unrelated Black Panther political party was founded. However, this production is surely not divorced from recent events, and fills a demographic hole in Marvel Studios’ metastasized film stable, which features notable characters: Captain America, a thawed-out caveman from the last time Brooklyn was white; and Thor, hammer-god of the Nordic race.

The movie begins with a brief history of Wakanda, which appears to the world and our President as another “shithole” African country, but is secretly a high-tech superpower employing technologies from the future. This is all due to Wakanda’s large meteoric deposit of “vibranium,” a space metal which is also a source of energy and can heal bullet wounds.



Wakandan scientist Shuri, with Vibranium-enhanced weapon gloves.

spears, energy-beam weapons, and the eponymous character’s bullet-proof cat suit, despite their official peaceful and non-interventionist international stance.

The rest of the picture plays out the theme of feudal power struggle between warring aristocrats, popular in such recent productions as *Game of Thrones*. Alliances are made and broken as the royal family struggles to hold onto the monarchy and power over Wakanda’s super-weapons.

The royal family finally obtains the support of the CIA, who supplies a drone pilot to aid in this Wakandan civil war.

In the background is an odd pantomime of certain debates within politically-liberal circles at the time of the 2003 US invasion of Iraq: should Wakanda use its immense military power to right wrongs in the world, particularly the racist oppression of Black Americans?

However, the central question of the film appears to be: can a feudal society, a society which endorses ritual combat as a means to transfer supreme executive power, also sustain power based on technological superiority?

This runs to the central fact of feudal societies, which, aside from dominance by a few oligarchical families, is the conviction that the traditions and beliefs of that society are eternal and unchangeable. You can observe this dynamic in the current drive of the crown prince of Saudia Arabia, the part of Arabia belonging to the Saud family, to “modernize” his nation, which makes the question of this movie decidedly relevant.

The problem is that any technological advance involves, by definition, doing a socially necessary task in a new, and presumably better, way. Technology is nothing if not

the tools we use. This is a problem for feudal societies, because the social order depends on everyone playing the role given to them eternally in time.

If you use new tools to do things in better ways, why not invent new societies which work in better ways; why do you have to obey the commands of a hereditary king and his lords? You can see this in Wakanda: even as the insane consequences of using ritual combat are revealed, the high officials of the monarchy strenuously sustain the ritual, because to do otherwise is to put the whole system into doubt.

There is a subtler point, which is that an individual will never build new tools unless they believe the society they live in can be improved by their effort. Capitalists believe that this individual must also expect to be financially rewarded, but in a society where improvements are a threat to the local lord, this will never happen anyway. The collapse of Tsarist Russia is a historical case in point for the essential contradiction involved.

The movie solves this problem by having the chief technologist be T’Challa’s sister Shuri (who, incidentally, has perfect 20/20 vision).

However, technology is never the product of one genius, rather the collective process whereby separate improvements reinforce each other, creating a feedback loop which is the basis for future improvements.

This writer does not believe that feudalism is compatible with sustained technological improvements; if so, history will not be kind to Wakanda, or Saudi Arabia. Given the large crowd which turned out for *Black Panther* at Greenfield Garden Cinema, we will see in future episodes whether Wakanda will survive the essential contradiction at the heart of its society.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Golf Course Donuts; Overflowing Toilet Help; Sick-Looking Fox & Coyote

Tuesday, 1/23

10:32 a.m. Report of mail truck off the road, Route 2 just west of AJ Cycle.

9:42 p.m. Car off the road into a guardrail, French King Highway. No injuries.

Wednesday, 1/24

9:21 a.m. Report of suspicious vehicle driving slowly around Riverview Drive and Oak Street. All checked OK.

12:30 p.m. Medical emergency, Memorial Grove Road.

2:30 p.m. Caller states a party in a green For-ester is doing donuts on the golf course property on West Gill Road. Criminal complaint issued.

Thursday, 1/25

4:09 p.m. Took report of annoying calls on Main Road.

Friday, 1/26

3:52 p.m. Investigated suspicious vehicle, Factory Hollow rest area on French King Highway. Taking a nap, all set.

5:57 p.m. Caller reported she hit a deer on West Gill Road.

6:13 p.m. Suspicious activity, Gill Mill, French King Highway.

Saturday, 1/27

9:44 a.m. Car vs. deer, Main Road. Services rendered.

12:37 p.m. Officer wanted: elderly female at Stoughton Place called 911 to report her toilet was overflowing; she couldn't read the number for emergency maintenance. Services rendered.

Sunday, 1/28

8:38 a.m. Attempted to serve warrant, Barney Hale Road. Could not locate.

Monday, 1/29

11:08 a.m. Caller reports his caretaker at his Main Road residence reports a sick-looking fox in area lately. No action required.

11:09 a.m. Walnut Street caller requests an officer for a lift assist. Services rendered.

12:24 p.m. Caller advises his white Dodge van is disabled on the French King Highway.

5:45 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with verbal altercation.

Wednesday, 1/31

3:30 Passerby reporting loose dogs crossed in front of him area of town hall.

Thursday, 2/1

10:10 a.m. ATV roll-over accident. Subject transported to Franklin Medical Center.

7:09 p.m. Assisted

Bernardston PD with an arrest.

Friday, 2/2

3:15 p.m. Accident at lights on Route 2; no injuries.

Saturday, 2/3

5:07 p.m. Disturbance, Chappell Drive. Services rendered.

7:59 p.m. Took report of hit and run, Gill Mill.

Monday, 2/5

11:23 a.m. False fire alarm, Boyle Road.

Tuesday, 2/6

8 a.m. Structure fire on Barney Hale Road. Extinguished.

8:29 a.m. Investigated harassment, Trenholm Way. Investigated

Wednesday, 2/7

8:24 a.m. Investigated possible chimney fire, Main Road.

12:49 p.m. Problem with coil on the bottom of stove burning, Franklin Road. Services rendered.

1:40 p.m. Fire alarm, Boyle Road. False alarm.

Thursday, 2/8

4:34 p.m. Vehicle stuck on closed section of Pisgah Mountain Road. Tow truck called.

5:23 p.m. Accidental 911 call from NMH childcare center.

Friday, 2/9

7:24 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with disturbance. Peace restored.

Saturday, 2/10

1:04 p.m. Courtesy transport provided from French King Bridge to Factory Hollow rest area.

Sunday, 2/11

11:18 a.m. Caller states she and another party are stuck on Hoe Shop Road. Services rendered.

12:45 p.m. Walk-in report of vehicle off Grist Mill Road and Vassar Way due to ice. Services rendered.

4:24 p.m. Took report, Main Road. Diverted case to Buckland PD.

Monday, 2/12

10:44 a.m. Report of sick-looking coyote in area of Riverview Drive and French King Highway. Could not locate.

4 p.m. Two-car accident, Route 10 and Gill Center Road. No injuries; vehicle towed.

5:15 p.m. Complaint of speeding trucks in Main Road area.

6:41 p.m. Car slid off the road and took out group home's mailbox on West Gill Road. No injuries.

9:37 p.m. Report of male, leather jacket, standing on French King Bridge. Welfare

check requested. Gone on arrival.

Tuesday, 2/13

7:45 a.m. Two-car accident on Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. No injuries.

12:54 p.m. Medical emergency, Dole Road.

3:36 p.m. Complaint of a green Chevy Impala operating erratically, westbound on Route 2. Negative contact.

5:02 p.m. Fire alarm, Boyle Road. False alarm.

Wednesday, 2/14

5:12 p.m. Passerby reporting loose debris all over Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Owner of debris cleaning up upon arrival.

Friday, 2/16

7:56 a.m. Faxed complaint: faxer's daughter's North Cross Road mailbox was vandalized overnight.

11:05 a.m. License plate found near closed section of Pisgah Mountain Road.

4:02 p.m. Suspicious vehicle, parked for a while on French King Bridge per bridge cameras. Checks okay.

Sunday, 2/18

7:52 p.m. Burglar alarm, NMH post office. False alarm.

Tuesday, 2/20

1:10 p.m. Abandoned motor vehicle, French King Highway and Chase Road.

3 p.m. Illegal dumping, Riverview Drive. Services rendered.

3:37 p.m. Served warrant, French King Highway.

Wednesday, 2/21

12:50 a.m. Investigated suspicious vehicle, French King Bridge.

8:51 a.m. Investigated French King Bridge.

3:21 p.m. Trespassing, Factory Hollow rest area. Services rendered.

Thursday, 2/22

11:15 a.m. Walk-in report of restraining order violation. Services rendered.

4:37 p.m. Motor vehicle accident, Hoe Shop Road. No injuries; report taken.

5:03 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD.

Saturday, 2/24

3:37 p.m. Caller advises her neighbor continues to allow her dog to urinate on caller's vehicle. Report taken.

3:55 p.m. Medical emergency, French King Highway.

Sunday, 2/25

3:53 p.m.: Investigated suspicious vehicle at request of Oak Street caller.

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## Remembering... "The Breakfast Club"

By FRAN HEMOND

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

**MONTAGUE CENTER**—Late February brought seven "hoodies" to the Connecticut River off Unity Park. They are a real favorite, elegant, a little more compact than their cousin mergansers; they were bouncing in the waves of a cold breezy afternoon. Even the gulls had sought sheltered retreats out of the wind. The triangular white hood on the black head, the white breast and rusty tummy give them real distinction.

The girls sport a somber gray coat, but the tufty reddish feathers on their heads and their handsome company give them away as "hoodies". The fairly long sharp merganser bills are fine fish catchers.

Fairly frequently on the river is the Common Goldeneye, the little diving duck that's a flash of white. Their green heads look black and the white spot on their face that gives them their name is not readily apparent from a distance.

Spot them on the canal near the Patch where they come in close to the shore. Here, the iridescent green head and white "eye" can be easily seen as you spot them popping up from their last dive. The girls are gray with a brown head, not as spectacular, but equally agile.

The background flocks of mallards give voice to the waterways. Sometimes they squawk and slip into the water in an annoyed manner when a person stops to view the canal. In the water they dip for their food, although one sunny noon a couple of big drakes were shallow diving and very successfully fishing.

A big gull thought the catch looked like good eating and tried to play robber. So the mallard just dove under again and the gull could not follow.

That lunchtime, most of the Canada Geese were sleeping in the sun. Not so a couple of days later when winter had returned. They were active and noisy, the reason not apparent other than the wintry blast. Much of the canal had been freed of ice, but the few ice floes sailing downstream in the wind were occupied by big black-backed gulls.

The common gulls are ringbilled or herring gulls; the former a little smaller, supposedly a more accomplished flier. If he has a black ring around his bill, he is living up to his name.

The great black-backed gull is also easily identified, but the young brownish gulls have to wait for the white, gray and black pattern that gives their parents distinction. It's worthwhile to check a group of gulls for a stranger, a new species not generally in the area.

Gulls seem at their best soaring in a bright blue sky, with the sun shining through their white wings, their abandon in escaping the practicalities of food and shelter to be envied.

The swans on the river seem imperial at a distance. In their quest for lunch they may tip up and paddle forcefully to get at tasty grass growing low, trading the dignity that gives them charm for food. And again the young birds are without the beauty of their elders. They are ugly ducklings.

Despite the good late winter viewing on the river and canal, my prize was an hour visit of three common mergansers to the North Pond. The open water was bordered by snowy ice. The mergansers walked around in the snow, tested the water, found shelter on the bank.

It was a sunny, calm, day. Everybody was out, the breakfast club in force: juncos, cardinals, titmouse, chickadee and all the black ducks and mallards at their favorite spots among the beaver-cut branches that make good perches near the shore.

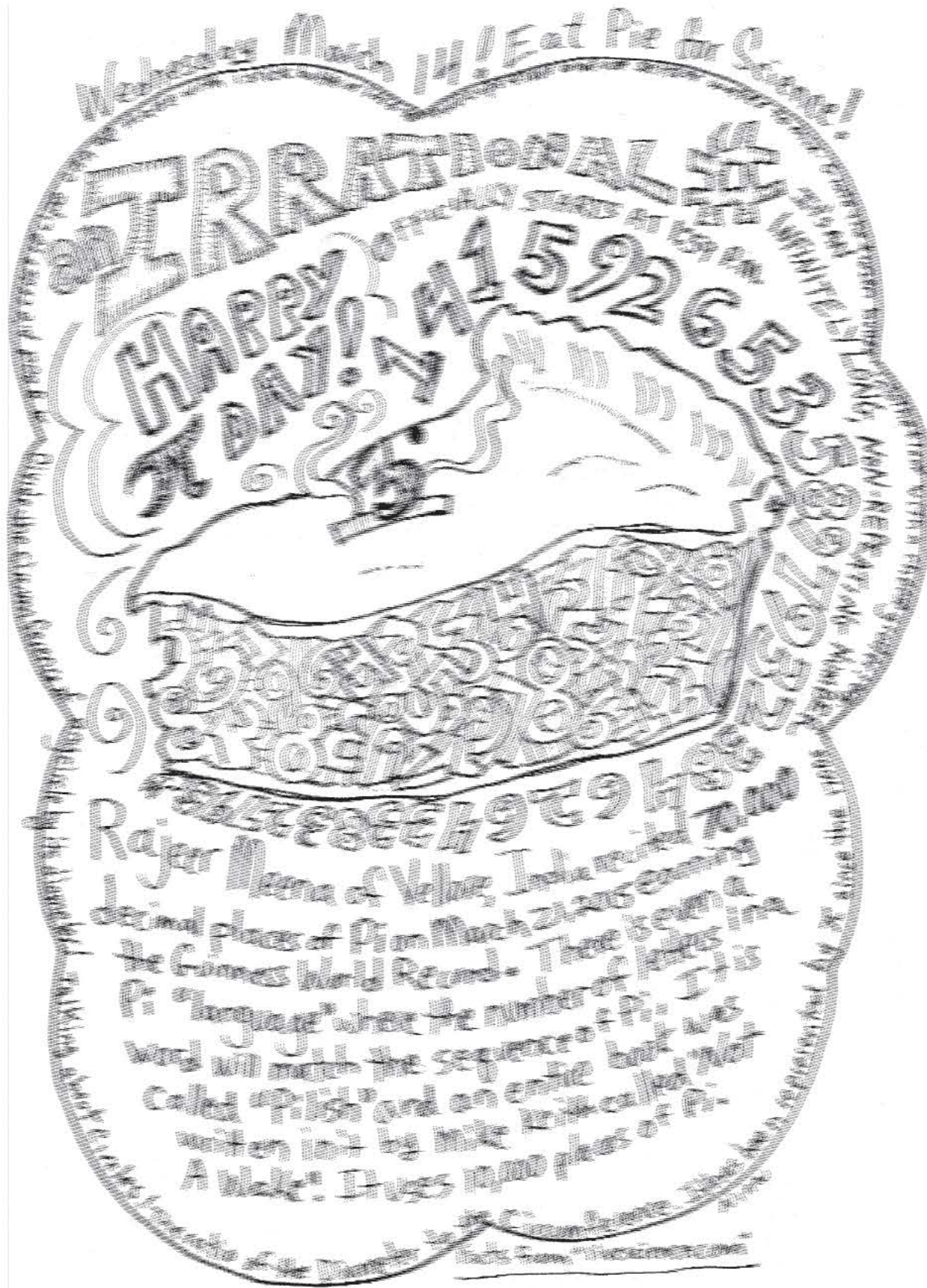
The common mergansers are cousins of Cupcake, the hooded merganser who last year about this time made her first appearance at North Pond.

Subsequently she brought a handsome drake, and their repeated appearances were a delight.

Cupcake nested elsewhere, but one day late in the spring, she came for a brief afternoon visit, time out from babysitting. Perhaps she was with the "hoodies" on the river, and will stop in later.

This day the two merganser drakes, slim and well-tailored, floating low in the water, sported their iridescent green heads and efficient-looking long red merganser bills, while the little gray duck with her tufty, rust-colored head surveyed the situation.

Woods and water and open fields are the great offering of our area, and the little creatures' presence can be a happy extension of our life. - February 24, 2005



## This Saturday: Roller Skating Party!

**HADLEY**—Pioneer Valley Roller Derby (PVRD) is celebrating 12 years of derby in the valley with a public roller skating party at Interskate 91 North in the Hampshire Mall in Hadley.

The skating party will be held at Interskate 91 North this Saturday, March 10 from 7 to 10 p.m. Derby fans will have the opportunity to meet their favorite skaters and support PVRD, as Interskate 91 North will share a portion of the ticket sales for the night with PVRD.

PVRD members have enjoyed

skating at Interskate since the league began and even used to hold practices there.

New PVRD recruit Anja Potter shares, "I joined PVRD just four months ago with no skating experience. I started taking my four-year-old to Interskate almost weekly, and it has been such a great place to first develop some comfort on wheels, practice some skills outside of derby, and share my love of skating with my family in a low-key, fun environment!"

The skating party comes about

a month before the league's season opener on Saturday, April 14 at 296 Nonotuck Street in Florence. The home season dates for 2018 are April 14, May 12, June 16, August 11 and September 15.

Established in 2006, Pioneer Valley Roller Derby is Western Massachusetts' premier flat track roller derby club. PVRD is a member-run non-profit organization, with men's, women's, all-gender, and junior divisions. Visit online at [www.pioneer-valleyrollerderby.com](http://www.pioneer-valleyrollerderby.com) or [facebook.com/PioneerValleyRollerDerby](https://www.facebook.com/PioneerValleyRollerDerby).

## March 17: "Tribute to the King" at Greenfield High School

**GREENFIELD**—Greenfield native Travis LeDoyt, who has been called "the world's best young Elvis," will perform a fundraiser for the music department at his *alma mater* on Saturday, March 17, at 7 p.m.

LeDoyt, whose show is based in Nashville, flawlessly captures the essence of Elvis in his prime, and restricts his shows to the hits and ambience of 1954-69. Utilizing an authentic three-piece Nashville band featuring bass, guitar, lead guitar and drums, LeDoyt takes his audience back to "the good old days." He returns to Greenfield after hundreds of successful shows in the US and around the world, including tours in Canada, the UK, Europe, South America, China, and the Caribbean.

Tickets are \$14 for adults, \$8 for children under 12. On sale at World Eye Book Store, 134 Main Street. Those planning to attend are urged to buy their tickets early in order to insure a good seat. For information call (615) 714-3637. See what the fans are saying at [www.facebook.com/travisledoyt](https://www.facebook.com/travisledoyt).

## March 18: Story Slam at the Leverett Library

**LEVERETT**—The Leverett Library is hosting an open story slam on Sunday, March 18 from 3 to 5 p.m. Co-hosts Steve Adams, the writer and actor known for *Emy* (2004), *Waiting for Forever* (2010), and *No Stranger than Love* (2015), and writer-historian-humorist-blogger Bruce Watson will tell stories and emcee the event.

Members of the public are encouraged to sign up to tell stories, between 5 and 10 minutes long, about true events in their own lives. The format is similar to The Moth ([www.themoth.org](http://www.themoth.org)), minus the competitive aspect.

Storytellers should register ahead with the Library: call (413) 548-9220, email [leverett@cw-mars.org](mailto:leverett@cw-mars.org), or just stop by the library at 75 Montague Road in Leverett to register. The first 12 people to sign up will get to tell their stories; more may be able to perform if time allows.



Hooded mergansers.

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# Aquí se habla español

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



## Masacres en centros educativos del mundo hispanico

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO

El FBI considera que es una masacre si hay más de cuatro muertos provocados por el mismo atacante. Aunque pueda parecer lo contrario, no solamente en Estados Unidos se producen masacres en los centros educativos. También en diferentes países hispanicos se han producido este tipo de ataques en los últimos 20 años.

A continuación voy a enumerar los que se han producido en Latinoamérica y España, causados por un atacante armado y no por causa de la policía. Son los siguientes:

- Valparaíso, Chile, en el año 1999. Un profesor de centro de enseñanza secundaria que llevaba una pistola escondida en una caja de regalo disparó contra el director del centro, otro profesor, y su propia hija. Después intentó suicidarse, aunque no lo consiguió.
- Argentina, Buenos Aires, en el año 2000. Un estudiante abrió fuego contra compañeros de su escuela que le insultaban cada día matando a un compañero e hiriendo a otro. Utilizó un revólver del calibre 22.
- Argentina, Patagones, en el año 2004. Un estudiante de 15 años mató a tres compañeros e hirió a otro. El arma era una pistola de 9 mm que había robado a su padre.
- Tactic, Guatemala, en el año 2012. Un atacante de 35 años asesinó a tres niños con un machete. El agresor fue linchado por la población ofuscada y después le prendieron fuego.
- Barcelona, España, en el año 2015. Un estudiante de 13 años, armado con una ballesta, un cuchillo y varios cocteles Molotov se dirigió a su instituto con una lista de 24 personas a las que quería matar. El atacante mató a un profesor e hirió a cuatro estudi-

antes antes de ser apresado.

- Jocotán, Guatemala, en el año 2015. Un estudiante que estaba siendo abusado sexualmente por un profesor decidió empezar a disparar en su centro de enseñanza y al no encontrar al profesor hirió a tres estudiantes.

- Monterrey, México, en el año 2017. Un estudiante del centro educativo armado con una pistola disparó matando a un estudiante y a una profesora e hirió a dos estudiantes más.

- México D.F., México, en el año 2018. En febrero tuvo lugar un tiroteo en la universidad más grande de Ciudad de México con el resultado de dos muertos. La UNAM afirma que las víctimas no eran estudiantes, pero el arma estaba dentro del recinto universitario. La policía confirmó que se trataba de un ajuste de cuentas entre narcotraficantes de bandas rivales.

Al comprobar la lista se puede ver que aunque han existido algunas masacres en países hispanicos, no tienen el mismo resultado en número de heridos y muertos.

Estados Unidos tiene la cifra más alta de posesión de armas del mundo, el 42% del total de armas mundial. Se considera que en Estados Unidos de cada 100 habitantes, 88 tienen al menos un arma. La tenencia de armas se asocia en Estados Unidos con la libertad individual y es un derecho refrendado por la constitución de 1789.

En casi todos los países hispanicos es complicado comprar un arma legalmente, e incluso imposible en algunos de ellos. Por supuesto, está prohibido para una persona de a pie comprar un rifle del tipo del AR-15. Solamente son usados y están permitidos a los miembros del ejército o cuerpos de seguridad del estado.

## Noticias del mundo hispanico

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO

**Argentina:** El 80% de los campos de cultivo de Argentina está sufriendo una grave sequía que agrava aún más la situación de los mismos cultivos que sufrieron inundaciones el año pasado por estas mismas fechas.

**Bolivia:** El presidente boliviano Evo Morales ha mostrado su rechazo a una nueva ley instituida por el gobierno argentino de Macri que permite cobrar a todos los bolivianos no residentes en Argentina por servicios de salud. En Argentina hasta ahora no era posible ni rechazar, ni cobrar a los solicitantes de tratamientos médicos.

**Chile:** El mes pasado se reabrió de nuevo en Chile el debate sobre la pena de muerte que lleva sin ser ejecutada más de 30 años. La controversia sobre la decisión de la pena capital se ha originado después del brutal crimen perpetrado contra una bebé por su padre.

**Colombia:** La violencia se está adueñando de la campaña electoral en Colombia. El coche del candidato Gustavo Petro fue alcanzado por varios proyectiles de bala en una ciudad cercana a la frontera con Venezuela. Los principales temas de la campaña después de la firma de paz en 2016 han sido educación, salud, empleo y corrupción política.

**Costa Rica:** El próximo 1 de abril tendrá lugar la segunda vuelta de las elecciones presidenciales en este país centroamericano. Además del factor religioso, ya que uno de los candidatos es un conocido ministro evangelista, otro motivo de preocupación es el gran déficit económico que afecta al país en este momento y que se acerca al 50% del PIB.

**Cuba:** El gobierno de Estados Unidos continúa con su decisión de mantener el mínimo personal necesario en su embajada de la Habana. Las razones esgrimidas por el Departamento de Estado estadounidense son los ataques a la salud que han sufrido los empleados de la embajada.

**Ecuador:** El mes pasado se celebró un referéndum que prohíbe la reelección indefinida y por lo tanto altera los planes del expresidente Correa de presentarse a las elecciones de nuevo. Estos resultados fueron considerados como una victoria para los partidarios del actual presidente Lenín Moreno.

**El Salvador:** Liberada una mujer condenada a 30 años de cárcel por abortar después de haber pasado 10 años en prisión. Teodora Vázquez

fue condenada ya que la legislación salvadoreña prohíbe la interrupción del embarazo en cualquier situación. Su liberación se ha producido gracias a la movilización de diferentes ONG.

**Guatemala:** Juan Alberto, presidente de Oxfam Internacional, y el expresidente de Guatemala, Álvaro Colom fueron detenidos el mes pasado acusados de fraude y malversación de fondos ligados al caso Transurbano, el sistema de autobuses de Guatemala.

**Honduras:** Roberto Castillo Mejía fue detenido en el aeropuerto de la capital acusado de asesinar a la activista Berta Cáceres hace dos años. Es la séptima persona detenida por este asesinato. Se cree que Castillo fue el autor intelectual del crimen mientras era directivo de la empresa hidroeléctrica DESA.

**México:** El anuncio de Donald de grabar con nuevos impuestos el acero y el aluminio cayó como un jarro de agua fría entre los negociadores del Tratado de Libre Comercio de América del Norte. Los delegados mexicanos han decidido posponer las negociaciones hasta la celebración de las próximas elecciones en México en julio.

**Nicaragua:** La escritora e investigadora Irene Agudelo ha publicado un nuevo libro sobre la historia de los contras en Nicaragua. El título es Contramemoria discurso e imágenes sobre/desde la Contra y ha creado gran controversia al definir a la Contra como los campesinos y desvelar el papel de la mujer como combatiente.

**Panamá:** Este país ha firmado recientemente un gran acuerdo económico con China. Este hecho se produce meses después de romper relaciones diplomáticas con Taiwan. El puerto de Colón en Panamá distribuirá toneladas de mercancías provenientes de China a Sudamérica y Norteamérica.

**Paraguay:** Una joven artista paraguaya es la encargada de diseñar botas especiales para el famoso futbolista argentino, Lionel Messi. Lilian Cantero, que vive en Asunción, le hizo llegar sus creacio-



nes hasta Barcelona y al futbolista le gustaron tanto que ya le ha hecho otros pedidos.

**Perú:** Jorge Barata, que fue presidente de Odebrecht en Perú, declaró que había aportado dinero negro a las campañas de cinco candidatos peruanos, entre ellos Fujimori y Ollanta Humala.

**Puerto Rico:** La representante de Puerto Rico ante el Congreso de los Estados Unidos, Jennifer González, pidió a los representantes que trabajaran en el restablecimiento de la electricidad en la isla ya que los habitantes de Puerto Rico estaban perdiendo todas sus esperanzas en el gobierno federal.

**República Dominicana:** El Ministerio de la Salud dominicano tiene un nuevo plan para acabar con la malaria que hace estragos en esa zona del Caribe. Se trata de diagnosticar y dar un tratamiento a los afectados antes de 48 horas para evitar que la enfermedad se propague.

**Uruguay:** El ejército de Uruguay se dispone a la caza masiva de ranas toro. Es una especie que fue introducida desde los Estados Unidos y aunque no es venenosa se ha convertido en una amenaza para otras especies.

**Venezuela:** El gobierno venezolano anunció el retraso de las elecciones que debían celebrarse en abril hasta el próximo 20 de mayo. Algunos analistas ven este retraso como una intención de incluir a los candidatos de la oposición.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## ONGOING EVENTS: EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

## FIRST SUNDAY MONTHLY

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

## EVERY MONDAY

Greenfield Harmony Spring Session. No auditions. 6:45 p.m. Contact [mcb Brass@vermontel.net](mailto:mcb Brass@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:

Art Garden, Shelburne Falls: *Great and Small*. Community art exhibit about the creatures we love. Closing Reception Saturday April 14 at 6 p.m. Through April.

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. Through March 31.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Rodney Madison*. Recent work by local painter with an exuberant style. Through April.

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

Leverett Library: *Potpourri* Paintings by artist Louise Minks of Leverett. Through March.



*Mt. Toby Meetinghouse Concert Series presents Sam Gleaves and Tyler Hughes on Saturday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m. The duo play old-time country music and newly written songs from the Appalachian mountains. Both natives of southwest Virginia, Sam and Tyler learned their craft from the finest traditional musicians of the region. Suggested donation \$10 to \$25. Reservations advised: contact (413) 336-2589.*

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. Through March 9.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Recent Work: Artspace Pastel Studio*. Artists from Rebecca Clark's pastel studio exhibit work with their mentor in the pastel medium. Through April.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne: *Our Vanishing Wild*. Watercolor portraits by Maureen Moore of endangered species. Through April.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Sweet*. Member's exhibit with work on a "sweet" theme. Glass, fiber, ceramics, wood, paint etc. Through March.

Smith College Greenhouses, Northampton: *Spring Bulb Show*. A spectacular array of blossoming crocuses, hyacinths, narcissi, irises, lilies and tulips provide an early glimpse of spring. The suggested donation is \$5. Through March 18.

Whately Library, Whately: *Winter Light: Art Exhibit*. Handmade paper scrolls and origami lanterns

by Sheryl Jaffe in the Muse Cafe. Through March 24.

## EVENTS:

### THURSDAY, MARCH 8

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Green Mountain Playboys*. 8 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Original Cowards with The Feldons*. Rock and some roll, soul, blues, punk from a distance, and

Discovery Center.

Stone Church, Brattleboro, VT: *Gary Higgins, Allysen Callery, Sunburned Hand of the Man, and Bridge of Flowers*. Psychedelia, folk and rock. 7 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *River Rhapsody*. Folk, rock, country, blues and soul. 8 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Flux Capacitors*. New and wildly addicting sound resonating with elements of rock, improvisation and electronica. 10 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Spero Plays Nyro*. A heartfelt tribute to the music of Laura Nyro featuring Christine Spero (piano & vocal), Elliot Spero (saxes & percussion), Scott Petito (bass) and Peter O'Brien (drums). 7:30 p.m. \$

### SATURDAY, MARCH 10

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Briodal March*. Silverthorne Theater Companies first annual Faux Wedding Extravaganza. "Four Weddings and No Funeral" is the theme of the evening as guests are asked to attend as someone attending a real wedding reception: think Bridezilla, the Maid-of-Dis-Honor, The Not-the-Best Man, The Annoying Photographer or even The Perfectly Respectable Wedding Guest! Wedding cake by Franklin County Technical school culinary students. Buffet, dancing, and original musical theater comedy. Reservations: (413) 768-7514. 5 p.m. \$

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *A Night of Theater with the FCTS Players*. See Friday's listing for details. 6:30 p.m. \$

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Montague Common Hall Open Mic Night #22*. Adam Braunschweig headlines. Open mic in a beautiful space and friendly environment. 7 p.m. Donation.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Anti-Cosmos, SQRM, Brujo, O.D., and Human Ignorance*. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Pistoleros*. Outlaw country dance party. 8:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Dub Apocalypse, Total Collision, and I-Ganic Sound System*. Dub, reggae, hip-hop, funk bands. 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dave Bartley's Jazz Bomb*, all-out jazz. 9:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 11

Leverett Library: *Pen and Ink Workshop with Bill Rathbun*. Supplies provided; registration required. Free. 1 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Apple Corps Mapping Walk*. Survey the green spaces downtown and create a map of what plants already exist, and where we could plant more, using smart phone apps to add data to a collective map. Use of phone not required for this walk. 1 p.m.

### MONDAY, MARCH 12

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *World Eaters Monday Residency #2 with Hung Trucker and Frozen Corn*. Greenfield-based *World Eaters* play polyrhythmic psych-punk with horns. *Hung Trucker* plays Mud Lightning Metal in

the tradition of Danny Monster Cruz. *Frozen Corn* are Anthony Pasquarosa, Joshua Burkett and Chris Carlton. 8 p.m. \$

### THURSDAY, MARCH 15

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half-Shaved Jazz*. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Pinedrop, House Sparrow, and Lexi Weege*. 8 p.m. \$

### FRIDAY, MARCH 16

The Brick House, Turners Falls: *Youth Art Exhibit and Open Mic*. Family friendly, snacks, public open mic. 5 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Four Rivers Charter School Presents Godspell*. Musical. 7 p.m. Repeats Saturday March 17 at 2 and 7 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Big Takeover and Shokazoba* to perform world and fusion funk. 8:30 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ragged Blue*. Acoustic folk and Americana. 9:30 p.m.

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**COLLIDER** from page B1  
non-profit organization here in Massachusetts, as well as bringing together musicians and audiences who mightn't otherwise meet.

The beneficiary of this event, the Pioneer Valley Workers Center located in Northampton, works with low-wage and immigrant workers all over Western Massachusetts, as well as offering support for women, people of color and other oppressed groups. They seek to build community, organize and advocate for a wide variety of worker-related issues – both locally and on a national level. Due to the current administration's change in regard to immigrant status and deportation, the Center has also brought necessary focus and effort to laborers who have been detained or are seeking sanctuary.

The joyful collision of two forms of world music makes for a great night of music and dancing. In this Collider event, La Parranda El Clavo performs Venezuelan Afro-Soul music.

Betsayda Machado, the band's leader, has been heralded as the new queen of this genre. The word, "parranda," means party and refers to the local custom of musicians singing poems depicting daily life in their village.

They were featured on National Public Radio's Tiny Desk concert as recently as February 16. Watch a performance here: [npr.org/event/music/585105879/betsayda-machado-y-parranda-el-clavo-tiny-desk-concert](http://npr.org/event/music/585105879/betsayda-machado-y-parranda-el-clavo-tiny-desk-concert).

**T-RUMP**



by denis f. bordeaux

The other group performing is Kotoko Brass. Imagine what happens when you fuse the up-tempo drum music of West Africa with the brass band sounds of New Orleans, Ghana, Benin, and Nigeria.

Then throw in the Peace & Rhythm DJs playing their music between sets, and you end up with a night spanning musical concepts leapfrogging from one continent to another in sound and interpretation.

The Williamsburg Grange Hall provides a great venue for this "collision." The stage sits above a nice dance area. And for those interested in learning more about the non-profit aspect of the event and who want to network, or for others just wanting to meet and talk, there is the space downstairs that's open for such activity.

Networking and organizing folks is a primary goal of the Pioneer Valley Workers Center. An essential component of the PVWC are the worker committees, made up of worker/advocates from Northampton and Springfield. These volunteers meet regularly and have direct input into the staff's direction and activities.

Since the local labor community, particularly restaurant workers and farm laborers, are made up of a large cross-section of immigrants, combining workers' rights and the rights of immigrants was natural choice of focus for the Pioneer Valley Workers Center.

A major project of the PVWC is Sanctuary in the Streets. This volunteer network of over 2000 people meet once a month to discuss current

issues and methods of addressing them. They maintain a 24-hour hotline, run by bilingual volunteers, who are available to answer questions related to detention or other matters of concern to immigrants. They also have a ride share program to provide transportation to events or legal hearings and offer childcare and food distribution. Finally, they have created a Solidarity Fund for those who have been detained to provide legal aid or to pay for the bonds for those being held.

How appropriate it is to have La Parranda El Clavo, a group of musicians that includes three cocoa farming brothers, a mother and son, and the lead singer's sister, all coming from a little village in the jungle outside of Caracas, come and play for the benefit of a center devoted to

helping migrant laborers.

And, in addition, Kotoko Brass, a group made up of musicians from Ghana, Antigua, Japan and the United States combining the energy of West African drumming with invigorating brass band sounds.

Mor is planning to do more Collider events, with the next one scheduled for June 8. At this time the details of where it will be held and what kind of music will be played are still in the works.

The upcoming March 17 event will be well-attended, so get your tickets ASAP – as mentioned, the last Collider event sold out. For tickets, go to [eventbrite.com/event/world-music-collider-betsayda-machado-kotoko-brass-tickets-41829423933](http://eventbrite.com/event/world-music-collider-betsayda-machado-kotoko-brass-tickets-41829423933).



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