



# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 16 – NO. 24

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 5, 2018

## LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

### Leverett School Committee, Fin Com Clash, But Hash Out a Compromise

By MIKE JACKSON

Tensions over the Leverett Elementary school budget came to a head Tuesday night during a standing-room-only hearing at town hall. As the town's tax rate approaches its legal limit of \$25 per \$1,000 in property value, the finance committee has attempted to cap each department's growth at 1.5% this year. But the school committee, administration, and parents protested that such a cap would require cuts which would damage the quality of education offered at the school, and in turn hurt property values.

In the end, fin com member Ann Delano brokered a compromise deal to close the \$45,000 gap between the capped figure and the school's FY'19 request.

The budget working group recommended \$25,780 be allocated from the general budget, and a special article to "raise and appropriate" an additional \$20,000 go before town meeting, with an explanation that in future years the



JACKSON PHOTO

*Town meeting will be asked to approve a "one-time" patch for the elementary school.*

school would need to find alternative sources for that revenue.

The hearing was prefaced with a presentation by fin com chair Tom Powers about the absolute limits to Leverett's ability to tax its residents. At \$21.05 per \$1,000, Leverett is among the state's highest 7% of municipalities; as the town approaches its legal ceiling, fluctuations in its total property valuation threaten to

trigger mandatory cuts.

Growth in property values has been sluggish for nearly a decade, and Powers estimated that unless it picks up, the town would only be able to sustain 2% to 3% budget growth by seeing 10 half-million-dollar houses built each year – a strategy that would only buy the town a decade, given that there are

see LEVERETT page A5

## MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

### Town May Knock Down Eight Of Ten Remaining Strathmore Buildings

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Strathmore Mill complex, once viewed as central to the revitalization of downtown Turners Falls, appears to be headed for nearly total demolition. At its April 2 meeting, the Montague selectboard awarded the engineering firm Tighe & Bond a contract to produce "bid-ready plans" to demolish all the Strathmore buildings except for the free-standing Building 11, still slated for redevelopment, and Building 9, which is owned by a power company called Turners Falls Hydro.

The \$115,000 study, which is

being financed by federal Community Development Block Grant funds, will also evaluate the cost of, and produce plans for, hazardous waste abatement once the factory is demolished.

The study was originally envisioned to research the feasibility of "partial" demolition, based on the viability of each of the complex's 10 remaining buildings. (Building 10 burned to the ground in 2007.) But the request for proposals (RFP) the town issued last month designated eight buildings for demolition as the basis for the study.

see MONTAGUE page A7

### 8 Vie For 4 School Committee Seats

By REPORTER STAFF

GILL-MONTAGUE – Residents will go to the polls May 21 to fill four seats on the district's school committee, and as of the deadline on Monday, eight candidates had turned in their nomination paperwork.

In Montague, Michael Langknecht, who temporarily filled a seat vacated by Marjorie Levenson last year, will be challenged for a one-year term by former school committee member Joyce Phillips.

Neither Christina Postera nor Lesley Cogswell is seeking re-election to Montague's two three-year seats, but four residents have thrown in their hats: Haley Anderson, Jennifer Lively, Christopher Pinar, and Heather Poirier.

And in Gill, school committee chair Valeria "Timmie" Smith faces a challenge for her three-year seat from Robert Whittier.

Owing to space constraints, we reached out to the candidates for "single sentence" statements as to why

see GMRSD page A8

### Nurses Call New One-Day Strike

By SHEA FERAL

GREENFIELD – The nurses at Baystate Franklin Medical Center (BFMC) have reissued their one-day strike notice to Baystate Health. The strike is planned to begin at 7 a. m. on Wednesday, April 11, and end at 7 a. m. on Thursday.

The nurses had postponed a strike planned for February 28 after Baystate Health agreed to prompt bargaining dates. During the last month, according to the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA), the two parties "reached compromises on some issues, including health insurance, but Baystate refused to make any commitments on real improvements to RN staffing and patient care."

According to Baystate spokesperson Shelly Hazlett, "Baystate will remain open and operational during the strike."

"Baystate Franklin has contracted with a professional staffing agency to provide nurses for multiple

see NURSES page A4

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE – This May 21, Montague voters will decide whether to allow the town to borrow up to \$11.15 million to pay for the construction of a new highway department garage on Turners Falls Road. The debt exclusion vote comes after last week's special town meeting, where members debated the proposed project extensively but ultimately approved it by a two-thirds majority.

The garage is estimated to cost

residential taxpayers an additional \$75 per year on every \$100,000 in property value, and commercial taxpayers \$115 per year. Proposition 2½ requires a townwide vote to exclude the associated debt service from the Montague's levy limit.

The special town meeting opened with a 20-minute presentation by Ken Morin of the public works facility planning committee, explaining how the proposal, with its acknowledged large price tag, came about. The current garage, over 70 years

see GARAGE page A7

## OBITUARY

### Suzy Polucci (1955-2018)

ERVING – Suzy Polucci, 63, of Erving, MA died at home Tuesday evening, March 27, following a rapid decline due to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Dozens of loving friends participated in round-the-clock care since her diagnosis in mid-February.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THOMAS REYNOLDS

In December, while experiencing puzzling symptoms, Suzy wrote to a close friend: "I feel fragile and mortal, and I want to marry all my friends and never let them go." We did not want to let you go, Suze. You are always in our hearts.

Born February 2, 1955, in Bradford, PA, the daughter of Veronica A. "Bonnie" (Vigliotti) and John J. Polucci, Suzy attended Bradford Area High School and Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, majoring in anthropology.

Moving to Franklin County in the early 1980s, Suzy participated in a wide variety of community and creative projects. Throughout her brilliant career in live theater, she excelled as a writer, director, actor, comic, and satirist, creating highly entertaining, political, and educational performances in solo shows and with several ensembles, including Blue Angel Arts and Thin Ice Theater. Her wildly popular "TED talk" combined hilarity with information regarding neurological functions of the human brain.

Active in local food co-ops, she served as general manager of the Montague Food Co-op (which later became the Franklin Community Co-op). Subsequently, she served as its board president. Her commitment and humor are evident in the documentary "Food for

see POLUCCI page A3

## BACK TO THE GARDEN



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

*Two gnomes look on as a third frolics in front of a green screen at the FastLights studio in the former St. Anne's church in Turners Falls last Saturday. The gnomes had answered a call for a "Fairy TV Workshop" hosted by the Lovelight Sisters, who were filming a pilot for a local television show. FastLights employees volunteered their time to help with the shoot.*

# The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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Printing of this edition was made possible by a generous donation by a member of the *Montague Reporter's* own board of directors. Thank you! – Staff

## An Early Setback

Last night about 11 o'clock, the villagers were almost panic stricken by the sounding of an alarm of fire from the Keith gong, it being at once understood that one of the mills was on fire. The watchman of the Keith mill had just made his tour of the building when he discovered smoke....

The fire had caught in the paper shavings probably, and the flames shot up through the paper shavings spout to the finishing room in an instant, and from thence by way of the elevator to the drying lofts, taking up the rooms full of paper on the poles like so much gunpowder, and spreading instantly throughout the entire mill.

The fire department connected with the mill was promptly at work, the sprinklers were in operation, and the mill pumps and the Montague no. 1 pumps were all throwing streams, while the Crocker engine was very promptly at work and threw two powerful streams ceaselessly from 11 o'clock till 3, when she had worn out two boxes from hard work.

But with all the promptness, it was early seen that there was no hope of saving the mill, even though a hundred streams were available to pour upon the flames. Mr. Keith directed the firemen to use their efforts to save the detached buildings, and they succeeded in saving without damage the office and stock house, and the machine room was partially saved, while the two magnificent machines, worth about \$20,000 each, were saved from entire destruction by a constant flood of water.

At two o'clock the Greenfield hand engine and the Eagle hose company came over on a special train, and a strong stream was thrown constantly for the remainder of the night, the Greenfield boys working like beavers, every man of them.

As we go to press the fire is smouldering between the blackened and crumbling walls of the main building, and not a wall stands that can be used in rebuilding, except perhaps the upper end, with gong tower and the chimney.

The loss of this magnificent mill is a serious blow to this village, throwing out of employment as it does three hundred well paid operatives. The mill was built in 1872 at a cost of over \$400,000, and was considered the finest structure for the purpose, in the world. The main building was 170 by 45 feet, and five stories high, and had a capacity for five tons of paper per day.

Fortunately the mill and stock, "raw, wrought and in process" was fairly insured, being for \$200,000, although the loss must be considerably above this sum.

President Keith feels keenly his severe loss, having started the enterprise when business was in its most depressed state, just before the panic in the fall of 1873, but through his splendid management and hard work, he has made a world-wide reputation for his fine writing papers, and struggling against a heavy and continuous tide of business depression he has not only established himself as the leading fine paper manufacturer of this country, but has the satisfaction of having made his company financially successful to a gratifying degree, having had among other large contracts one from the government for \$100,000 worth of ledger papers the present year.

The mill will certainly be rebuilt, but now long before it will again be running it is impossible to say at present.

– *Turners Falls Reporter*, November 7, 1877

(The Keith mill, now known as the Strathmore, was rebuilt, bigger and better, by April 1878, and has stood for another 140 years.)

## CORRECTION

Loyal reader Michael Naughton notified us that we got two names wrong in our coverage last week of a political strategy session for school districts held at Greenfield Community College (March 29, *Rural Schools Prepare for Funding Fight*, page A1).

Michele "Caruso" of the HEART committee was actually Michele Giarusso. (She also sits on the Leyden fin com.)

And Sue "O'Reilly" of HEART, and the Warwick school committee, should have been Sue O'Reilly-McRae.

Apologies all around. And thanks, Michael!

Advertising and copy deadline is **MONDAY at NOON.**

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Pema and Oona, of Turners Falls, were among hundreds of people who showed up for the Easter egg hunt at Unity Park on Saturday. (Distracted by 5,000 plastic eggs with prizes inside, nobody noticed as a giant slug slimed its way into town.)

## Letters to the Editors

### Motto-Correction

Thank you for printing the wonderful article about the Red Fire North store. (*Montague Reporter* 3/29/18, "Go Fresh and Local: Farm Store Opens on Route 63.") I am writing to make a correction to a slight typo that carries a big difference in meaning.

The article states that the Red Fire North Motto is "Food that sustains the people of the planet."

Our motto is actually: "Food that Sustains.... The People & The Planet". There is a big difference in meaning...

The Red Fire North Farm Store's existence is a result of a profound realization that humans, in the process of feeding ourselves, are having a devastating impact on the environment.

Many of our agricultural practices result in polluted water, eroded land, unsafe foods and release of huge amounts of climate chang-

ing greenhouse gasses. Our fishing practices have decimated whole species of fish and destroy, in many instances, the habitats that support fish. Meaning that the species that we prize are becoming functionally extinct.

At Red Fire North we seek to provide foods that have a less destructive impact on the environment that all life depends on. Red Fire Farm follows Certified Organic Methods because Organic practices have been shown to have less damaging impacts on the environment.

At the store we are using returnable/recyclable/compostable containers; our cellophane packaging (when packaging is needed) is compostable with all other biodegradable materials. We compost other degradable waste onsite or in the compost heap at one of the home farms in town. We offer Certified Organic products when they are available.

And when our kitchen becomes fully operational, we will produce a wide variety of baked goods and other prepared foods made from local produce with simple techniques that are offered with minimal, reusable, packaging.

Our refrigeration and other systems are designed to recover waste heat. Our greenhouse area captures solar heat that supplements the main building heating system.

We provide the food, and the information about food, to make it easy for food eaters to learn how to create a personal diet that not only is good for the health of the planet, but also is good for the health of the eater.

That is... Food that Sustains... The People & The Planet.

Thanks,

**Paul Voiland**  
Montague Center

## Caution to Nurses A Helpful Offer

I worked as a nurse for 50 years – the last 35 in the ER – retiring in 2010. I also worked in twelve hospitals coast to coast as a travel nurse. I fought for better working conditions for nurses, and strove for more compassionate care for patients nearly my entire career.

I'm not sure I ever worked in a "safe" environment. Hospital census and patient care needs are as unpredictable as the weather and can change as rapidly. Hospitals put back-up plans into place for all kinds of situations; they are as imperfect as the workers themselves.

You want better working conditions, I get it; the citizenry wants and needs available medical care provided by a local hospital.

In an overambitious pursuit to improve patient care and your working conditions, be mindful you may be undermining, and subsequently destroying that which you hope to sustain.

Mary Kay Mattiace  
Montague

Dear sir/madam:

Very glad to contact with you!

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Best regards,

Mr. shen  
(no address given)

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

Sheryl Faye, a **historical female actress and performer**, will present two free shows this Friday, April 6 in Erving. At 1:30 p.m., Faye will perform as Sally Ride, the first woman astronaut, at the Erving Elementary School, 28 Northfield Road. Ride's insatiable curiosity leads to a passion for science.

Starting at 7 p.m., she will portray Eleanor Roosevelt, the First Lady of the World and one of the top ten most admired people of the 20th century, at the senior and community center at 34 Northfield Road.

These events are sponsored by the Friends of the Library, the elementary school PTO, and the Erving Historical Commission. Refreshments will be available for sale.

The **Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center** will meet the public at the Turners Falls Branch of Greenfield Savings Bank all Saturday morning, April 7, from 9 a.m. to noon. The Friends have a wealth of information to share regarding the amazing museum that welcomes all who enter the town of Montague crossing the Connecticut River.

The exhibits at the Discovery Center show the natural, cultural, and industrial history of the Connecticut River watershed. Let the Friends acquaint you with the wonderful programs scheduled for the month of April – and especially the upcoming school vacation week – along with a peek at summer events.

You and your children can get involved in the entertaining, educational and fun events the Friends and Massachusetts DCR have planned. You might even see a fossil or two along with a few more surprises! Light refreshments will be provided courtesy of the bank.

Also this Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the **New England**

**Pinball League** will hold their annual tournament finals at Mystic Pinball, 104 Avenue A in Turners Falls. The arcade has been holding NEPL club nights on Tuesdays, and new machines have arrived for the tournament.

Mystic will be open to the public this Friday from 5 to 9 p.m., Saturday from 6 to 9 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m., but closed for public play during the tournament itself.

The Montague Congregational Church, at 4 North Street, is having its **77th Annual Sugar on Snow Supper** on Saturday, April 7, at 5:30 p.m. The menu includes corned beef hash, baked beans, Harvard beets, coleslaw, homemade bread, and donuts. Maple Syrup will be provided by Ripley Farms.

Meals cost \$12 for adults and \$5 for children. To make a reservation, please call (413) 863-2398. Seating is limited, and walk-ins will be seated as space allows.

**"Immigrant Voices: A Celebration of Arts"** returns for its third year at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls this Sunday, April 8 at 3 p.m. The event showcases immigrants' artistic contributions to our western Massachusetts community.

This year, *Gokh-Bi System*, a well-known Senegalese band that combines hip hop with traditional West African music, and members of *Viva Quetzal*, a Massachusetts-based Latin-fusion band, join Center for New Americans' students, alumni, and friends on stage. The event also welcomes back *Grupo Folklorico Tradiciones*, the dance troupe featuring Latina staff members of the Amherst Regional Public Schools.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased in advance at [cnam.org/immigrant-voices](http://cnam.org/immigrant-voices), through the Shea website, [sheatheater.org](http://sheatheater.org); or at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com). They will also be available at the door.

The Turners Falls High School guidance and counseling department will host a **College Admissions Night** on Monday, April 9, at 6 p.m. in the high school library at 222 Turnpike Road, Turners Falls. The event is free and open to all area students and their families.

It is especially important for the current juniors and their families to attend. This seminar is offered through MEFA, the Commonwealth's authority on planning, saving, and paying for college. A MEFA representative will provide an overview of college admissions, including building a college list, the application process, and trends in college admissions. Guidance counselors will also be available for questions.

The Franklin County Bar Association will offer **free legal advice** to the public on April 9, from 5 to 7 p.m. Call (413) 773-9839 to have Bar Association members to answer your questions about the law and your rights. The Ask-An-Attorney program is a public service of the Bar Association.

Western Massachusetts residents can also receive free legal advice on Thursday, April 12, through the Bar Association's semi-annual Dial-A-Lawyer call-in program. Volunteer lawyers from the MBA will field calls at (413) 782-1659 from 4 to 7 p.m. from residents of Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties who have legal concerns or problems.

Both call-in programs are offered at no charge as a public service of the Bar Association.

A public meeting regarding the **planters in downtown Turners Falls** will take place in the downstairs meeting room of the Montague town hall at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 12.

The initial focus of the meeting will be supporting the businesses and people already stewarding planters. The discussion will also cover increasing available resources, and volunteer participation. Planter coordinator Owen Wormser and RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto will be on hand to share information and answer questions.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Frank-

lin County will host **Bowl for Kids' Sake**, the mentoring organization's biggest annual fundraiser, on Saturday, April 14 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the French King Entertainment Center in Erving.

The 51-year-old, donor-funded organization challenges mentors to mentees, their friends and families, business people, community leaders, and others who may not have time to mentor but support Big Brothers Big Sisters' mission to join them, and start something to change the life of a child forever.

Bowl for Kids' Sake's 2018 theme is *Star Wars: Be the Force for Us!* Costumes are not mandatory, but are encouraged. For further information see [www.bbbs-fc.org](http://www.bbbs-fc.org) or call (413) 772-0915.

The Our Lady of Peace Women's Group will be hosting their 4th annual **"Stash Bash"** in the church hall on Seventh Street in Turners Falls next Saturday, April 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

More than 25 vendors will be selling their new and used sewing and crafting materials at bargain prices. Breakfast pastries, sandwiches, coffee, tea, and soft drinks will be available. All are welcome.

Nothing says fun – and mud – more than the annual **River Rat Race** from Athol to Orange. It's a complete weekend, April 14 and 15, of amateur and professional canoe races, a 5k road race, a parade, a carnival, live television, pub parties, and a bunch of family events.

The amateur river race on Saturday the 14th is open to anyone. Check the website for a full schedule and entry deadlines at [www.RiverRatRace.com](http://www.RiverRatRace.com).

Check out the **new RiverCulture website!** There is more direct information on the home page, including links to restaurants, Unity Park, the Shea Theater, and the Great Falls Discovery Center, plus information about the Turners Falls Cultural District and outdoor attractions.

Coming soon: a listing of art-related shops, galleries, and public art.

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

## POLUCCI from page A1

Co-op for several years.

Suzy cultivated many varieties of flowers and vegetables. She also helped develop and maintain community gardens in Greenfield and Turners Falls, always accepting leadership roles and inspiring other participants. She enjoyed providing, with unparalleled flair, floral arrangements for friends' ceremonies and receptions.

She delighted in fellow artists, including poets, spoken word performers, musicians, dancers, jugglers, fire eaters, mimes, painters, sculptors, and anyone who brings beauty and wonder to our world. They were her tribe.

A lifelong activist, Suzy devoted boundless energy to a broad array of progressive political issues and movements. She also contributed enthusiastically at her places of employment. Her fascinating employment history is too lengthy to describe in its entirety, yet it must be said that wherever she worked, Suzy brought encouragement and innovation.

At the Mediation & Training

Collaborative, Suzy helped people of all ages learn to solve conflicts constructively. She was the peer mediation coordinator at Greenfield High School, and created trainings for the long-running Peacemakers' Summit, an annual conference for hundreds of school-age peer mediators from across Massachusetts.

Suzy's last career was as an educator with the Center for Community Resilience after Trauma (CCRT), supporting people recovering from psychological trauma.

She maintained a huge collection of gorgeous, zany costumes, which she donned with astonishing creativity, infusing her communities with inimitable style. She delighted friends and fans by arriving at homes, offices, and public places dressed as Cupid, an angel, a flower fairy, and many other characters and beings.

Suzy often said that love was her religion. Her deeply authentic spirituality honored many traditions and practices, incorporating those she found helpful and leaving the rest behind. In her final weeks, her home was filled with Goddess songs, Na-

tive American chants, and other prayers, incantations, and dances consistent with Suzy's eclectic beliefs. Shortly before her death, a dear friend chanted the Heart Sutra, a Buddhist prayer. In accordance with relatives' wishes, a Catholic priest administered last rites.

A circle of intimate friends laid Suzy to rest within hours of her passing, in keeping with her desire for a "green burial." Friends prepared the site in advance by clearing the land, removing stumps, and digging her grave by hand. Another friend provided a beautiful homemade shroud.

Suzy entered her repose accompanied by compost from her favorite farm, and plants from her own gardens. Each aspect of her passing and burial was in accordance with her desire for actions based in community, love, and authenticity.

Suzy is survived by her family of cherished friends from the Pioneer Valley and around the world. She helped raise several fabulous children as a "co-madre" and chosen auntie. If we were to list all of the people she treasured, it would

take up the entire newspaper. If you loved Suzy, she loved you back. You know who you are.

Other survivors include four siblings and their families: sister Mary and husband David Goodman of Los Angeles, CA; brother John, Jr. and wife Nancy of Overland, KS; sister Judith Berg of Bradford, PA; brother Anthony "Louie" and wife Jeane of Bradford, PA; six nieces and nephews, and several cousins.

The Suzy Care Team wishes to thank the compassionate nurses and health aides from the bottoms of our hearts. You made it possible for our dear one to die peacefully in the home she loved.

Memorial contributions to honor Suzy's life and work may be made to Tapestry Health, or to the Southern Poverty Law Center. A celebration of Suzy's life will be held this spring.

Not even the world's longest obituary could adequately honor Suzy's loving heart and her genius. Her community is in deep mourning following our loss, and deep joy for having known her. Rest in peace, Flower Fairy. We love you forever.



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*Week ending March 30:*

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**Grade 7**  
Alex Sulda  
Corin Wisnewski

**Grade 8**  
Maria Romashka

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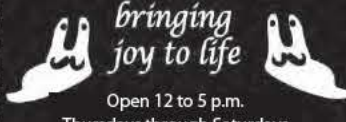
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## NURSES from page A1

days to ensure safe and quality care," she explained.

When BFMC nurses held a one-day strike last June, Baystate responded similarly, countering with a 72-hour lockout of the union nurses and bringing in temporary nurses to replace them. The hospital had planned a similar lockout for the February strike.

"The MNA leadership's decision to subject the local Greenfield community to a strike in the name of patient care is disheartening and disingenuous," said Hazlett, who added that the company's "priority is the welfare and safety of patients and we will continue providing safe, quality, and uninterrupted care to our community."

Donna Stern, a registered nurse and co-chair of the MNA bargaining committee, detailed the reasons that she feels the two parties have not yet settled on a contract.

"It's important to understand that Baystate in particular, in addition to Berkshire Medical Center, has some of the worst staffing in the state of Massachusetts," she said. "They only want to do a one-time hire, and they don't want to formally agree to never go below a minimum again... They want the power to diminish staffing, or improve staffing, at their whim."

According to Stern and the

union's press release, another large issue revolves around the way the hospital employs charge nurses, who generally oversee a specific department and coordinate patient care within that department. The MNA argues that giving charge nurses patient assignments on top of their support roles hampers patient care at Baystate Franklin.

"BFMC nurses are seeking a commitment," the MNA wrote, "that in the emergency department, the oncology unit, the medical surgical/telemetry and intensive care units that the charge nurses be without patient assignment throughout their shift to effectively coordinate care and help as needed."

The nurses say they are seeking clear language from Baystate to mitigate workload, arguing that "if [the charge nurses'] patient assignments are eliminated or reduced but their fellow nurses have even heavier patient assignments, the problems nurses have identified for years will worsen."

"The number one core problem is that we have significant staffing problems," said Stern. "We are chronically short-staffed. That is not normal... This is part of a corporate health care agenda... and so it's a chronic problem across the state."

The MNA contends that "[b]ecause of chronic short staffing, nurses are working while exhaust-

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ed." They report that in the last year at BFMC, there were "2,885 shifts of 12 hours or more, and 486 shifts of 13 hours or more" worked at the hospital, stating also that "[s]hifts longer than 12 hours are against national best nurse practices."

Baystate claims that they have offered reasonable and fair terms to the MNA. Hazlett states that "[i]n our most recent offer, Baystate Franklin clearly addressed the MNA's highest priority issues: staffing, wages and health insurance.

"We have made considerable adjustments in our position on these

major issues in order to reach a fair agreement. This includes clear, documented commitments around staffing and solutions that are consistent with those accepted by the MNA at other locations."

The BFMC nurses and their supporters will hold a "patient safety vigil" on the Greenfield town common from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 5 to discuss the conditions faced by nurses and patients at the hospital, and discuss the improvements the nurses say they want to see in their contract with Baystate Health.



## GUEST EDITORIAL

## By The People:

## S.O.S. (Stop Outrageous Spending)

By JEANNE GOLRICK

This is the first in a series of articles on the topic of outrageous spending habits by those in charge of the governing for the Town of Montague. This series was born out of the current plan to have the people in this town spend over 11 million hard-earned dollars on a single proposed new facility for the town highway department.

I was formerly a long-standing, actively participating, member of town meeting, until I could no longer agree with the deficient procedures and rationalization that continually pervades that body politic. Each article I submit in the current series will present some often raised, but seemingly unheard, thoughts by people about how the political system regulates them.

I wish to raise true critical thinking not just about this particular issue – although it is the focus of S.O.S. – but to raise the consciousness of people, and encourage them to re-take their authority and voice about government regulatory practices by their vote at the ballot box (one of two ways to make changes: vote and/or participate).

Music reflects society of its day. The Rolling Stones had a hit song in the '60s which stated, "you can't always get what you want, but if you try sometime, you just might find you get what you need."

The highway department surely needs a safe working space, but what is proposed is far more than what they need; it reflects their ultimate wish list of what they want, and it is unaffordable!

A cursory initial reality check would show the following:

**Want #1:** Each year the DPW asks for, and receives in a New York minute, a *budget line item* on town

floor to make it easy to repair and spend in emergency situations so as to not require a reserve funds transfer through the finance committee.

This annual practice has become expected to be authorized and not questioned, challenged, or explained by detail in town meeting packets to town floor. Further, it has never been denied: I believe the last time this item was even discussed was during my tenure as a member.

**Need #1:** The highway department never publishes the specific use of these annually awarded emergency spending funds, yet they are annually graciously granted – without much questioning on town floor – and now we are being asked to additionally put up a huge amount for a new building.

The people need an accounting of this generosity, for this is how the highway department has obtained most of the extensive possessions they claim, and now need space to house.

If people are going to embark on this outrageous spending item for the Cadillac of a facility, town meeting should at least discontinue the annual free spending of the emergency line item. After all, the rationale from the committee is that a new building will extend the life of the equipment, so why is there any longer a need for emergency spending line item? Does the department need to purchase even more equipment?

**Want #2:** The highway department wants a *large space*, allegedly to store its vehicles inside to "retain their life."

**Need #2:** The only vehicles which need to be stored inside for longevity – approximately 15 vehicles of the list of over 50 posted – are those with diesel fuel and/or air brake tanks, yet we are being asked for space for *all* kinds of equipment.

When it was needed, we authorized to be built a new fire and police facility which *does not* house *all* equipment and vehicles inside, so why change this for the highway purposes? Are trucks for snow plowing more valuable than the police cruisers used for other emergencies?

It is interesting that this DPW committee boasts that its members are tried and true in this work because some of them were on that public safety committee!

**Want #3:** The highway department is pursuing a plan *without a pre-determined spending cap*.

**Need #3:** Now that a plan of wished-for size and scope has been formed, the people are being asked to pay more than we can afford. There are other projects in town which will also need funding from our residential taxes, so who chose to prioritize this one?

When the plan was set in motion, our elected executive board (Winkin, Blinkin, and Nod) not only should have formed this committee with folks that only they felt were appropriate, but were, more importantly, fiscally negligent in *not* placing a fiscal cap on the project in advance from the get-go.

After all, town meeting has had numerous heated discussions about the budget we face for the schools for our children. Is ease of access to, and longevity of, diesel trucks and equipment valued as more important than the lifespan and education of our community's children?

In summary, voting Yes for this item reflects misplaced priorities. It appears to this writer that there is fiscal mismanagement and unrealistic thinking by both the elected executive board and this one specific, poorly managed department (through the use of a study committee).

WE, the people, who authorize and elect our government, must all remember they cannot always get what they want – but if they try sometime, they just might find they get what they need. We need to stop the financial bleeding by a rogue, out of control, and unrealistic, government system that is only authorized by the people to look out for our best interests, which they do by using our financial contributions!

What will happen if we vote this in, and cannot pay the bill for the next 25 years? When taxes are not paid, the town forces people's hand and takes property. People may pay up or move out.

This inhabitant does not wish to pay \$45,000 for this project (\$200k value, so \$150, times 300 months – 25 years at 12 months each year).

Taking of property will be theoretically justified because people have authorized this debt by their vote in the positive for this project, which the town officers committed on people's behalf. People can then choose to relocate out of town, as has been suggested to this writer.

Please vote a resounding NO at the ballot box – at the annual town election, on the third Monday this May – for this highway project, until and/or unless we reconsider and absolutely see what is truly needed for the best of *all*, rather than what is wanted by a few.

There may be a need for an upgrade, but when one needs something, there are many ways to fulfill the need without extreme maximal response. People who feel they can afford this are more than able to vote it in; are you one of that select number?

*Jeanne Golrick is a longstanding property-owning inhabitant in the Village of Millers Falls in Montague.*

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**LEVERETT** from page A1

only 103 buildable lots left.

"What you're sitting here looking at is a pretty hard box," he argued, "one that has to really be solved politically." Until other towns begin to challenge the limit set by Proposition 2½, Powers said, "we recommend that we really be moderate in our budgets for the foreseeable future."

If the cap is hit, he pointed out, the school would suffer the most by state-mandated 15% annual cuts.

To drive home Powers' point, selectboard chair Peter d'Errico told the assembled crowd that the Kittredge estate has again applied for a major tax abatement. "Volatility in total evaluation is staring us in the face one more time," he said.

**Verging On Panic**

The fin com presentation was sharply criticized during a half-hour public hearing. Tilman Wolf advocated that the town raise taxes all the way to the ceiling immediately, and set aside the extra money. Noah Paesel argued that recent slow growth in property values was an "outlier" decade due to the recession, and that growth should be expected to return to higher rates soon.

And a man who did not identify himself by name said that his Leverett home's value had almost doubled in the 15 years since he had

purchased it. "We as a town have invested in things that should increase our property value," he said. "We have high-speed internet, we've got a great library, we have a wonderful school, and that's what's bringing people to move to town."

Leverett Elementary principal Margot Lacey warned that she is seeing fewer applications for school choice students.

"I'm verging on panic, hearing that I'm going to lose music and gym and art for my kid," said one district parent.

"I've been doing this long enough that I don't recognize one of the parents sitting here," Ann Delano replied. "The people who were completely opposed to regionalization, and some of the other initiatives that we tried to put forward – their children have moved through the elementary school, on to the next. We have to think about the long term for the school, not the cohort that's there now."

"I have been seeing this same conversation go on... for about three decades now," d'Errico said. "We've been told, 'kick that can down the road because we're going to be able to get a handle on this next year.'"

Sarah Dolven, a former school committee member, said she felt the town's departments were pitted against each other by the budget

process, making the school a "scapegoat." Dolven suggested that department heads should meet together to find creative solutions to the budget problems. "We can't be a town that has high property taxes be its only source of revenue," she said.

**A One-Time Deal**

As the public hearing ended, the school committee joined the selectboard and fin com around the front table. Powers explained that \$35,780 was still available to keep the overall town budget to 1.5% growth, and that on the table was a \$45,011 request from the school as well as a \$10,000 request to fund a part-time police officer.

School committee member Tara Acker said that her committee was newly working to identify outside sources of revenue, but would need time. She proposed that the town meet the school's funding request for one year, either by taxation or by pulling money from free cash, and then impose the 1.5% growth cap starting in FY'20.

"I'd like to hear something specific about what would be the reductions you could make next year that you can't make this year," d'Errico told her.

Lacey disclosed that she had recently been mandated to hire a half-time teacher of English as a second

language, and could not find a way to shrink the requested budget. She also mentioned that her salary, after nearly 20 years as an administrator, was among the lowest 4% of Massachusetts principals.

"I would like to make a deal with the school committee," Delano said. "We're going to write down what everybody's agreed to.... We're going to fund it, you're going to agree to it, and you're going to go do it."

Delano clarified that she was proposing a "one-time deal, that does not become part of the permanent budget... It's a special 'fill in the gap' situation."

Selectboard member Tom Hankinson suggested that parents could help fundraise. "You had a lot of passionate people here tonight. There are a lot of people that are mad at us," he said. "Engage their energy in marketing our school."

"I've been doing this for a lot of years," said Delano, "and I've heard 'no' from every cohort of parents that come through: 'Don't change it for my children,' and then they're gone."

Bethany Seeger said that the entire school committee had turned over in the three years since she had joined it.

As a consensus for a one-year fix emerged, Phil Carter of the fin com said he was "adamantly opposed" to

contributing to it from free cash.

Powers recommended instead a special town meeting article to "raise and appropriate" \$20,000 for the school, with an explanation that the school community would be expected to find that money in future years.

The committees agreed to recommend adding \$25,780 from the general budget for the school, to meet its request. The remaining \$10,000 would then be allocated to the police department for part-time staffing.

**Other Business**

The selectboard approved the hire of Nemours Duteau, Jr. as a part-time police officer, and heard a pitch by chief Scott Minckler for a "strong chief" model of governance.

They approved the hire of Natane Halasz as library director, and agreed to bump health agent Stephen Ball's hourly wage to \$40.17 on the premise that it would not increase the budget.

The island on Leverett Pond is believed to be owned by the state, which all present agreed was just as well. The Friends of Leverett Pond are proposing a recreational pavilion, and abutter Cynda Jones has offered to help with public access through her property, which the selectboard said would be up to the Friends to consider.

**NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD**

# Sewer Rate Hike Likely In Gill

By **GEORGE BRACE**

John Ward opened the April 2 Gill selectboard meeting as temporary chair while awaiting the arrival of Randy Crochier, who was delayed.

Town administrative assistant Ray Purington notified the board of a large potential for a sewer rate increase for the Riverside district. The district pumps wastewater to the town of Montague, which in large part determines what the customers' rates will be.

Purington said he had recently reached out to Montague for a forecast of what the rates may do this fall, and reported, "not good news there." As background, Purington provided a copy of the *Reporter's* coverage of a late February meeting of the Montague selectboard at which the matter was discussed.

The closure of the Southworth paper plant, that town's largest sewer customer, and the suspension of another large revenue source, the "Montague Process," which had allowed the town to treat solid waste from other communities, were cited as contributing to a potential FY'19 sewer budget shortfall of \$466,385.

Montague town officials estimated that to cover the shortfall through a rate increase alone, it would need to be over 45%. Purington said he thought it would be "premature" to do anything about Gill's rates now, but it was important to start "preparing people for what's going to

be an unpleasant financial impact by the end of the year."

**Gill Elementary Well**

Purington also said the town had received an Administrative Consent Order with Penalty (ACOP) document from the state Department of Environment Protection (DEP) pertaining to the well water treatment project at Gill Elementary. The ACOP calls for the town to submit a "substantially complete response" to a "permit technical deficiency letter" the DEP sent in September, and if signed, binds the town to a \$500 penalty for not responding to that letter by its January 12 deadline.

The water treatment project was begun in order to deal with readings of coliform bacteria in the school's water in 2014 and 2015. These detections resulted in an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) from the DEP in 2015, requiring the town to install a treatment system.

In 2016, that ACO was amended to allow time for a redesign of the system to deal with elevated levels of iron and manganese. A revised plan was sent in, but the September 2017 letter stated that the DEP had determined that according to the manufacturer's specifications, some of the equipment in the revised plan was not intended to handle the iron and manganese levels present.

Purington reported that the equipment supplier has been giving one final look at a schematic provided by the well engineer with the requested

revisions, and he would "hopefully" hear from the supplier and get a green light on that aspect of the project on April 3. He said that response should put the town in good shape to respond to the ACOP.

Purington suggested the board put off signing the ACOP until the following week's budget meeting, at which time he would have more information. The board agreed.

**Other Business**

The board favorably reviewed a series of potential articles for town meeting, including a .08-acre gift of land from Renee Jenkins where Herbert B. Hastings' blacksmith shop once stood, a book-keeping matter in the assessor's office, a 3% tax on marijuana sales, and funding for activities associated with Gill's 225th anniversary.

Crochier reported that the anniversary committee is continuing to plan a number of events. The library trustees want to do a book swap in August, and are also interested in doing a "talks with seniors" event.

The forest committee is working on a guided tour through the town forest, and more work is being done with the Franklin County Boat Club to incorporate anniversary activities into their Christmas in July event.

Crochier also said Antenna Cloud Farm wants to put on a Tanglewood-style musical event on May 7, and is excited to be part of the celebration activity.

Zachary Lastowski, who has been

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serving as a junior firefighter, was appointed as a regular firefighter. Ten appointments were made to the board of fire engineers: Marcus Aucoin, Gene Beaubien, Steve Connell, Jason Edison, Stuart Elliott, Andrew Howell, Scott Nicholas, Greg Parody, Ken Sears, and Mitch Waldron.

The board heard a letter from the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions informing them that Phil Gilfeather-Gerton had successfully completed 8 units of training in their "Fundamentals for Massachusetts Conservation Commissioners Training Program."

The board and Ray Purington all congratulated him on the accomplish-

ment and achievement, and noted the time commitment involved in the training, and the work of the commission, "especially," added Randy Crochier, for the "unpaid, truly volunteer" work that they do.

The board also reviewed a survey sent out to gauge interest in adding food and organic waste to the town's curbside collection program.

Due to the April 16 Patriots' Day holiday, the selectboard's next meeting will be held Tuesday, April 17.

Town of Gill Memorial Day ceremonies will begin at 10 a.m. on Sunday, May 27 at the Gill Church, continuing across Main Road at the veterans' monuments.

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- Lisa McLoughlin, editor

## New England Rocks on the Move

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

New England is not California – we don't think of earthquakes here, but in 50 million years or so, if extant, our descendants may.

"Slowly but steadily, an enormous mass of warm rock is rising beneath part of New England, although a major volcanic eruption isn't likely for millions of years," warns a 2017 study by National Science Foundation (NSF) EarthScope Project scientists from Rutgers and Yale, originally published online in *Geology*.

The anomalous area is ill-defined, as not many sensors in the nationwide project to study the earth's movements were deployed here, in what is considered a geologically "passive" part of the continent. The unexpected active area is a few hundred miles across in the general vicinity of central Vermont and western New Hampshire, into western Massachusetts, and is "hundreds of degrees Celsius warmer than neighboring areas" in the lithosphere (outer shell: crust and upper mantle) of the earth.

The warm area nearer the surface suggests strange things are going on deeper in the earth under the tectonic plates. A December 2017 *National Geographic* article by Erin Blakemore explains that using EarthScope's portable array of seismic sensors, which can detect hotter rocks when they slow down seismic waves, this activity can be interpreted as "a rising mass of warm rock – a smaller, slower version of the magma pockets under well-known volcanic zones."

EarthScope is an NSF program that studies "the struc-



The western view from Mount Crag in Northfield: it looks peaceful, but what lurks below?

ture and evolution of the North American continent and the processes that cause earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. It involves collaboration between scientists, educators, policy makers, and the public to learn about and apply exciting scientific discoveries as they are made."

EarthScope's website ([earthscope.org](http://earthscope.org)) is largely geared toward other researchers and documenting publications and maps, many of which are of the West Coast.

There are some teaching resources available for K-12 science educators, including "Jules Verne Voyager Jr." which can show a map with the movement of tectonic plates, but the New England study has not yet been featured on the website.

## BOOK REVIEW

**Landowner's Guide to Wildlife Habitat: Forest Management for the New England Region**, by Richard M. DeGraff, Mariko Yamasaki, William B. Leak, and Anna M. Lester (University Press of New England, 2005)

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

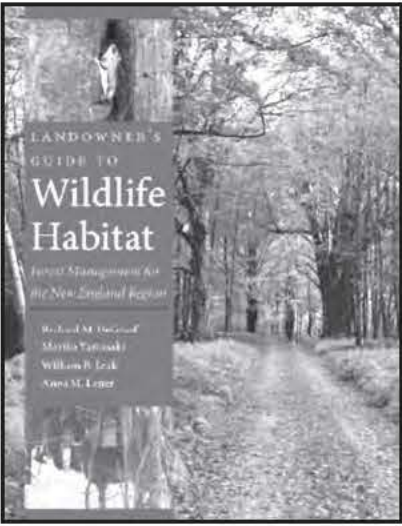
Most of the forests in New England are privately owned, so it matters a lot what landowners do with their land. This book attempts to convince landowners that doing nothing is not an option, and that they should actively manage their forests as wildlife habitats.

It shows the history of disturbances in New England forests, and how there are currently fewer, which gives species who like the kind of forests we have now an advantage over those who liked the land as it was at some point in the past.

The authors would like to see the animals and plants in our area diversified, and encourage active planning toward that end, with an emphasis on habitats that are currently rare, such as young forests.

This book was hard for me to read because I don't agree with the basic premise of the authors: that humans should manage forests to some ideal we set out to achieve. I question both the presence of a fixed ideal point in time, and our judgment in assuming we have enough wisdom to manage something as complex as our ecosystem. My engineering training tells me that there are always unintended consequences, and these are very hard to predict in complex systems. Nature is the most complex system.

But what if you're an optimist, a



landowner, and like a variety of animals? Is this book for you? Once you get past the introductory rhetoric, there is a rudimentary chapter outlining the basics of understanding wildlife habitats – water, food, etc. – and then a chapter on visualizing forest change and wildlife responses. Three different management scenarios are pictured, and the foresters imagine what would happen in these hypothetical areas, based on current forestry science.

In the last ten pages of the book, the authors get around to practical tips about how to manage your forest for a diversified group of animals. As they admit on page 78, this generally involves some tree cutting, or as they call it, timber harvesting. The next few pages provide helpful tables that allow the landowner to organize information about the state of their own

land and that neighboring it and, based on the findings, the authors make recommendations for wildlife management.

The appendices include a list of species found within even-aged management and uneven-aged management schemes – even-aged is recommended by the authors as providing more diverse habitat over time – and a list of contacts for more information.

I found this book somewhat relentless in its approach. The authors are unwaveringly certain that wildlife habitat must be diversified here in New England because it's different now than it used to be, and there are fewer types of animals now.

I believe a lot more thinking needs to go into the decision to diversify our landscape, and we could use some honest weighing up of how much we know vs. what we think we know. Landscapes change over time. Some of that change is bad – strip malls replacing meadows, for example. But why do forests have to take the burden of creating new meadows? Maybe we should be talking about diversifying strip mall habitat, instead of cutting down more trees.

In any case, I believe this book to be more about a philosophy of wildlife habitat than being a landowner's guide to creating it. Even if I agreed it were a good thing to do, I believe the book falls short of its goal.

## Lightning and Pollution

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

Joel Thornton at the University of Washington has found that there are more lightning strikes over shipping lanes. A September 2017 *New Scientist* article by Lakshmi Supriya explains that aerosols from the ships' engine exhaust act as seeds, condensing water into cloud droplets. When there are many of them, they freeze in the higher atmosphere, creating ice-rich clouds with forceful thunderstorms.

Thornton used data from the World Wide Lightning Location Network ([wwlln.net](http://wwlln.net)), run by the University of Washington in Seattle. If you visit their website you can observe global lightning in real time.

Thornton started investigating the straight corridors of higher lightning frequency that matched up with shipping lanes. He suggests that the pollution we've created over the past few centuries may have increased the number of places on earth where lightning occurs.

According to NASA, lightning



is striking somewhere on the earth nearly all the time at about 100 times per second. I visited the network at 4:53 p.m. on September 28, 2017, and at that time there was quite a lot of lightning happening in Central and South America, but nothing near us.

The WWLLN's sensors observe very low frequencies (3 to 30 kHz), which is where most of the electromagnetic power from lightning radiates. Impulsive signals from lightning discharges are called "sferics" (short for "atmospherics"). We can't hear waves in this range directly, but we can pick them up with equipment and listen to them.

Visit [spaceweather.com/glossary/inspire.html](http://spaceweather.com/glossary/inspire.html) to hear some sferics which whistle, tweet, and crackle.

## Moon Calendar for April 2018:

Sunday, April 8:  
**Last Quarter**

Sunday, April 15:  
**New Moon**

Sunday, April 22:  
**First Quarter**

Sunday, April 29:  
**Full Moon**



Full Moon photo by Gregory H. Revera under Creative Commons Licensing.

## Earth Day Celebrations

### Earth Day Celebration of Local Farms

April 22, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 2 West Street, Petersham, behind the First Congregational Parish, Unitarian.

Examine regional farming as an economic engine, a means to maintain food security and bio-diversity, and to help minimize the impact of

climate change.

Farmers' workshops and displays will feature traditional and organic vegetable, grain, tree, aquatic, and meat farming, bee-keeping, mushroom harvesting, as well as farm-tourism, farm education, and all things earth-based and natural resource oriented.

Free, open to the public, family-friendly.



Floyd Kelley with free range heritage breed pork and piglets, at his heritage Burnsbirt Valley Farm in Barre, MA, which are rotationally grazed for the mutual benefit of pigs and pasture.

### Earth Day Open House: Put Yourself in the Big Picture

Sunday, April 22, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

All ages are welcome for activities and games. Exhibits ask: how have people helped or hurt the habitats in our Connecticut River watershed? What will you do to help?

The Great Falls Discovery Center is currently open 5 days a week, Wednesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All programs are free unless otherwise noted. Facilities are accessible.

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MONTAGUE from page A1

At Monday night’s meeting, town administrator Steve Ellis was asked how what had been portrayed as a partial demolition feasibility study had “morphed” into a decision to tear down most of the complex. “The board discussed it at one of our open meetings,” he replied, “because, as fragile as the building appears to be at present... not accounting for the entirety of the building might put us in a difficult spot.”

Ellis was referring to a February 12 selectboard meeting at which he had requested that the board “expand the scope” of the study to include “a wider range of demolition [options].” At that meeting, he stressed the fragile condition of the complex, particularly the fact that tearing one building down could compromise the integrity of attached structures. All the buildings are attached except Building 11.

At the February meeting, Ellis had also noted that the town was going to attempt to “get this demolition into a [state] environmental bond bill that our legislators inform us is likely to be developed soon, perhaps this summer.... If we have only a partial demolition plan, it will be more difficult, because we will not have a full figure to work with.”

“Let’s take a look and see what’s there,” selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz replied at the time. “Hopefully they’ll come back with ‘it’s not as bad as it looks,’ but at least we’ll be prepared.”

However, the RFP the town issued after that meeting featured a map of the complex with all structures, except Buildings 9 and 11, marked with red stars. A key indicated that the red stars meant “To Be Removed.”

The RFP did not mention evaluating the buildings for structural integrity, but stated that “existing demolition plans include all buildings slated for demolition, except Buildings 9 & 11 are to remain.” It went on to say the chosen consultant will employ a structural engineer to prepare “demolition related details,” including plans for “separation points” between the buildings to be demolished and Building 9.

The RFP noted that the project would therefore need to be “coordinated” with the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), since the Strathmore is located within the Turners Falls Historic District as listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Tearing down a historic mill will require “mitigation,” described as “photographic documentation prior to or during demolition to satisfy the needs of the MHC.”

Tighe & Bond will also be re-

quired to attend “up to three meetings to discuss the historic planning needs,” and the RFP also stipulated that “one grant public hearing will be required to present the project’s design.”

More Cannabis Fees

Monday’s meeting began with a lengthy discussion of the “community host agreement” between the town and 253 Organic, LLC. The company plans to establish a marijuana cultivation, production, and retail sale facility at a building on Millers Falls Road once owned by Hallmark Imaging. A community host agreement is required by the state licensing authority, the Cannabis Control Commission.

253 Organic directors Seth Rutherford and Chris Gallant sat at the front table, along with Montague town planner Walter Ramsey, who had negotiated the agreement. Much of the discussion focused on the details of the “community impact payment” to the town allowed under state law.

The impact payment consists of a 3% fee on retail sales – in addition to the 3% retail tax voted at a recent town meeting – and a fee on wholesale revenue, which scales from 1% of gross annual sales under \$400,000 to 3% over \$800,000.

Ramsey estimated that the town’s annual revenue from the retail payment could be as high as \$210,000. He noted that the company’s current business plan focuses on retail, not wholesale.

The final agreement includes a number of “minor changes” from a draft discussed at a board meeting two weeks earlier. It eliminates a proposal that the company establish a separate “foundation” to disburse some of the local payments, due to opposition from town counsel. It also requires the company to coordinate security with the Turners Falls police and fire departments.

The selectboard unanimously approved the agreement, plus a letter of support directed to the state commission. Last week, the town planning board approved a special permit for the project, as required under the town’s new zoning regulations for cannabis establishments.

Other Business

The board reviewed a warrant for the May annual town meeting totaling 34 articles. The document will be reviewed by legal counsel, and will return for the board’s approval next week.

Noticeably absent from the warrant was a proposed article, recently supported by the board, to remove

the police chief position from the state civil service system. Kuklewicz said he did not want to “rush” the board’s consideration of the issue in order to satisfy town meeting deadlines. Other board members nodded.

Later in the meeting, the board discussed the “next steps” in the police chief hiring process. They directed Ellis to prepare a report including, in Kuklewicz’s words, the “pros and cons” of retaining a chief under civil service. Kuklewicz also urged the board to devote a significant amount of agenda time to a public discussion of the issue at a meeting later in the spring.

The board supported a request for proposals for the “disposition” of municipal property on East Main Street in Millers Falls. The property is a reportedly “unbuildable” lot next to and behind an apartment building which was once a hotel. The “hotel,” as it is still sometimes called, is currently being purchased by the developer Robert Obear, who may be the only landowner to qualify for the purchase under the RFP.

As he had in the past, Millers Falls resident Peter Golrick criticized the RFP for pricing the property below market value, and for not being “transparent.”

RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto came before the board to receive approval for a number of events including the August 3 Pocumtuck Homelands festival and an April 28 “sing-along” on the Montague Center common.

The board also approved a request for the use of public property for a June 16 road race to benefit the Brick House.

The board voted to endorse an agreement with the Public Employee Committee to share savings from healthcare benefit changes being imposed by the town’s insurance group, Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust.

A bid to complete proposed ADA sidewalk improvements in Turners Falls, which must be completed by mid-June, was awarded to Sandstone Construction.

Steve Ellis informed the board that final completion of work on sealing the Shea Theater roof is being delayed for a month while the town investigates an option called Spray Foam Roof.

At the end of the meeting, the board recessed to three executive sessions to discuss litigation, collective bargaining, and publicly releasing the minutes from 25 previous executive sessions.

The selectboard’s next meeting will be held April 9 at 7 p.m.



“I would urge the committee to consider some different design choices,” Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno, also of Precinct 5, said, “but I do feel that we should vote for this.”

Golrick’s amendment was defeated by a voice vote.

“Everyone on this committee, and everyone in town, wants to see this building come in at a lower cost than what we’re proposing,” said Jay DiPucchio of the facility planning committee.

David Jensen, who sat on the facility planning committee in his former role as building inspector, said the town was “between a rock and a hard place” given the condition of the existing highway garage.

The article passed by a 2/3 majority voice vote, sending the project to the voters of Montague in May.





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LOOKING BACK  
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

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

Montague Fin Com and  
Selectboard Back Override

Taking the financial bull by the horns, the Montague finance committee and selectboard, meeting in joint session on Wednesday, voted 5 to 2 to support a \$250,000 override to balance the town side of the FY’09 budget, and then voted 6-1 to shave a little more than \$650,000 off the Gill-Montague school district’s requested \$7.9 million assessment for Montague, adopting a \$7.2 million figure instead.

The override will be dedicated to supporting a “basket” of town services that have been proposed as possible cuts to help close a deficit on the town side of the budget, totaling around \$200,000.

The services that would be supported by the override include the town nurse position (\$26,000), the animal control officer (\$25,000), the council on aging (\$31,000), the parks and recreation department (\$98,000), the curbside recycling program (\$40,000), and the branch libraries in Millers Falls and Montague Center (\$35,000).

Finance committee member Jeff Singleton voted against the measure, saying \$250,000 was too high a figure, that \$200,000 would be a more realistic override amount, and that the town should not seek to bridge the entire downside budget gap with an override.

Strathmore April Fools

In the midst of the join finance committee and selectboard meeting, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio made the surprise announcement that former Strathmore Mill owner Jerry Jones had tried to hoodwink the town this week by filing a quit claim deed on April 1 with the Registry of Deeds on the Strathmore Mill, which he has apparently tried to sell to a New York speculator named James Bent for \$1.

Bent, operating under the colorful business moniker of Fabulous Investment Opportunities, with an address listed as Canal Street in Turners Falls, had announced

his intent some months ago to purchase and raze the mill for salvage materials. Abbondanzio’s announcement was greeted with a mix of shock and incredulity by the boards.

The town took administrative control of the Strathmore Mill in November, following a protracted land court hearing in Boston on the matter of some \$200,000 in back taxes Jones owes the town on the complex. Since then, town meeting authorized the town to spend up to \$300,000 to secure the mill and put new roofs on buildings damaged in an arson fire last year.

The town has already spent more than \$250,000 accomplishing those goals, while Jones has apparently been on the payroll of another prospective buyer of the complex – John Anctil – for some months, working in the mill with the town’s permission to make headway in removing the vast quantity of recyclable paper he has stored in various buildings.

Montague Center  
School Will Close

The Gill Montague School Committee voted 6 to 3 to shut down options for maintaining the Montague Center School as an expanded K-5 district elementary school or a Horace Mann in district charter school on Tuesday.

The votes came after heated debate among the committee, and impassioned pleas from community members to allow the process of exploring alternative proposals to go forward.

Voting to reject the proposals were committee chair Mary Kociela, joined by Valeria Smith, Kristin Boyle, Linda Kuklewicz, Terry Lapachinski and Joyce Phillips. Voting in favor of the proposals were Ted Castro-Santos, Mike Langknecht, and Sandy Brown.

The decision effectively ends a three-month gambit by which the school committee voted on December 11 to allow community groups to form in support of keeping either Montague Center or Hillcrest Elementary open, under alternative governance structures or configurations, and to bring in detailed proposals for how their plans would work.

GARAGE from page A1

old, is inadequate and deteriorating, he said, and no existing buildings were available to rehab for the department.

“It really will put a bit of a bottleneck on major building projects for several years,” town administrator Steve Ellis said, and members debated the proposal for well over an hour.

Brian Costa of Precinct 6 asked whether the building could have solar panels, and Morin told him that it would have 19,000 square feet of south-facing roof, and that he hoped the energy committee would help with the design.


Peter Golrick of Precinct 2 entered an amendment to reduce the amount approved to \$5 million. Golrick compared the building with a MassDOT maintenance garage in Erving to argue that the cost

should be lower, but town planner Walter Ramsey said that, correcting for inflation, Montague’s garage as proposed would actually cost less per square foot.


“I’ve been going to presentations about this for about a year and a half now,” said finance committee member Michael Naughton, “and I’m a little disappointed to say I have not seen significantly better answers being presented” to challenges raised, including questions about why so many of the town’s vehicles must be stored indoors or under a canopy, at an expense of \$4.6 million.

“Anything that’s stored inside, they gain two or three years’ life,” Morin replied.

“I think the \$11 million figure is aspirational for a town like ours,” said Precinct 5’s David Detmold, pointing to strained finances in the school district.



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GOOD USED USABLES

GMRSD from page A1

they were running. Seven responded, but none were able to limit their answer to one sentence. We will cover the candidates in more depth in future issues. Here are some selections from their responses, in alphabetical order.

**Haley Anderson:** "If elected, I look forward to bringing my experience as a preschool administrator and as a parent in the district to the school committee position. My goal is to be part of a force toward healing the rifts in our community and shining a positive light on our district schools as really desirable places to be."

**Michael Langknecht:** "It's not just about finding a good candi-

date, because people come and go; it's about establishing a culture, and school committee needs to be a leader in that. We've been avoiding the sniping and egomania that plagued us.... the 'Tuesday Night Fights' era of the school committee contributed to high turnover in administration."

**Jennifer Lively:** "I believe it is especially important to participate at the local level where decisions directly impact our community. If elected, I will be dedicated to the responsibilities of the school committee. I will strongly advocate for our students and our schools, to ensure high quality education and access to programs for all students."

**Christopher Pinardi:** "I started

out with just one goal in mind and that was to allow the community to be part of the decision making on the Logo. Along the way I have come to realize that there are a myriad of decisions being made that are impacting our children and staff on a daily basis and not always ones that set them up to succeed."

**Joyce Phillips:** "I believe we need a school committee that demonstrates leadership, a willingness to embrace change, and a commitment to focus on the future for all students.... I believe it is important for our district and communities to know us, hear our views on the issues, and to feel a part of the process."

**Heather Poirier:** *As of press time, our attempts to contact her were unsuccessful.*

**Valeria "Timmie" Smith:** "I have a strong desire to continue making a contribution to moving the school district forward in a positive direction.... We are seeing enrollment improve after a decade of sharp decline.... I would be proud to continue to draw upon [my] experience to help the school committee make important decisions so it can do the best possible job in serving our families and children."

**Robert Whittier:** "After hearing about my daughter's class losing so many people to Tech and Greenfield, I thought, 'we aren't going down the right path - they've decided to go to other schools.' It's got me thinking we need to keep our kids in this district."

Mark Hudyma contributed reporting to this article.



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## Connecting, Creating, Sharing: It All Comes Together at the Full Disclosure Festival

By DK KNAUER

**TURNERS FALLS** – “How do we open hearts to one another? How do we really connect to one another in ways that lift us, in ways that inspire us, in ways that change the world, and in ways that build community?” asks Linda McNerney.

McNerney, the artistic director of Eggtooth Productions, is answering a question about the meaning of “Radical Interconnectedness,” the theme of the Full Disclosure Festival she is about to mount in Turners Falls. The individual performances will be held in five locations throughout downtown on Saturday, April 14 and will run from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The event is presented by Eggtooth Productions and Turners Falls RiverCulture. McNerney has been doing this festival for five years and this is the first time it has been done in Turners Falls. The producer began creating public venues for artistic expression in Greenfield in 2011. She has found the people in the Pioneer Valley especially supportive of the arts, open and curious and willing to discover different forms of performance art – as she says, eager to experience “the great unknown.”

By bringing together various mediums – music, dance, the visual arts, and the spoken word, either as individual pieces or as combined multimedia – she has allowed the festival genre to present ideas that connect the public to the artist so both may explore themes essential to human interaction. One of her main goals has always been about connecting – whether it be connecting artists with specialists (in one case climatologists), or making art available to the public through storefronts and other unusual venues.

McNerney speaks of Franklin County as “a unique



Eggtooth Producer Linda McNerney looks on as Terry Jenoure rehearses for her performance in her original play “The Pass” at the Radical Interconnectedness festival in Turners Falls.

community, in that they love their home, their place; they love art and they love experience, and just are really open to going and being a part of the creative culture that’s taking place here.”

When Ms. McNerney was approached by Suzanne LoManto of RiverCulture about doing a festival in Turners Falls, they agreed to use the world premiere of Terry Jenoure’s “The Pass” as the “anchor” in a one-day event featuring several creators already known to McNerney. That was the birth of this year’s Full Disclosure event (in the future, look for the festival title to be permanently changed to “Radical Interconnectedness”).

### What We Disclose

Speaking of “The Pass,” McNerney, who has been working for over a year with the creator of the piece, Terry Jenoure, said that there will be world-class musicians participating in it. McNerney talks of Jenoure’s wide array of talents and her genius for combining various art forms to create a wonderful performance.

Terry Jenoure, who currently resides in Northfield and has lived in the Pioneer Valley off and on since 1974, has found this area to be a vibrant hub for the arts. She describes “The Pass” as an allegory about a canary that believes it looks like a cat, and so decides to perceive itself as such, even though to do so comes at some risk. For the audience, Ms. Jenoure defines the allegory as “what we have to do to be safe in the world,

see DISCLOSURE page B4



Joe Dulude II and Katherine Adler as talk show hosts “Karl and Mr. Drag.” They will perform at the Great Falls Harvest during Radical Interconnectedness in Turners Falls on April 14.

## THE AUTHORS' CORNER: LISA YEE

By IZZY VACHULA-CURTIS

**TURNERS FALLS** – Hi! I’m Izzy Vachula-Curtis. Today I will be reviewing Lisa Yee’s *Harley Quinn at Superhero High* (2016), and I have a *super* special interview with Lisa Yee, too!

*Harley Quinn at Superhero High* is about the DC Comics supervillain Harley Quinn. At Superhero

High, Lisa Yee takes our favorite DC Comics characters and puts them in high school.

Harley has a web channel called “Harley’s Quintessentials,” and she wants more fame. She creates a dance competition, and even a battle of the bands, to boost her popularity. Then an amazing carnival comes into town, and all of Harley’s fans get to experience it right from

their couch! But maybe a crazy fun carnival, with funny hats, and fun games, prizes, and rides, is too good to be true... Find out more in *Harley Quinn At Superhero High*!

(There are also four more in the series; I just chose this one because Harley is my favorite supervillain of all time. There is also a new one, *Bumblebee at Superhero High* coming out soon!)

This book is one of my favorite books ever, and Lisa Yee is one of my favorite authors ever, so I definitely recommend this book to anyone who likes superheroes, or to anyone looking for a good book!

Next we have a *super duper* special interview with Ms. Lisa Yee – enjoy!

**Super Izzy V-C:** Who is your favorite DC Superhero Girls character?

**Lisa Yee:** Wow, that’s a hard question. I love all of these characters sooooo much!

I guess I’d have to say I have a special place in my heart for Batgirl, though. After all, she *loves* books and so do I! Plus, her superpower is that she’s smart... something that a

see AUTHORS page B3



Our caped correspondent reviews one of her favorite books ever.



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

By LESLIE BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** – The vernal equinox came and went. It noted the time the sun crosses the celestial equator going north and marked the official beginning of spring. We, however, were braced for yet another Nor’easter which, happily, went out to sea. Still, it didn’t really feel like spring.

We New Englanders are often April fools, expecting warmer days, flowering bulbs, leaves and the return of the song birds. But there are April Fools everywhere throughout history, and not only celebrated on the official day, April first.

Historians are unclear about the origin of this foolish day. Some think it is a leftover from the Roman holiday, Hilaria, a day celebrated by the wearing of disguises by which many were fooled, thus resulting in much hilarity.

Another theory involves the French who switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian in 1582, but left some fools behind who were slow to get the news that the start of the year now began on January first and who continued to celebrate on April first, thus becoming the butts of jokes and other pranks. They endured paper fish stuck to their backs and were called *poissons d’avril* or April fish, symbolizing young, easily caught fish

### THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

## April Fools and the Easter Bunny

and gullible persons.

More likely, perhaps from the gardener’s point of view, is the connection with the celebration of the vernal equinox when Mother Nature often fools us with unpredictable, changing weather.

Take your pick.

This year we have what seems like an unusual confluence: April Fool’s Day and Easter all on the same day. Which brings us to the Bunny, which of course has no connection to the religious holy day of Easter Sunday.

Easter falls each year on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox and the official arrival of spring.

We were under the assumption that the Easter Bunny was yet another Hallmark invention, creating the need for yet more cards (Hallmark, of course) and gifts of candy. However, a little research proved otherwise:

German immigrants brought with them to America stories of an Easter egg-laying hare. The Easter hare brought children eggs at Easter tide. Interestingly enough, like Santa Claus, the Easter hare also judged the behavior of children as good or disobedient, much as our Santa knows who is naughty or nice.

Eggs have long been a symbol of fertility, as has been the rabbit. Rabbits have often been included

see GARDENER’S page B2

## Eric Grab Seeks to Let Go of the Details in *Speaking Figuratively*

By TRISH CRAPO

**GREENFIELD** – The Greenfield Gallery is proud to present Millers Falls artist Eric Grab’s debut headliner show, “Speaking Figuratively.” Grab explores the human figure through spontaneous, bright pastel drawings as well as deeply layered, enigmatic paintings that reach back towards archetypal forms and symbols.

The exhibit will run Friday, April 6 through Wednesday, May 30. On Friday, April 27, a life drawing demonstration from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. will be followed by an artist’s reception from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Grab says it will be fun for people to watch him work. “I work really quickly and energetically,” he says. “I use bright colors. The dust is flying around.”

The life drawings are quick responses to a nude model striking multiple short poses within one session. A pose might last just a few minutes, requiring Grab to work in a manner he describes as “loose and gestural.” Switching to brightly colored pastels rather than charcoal or graphite has enabled him to open up and let go of the urge for the representational accuracy he strived for in art school. And he’s come to realize that, “The work is actually more powerful if I let some of those details go.”

see GRAB page B6



Eric Grab’s pastel drawings “Figure Drawing 132” (top) and “Figure Drawing 125” (bottom)

# Pet of the Week

Do you love staying busy? Does spending your mornings, evenings and weekends hiking, biking, swimming and running with your dog sound like a dream come true? If so, Ivy might be the dog for you. As smart as she is energetic, this girl needs a job and some training. Another dog to play with will help to burn off some energy without you. Ivy's off button is broken so be ready to Go Go Go!

After a day of fun exciting activities, Ivy will show her lovebug side and enjoy belly rubs and kisses. She enjoys the company of children as well. If you would like to meet her, stop in and ask an adoption counselor for more information!

Take her home with you this week! Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at [info@dpvhs.org](mailto:info@dpvhs.org).



“IVY”

## Senior Center Activities APRIL 9 TO 13

**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–Thurs Noon Lunch**  
**M, W, F** 10:10 a.m. Aerobics;  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
**Monday 4/9:**  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Tuesday 4/10:**  
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga w/Andrea  
**Wednesday 4/11:**  
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach  
11:45 a.m. Friends’ Meeting  
12:30 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday 4/12:**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga  
1 p.m. Cards & Games  
**Friday 4/13:**  
Noon: Pizza Party  
1 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 Better, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.  
Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.  
**Monday 4/9:** No Lunch Served  
9:30 a.m. COA Meeting  
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi  
**Tuesday 4/10:**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch  
**Wednesday 4/11:**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
Noon Bingo & Snacks  
6 p.m. Pitch Night  
**Thursday 4/12:**  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
12:30 a.m. Create to Donate  
**Friday 4/13:**  
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop  
9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling  
Blood Drive

**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.

**GARDENERS** from page B1  
in paintings of Mary, the mother of Jesus.  
The decoration of eggs is an old custom believed to date back to the 13th century. More recently, the oldest decorated egg shells were found in South Africa and have been dated for 60,000 years ago.  
Many cultures have traditions of egg decorating related to the beginning of spring. In Persia, the vernal equinox marks the New Year (Nowruz). Families decorate eggs together and place them in a bowl. In Egypt boiled eggs are decorated at the spring holiday which follows the Eastern Christian Easter. Eastern Europeans decorate eggs with

batik, appliqué, wax and carvings. Of course, the Russian court artist Fabergé made jeweled eggs that are still famous and collectible.  
Easter, the vernal equinox, and the rabbit are all about rebirth and new life. We celebrate all in the manner of our choosing.  
The signs of spring may appear slowly, but if we are patient they appear every day, maybe in sight or sound or scent. We note the chirp of peepers in the vernal pool, the first of the flowering bulbs in soft lavender, the melody of the song sparrow, the rasp of the ravens. We watch the cat shadowboxing with dry leaves, the squirrels chasing wings around the tree trunks, the robin pulling strands of hair off the clothesline. We bask in the lengthening days and the increasing heat of the sun.  
The sprouts of the scallions point upward from the raised bed. The tomatoes are a robust three inches and sport their true leaves. The fishermen are here chasing the wall-eyed pike up the river. At night the full moon is a gorgeous, silvery globe as it pushes up through the oak branches until it reaches open sky. Spring, glorious spring.  
On this second day of the new month, the snow is falling. One step forward, two back. But the sun is strong, and this foolish frosting will be gone in a few hours. You can count on it.

## This April: Landscape Paintings at Leverett Crafts & Arts Barnes Gallery

**LEVERETT** – *Water, People and Trees, Embraced by Natural Beauty* is the name of a new exhibit at the Barnes Gallery at Leverett Crafts & Arts during the month of April featuring paintings by Stacey Temple. Temple is primarily a landscape painter who works with oil paints on canvas. She generally uses photographs for reference. She was taught painting and drawing through private lessons and self-study. The artist resides in Leverett with her family.

Temple’s artist statement reveals the following:  
“Many of these oil paintings represent places I have either lived or traveled to. I encountered images in nature that were so unbelievably beautiful that I felt looking alone wasn’t appreciating the view enough. I’ve spent countless hours and taken hundreds of pictures while watching the California ocean vibrate with reflected light along with the glorious blue sky, attempting to capture a real moment in time.  
“The process and effort of transferring what I was seeing through my eyes to the canvas itself has satisfied some of my basic needs for a spiritual practice. Constantly



Oil on canvas by Stacey Temple, part of her exhibit at L.C.A.

reexamining the world, looking at something, and then looking again and rediscovering something new.  
“Painting has been a source of awe and inspiration for me. Ultimately, if the finished product hung in my living room or sat in a closet, it was more about the process itself, not the finished product. Either way, what a wonderful way to spend time and to be left with a memory of a perfect beach day or sunset.”  
Two receptions are planned in

conjunction with the exhibit. The first one, this Saturday, April 7 at 4 p.m., features refreshments plus music by the Deep C Divers band.  
The second reception also features refreshments with music by the Deep C Divers and the Four Elements at 4 p.m. on April 21.  
Gallery hours at Leverett Crafts & Arts, on 13 Montague Road, are Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. and by appointment. For information, contact (310) 359-3542.

## FACES & PLACES



The Turners Falls All Sports Booster Club held their annual Supermarket Sweep fundraiser at Food City on March 25. Bob Avery, retired teacher and coach at Turners Falls High School, was this year's winner! His wife Virginia did the 2-minute shopping spree, and took home \$457.66 in groceries.

The Sports Boosters would especially like to thank Jon Steiner and Food City for allowing this fundraiser to take place. They would also like to thank community members who bought tickets to support the athletes of Great Falls Middle School and Turners Falls High School.

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**AUTHORS** from page B1  
lot of readers can identify with.

*IVC:* Which book was the most fun to write?  
*LY:* By far, *Katana at Super Hero High* was the most fun to write. Why? Because I went to Japan to do research for the book!  
I visited ancient temples, and even took ninja training lessons. That's right! I learned how to wield a sword, be stealthy, and use other ancient Samurai weapons.

*IVC:* What inspired you to write this series?  
*LY:* I've always been a superhero fan. So I was *thrilled* when I was asked to write this series!  
I had written a novel called *Warp Speed* that has a lot of Star Trek, Star Wars, and Batman in it. Plus, I had lots of middle-grade novels out. So when I got the invite to pen the series I started screaming with excitement. Um, maybe you heard me?

*IVC:* How long do you think the DC Superhero Girl series will be?  
*LY:* I don't know how long the series will go on for, but I can tell you that I just finished writing a book about Bumblebee that will be out this summer!

*IVC:* Do you do signings or meet



Lisa Yee

and greets? If so, where?  
*LY:* I often do book signings and such. I don't have them lined up for this year yet, but when I do it'll be on my website, *LisaYee.com*.

*IVC:* I live in Turners Falls, Massachusetts. I heard that you live locally – if that is true, do you do school visits?  
*LY:* Yes, it's true, I do school visits. That information is on my website, too!

Thank you sooooo much, Lisa Yee. It was so cool talking to you!  
Thank you so much for reading, and I'll see you soon...

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



TV REVIEW

Krypton (SyFy Channel)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – *Krypton* is a new TV series on the Syfy Channel that features the grandfather of Superman, a young man named Seg-El. After the house of El has its honor destroyed, Seg-El must save his world, or “the Greatest Hero of the universe,” Superman, will never be born.

In a “behind the scenes” video about the show, Cameron Cuffe, the actor who plays Seg-El, says *Krypton* is not a “pre-sequel.” But if a course isn’t corrected, Superman might not exist.

With that, along with getting a picture of the planet Krypton that I don’t think is in the comics about Superman or anything else with him I have seen, we get a look at Superman’s bloodline. So that is something to start you getting into the series.

The first episode starts out with Seg-El narrating the story. We have the opening scene about how he and his family lost their honor. Seg-El’s grandfather is killed in that scene.

Then it’s some time later. His family is rankless, and Seg-El is living in the poorest part of Krypton because of that. This all happens because Seg-El’s own grandfather refused to deny that there was a threat out there facing the planet. Interesting fact: his dear grandfather wore a cape like Superman has.

I believe Superman’s family background is supposed to consist of honorable family members and great scientists. But we are basically treated to Seg-El before he becomes like that.

The series picks up after that opening scene. We just see a man who doesn’t really have any strong morals: Seg-El is just a young man who is good at watching out for the people he cares about.

Beside getting a picture of the planet, we also get a look at how the society on the planet is. Seg-El



is involved with a woman that he can’t be with, and he basically has to be in a marriage with someone he doesn’t love. There is a caste system that includes warriors and scientists, along with the rankless.

There is also a strict religious Order of Rao in this society too, which believes that no one else is in the universe.

This is the life Seg-El lives, until a young man from the future we learn is named Adam Strange tells him that something is coming to destroy Krypton because his grandson is to become Superman. The man mentions the Fortress of Solitude in his message. Someone Seg-El knows beside Adam knows about the Fortress and takes him there. So that kind of backs up my thought: something to start you getting into the series is there.

As for Adam Strange, his appearance comes early in the series, and then he is back at the end as a sign that things with Superman are still on course. He also gives Seg-El much more detail on who is coming to stop Superman from being born. It’s an individual that people should be familiar with if they have read comics. That is who this young man must try to stop.

A promo for the series featured comments from critics on the show calling it “the best DC TV series to date,” visually daring, and “unique and exciting.” I agree with them when it comes to the comment “unique and exciting,” because we are left to wonder: what is next? I don’t think there is really any show like this on TV now.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Kid Pulls Creemee Alarm; Dumping at Dog Park; Assorted Fires Lead To Assorted Reports Of Smoke

**Sunday, 3/25**  
1:14 p.m. Report of vehicle running in the Bookmill parking lot for at least 30 minutes with the windows down. Caller removed keys from vehicle and brought them to the front desk of the Bookmill. Officer followed up at Bookmill and confirmed keys are there. Bookmill is open until 6 p.m. for the owner to claim the keys without having to arrange for transportation to MPD to retrieve same.  
5:18 p.m. Caller reporting some kind of alarm sounding down on Avenue A; not sure where it is coming from. Officer clear; advising the noise is actually someone’s air conditioner running in a Powertown building.  
7:41 p.m. Caller from Green Pond Road reports that someone has been in his home and items are missing; this happened while he was away for a few days. Investigated.

straight warrant. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.  
10:08 p.m. Caller reporting heavy smoke in area of Emond Avenue; sour smell; possible chimney fire. TFFD investigating. Units clear. TFFD advises no issues; homeowner just had his stove going pretty good and has to let

[No log provided for Wednesday, 3/28.]

**Thursday, 3/29**  
9:05 a.m. Water Department employee concerned there may be an abandoned vehicle left near the Bridge of Names; silver car with VT plates. Made contact with vehicle owner. Vehicle is not abandoned; was left there for the winter parking ban. Owner will move vehicle this afternoon.  
4:28 p.m. Caller reporting that her sister stole

Fourth Street. Officers advise music was not loud upon arrival. Parties advised of complaint.  
12:58 p.m. Caller from L Street reporting vehicle that she does not recognize in her driveway. Caller believes someone parked there while attending the Unity Park egg hunt that is starting at 1 p.m. Officer spoke with caller, who believes she may know who owns the vehicle. Caller will leave vehicle as is for now; is assuming that once the egg hunt is over, vehicle will be moved.  
1:39 p.m. Caller reporting that someone stole her purse that she left in one of the dressing rooms at the Salvation Army. Subject is no longer in store. Victim later came into station stating that the suspect has been messaging her on Facebook. Investigated.  
2:47 p.m. Report of gas odors in building on Fourth Street. TFFD advised.  
3:38 p.m. Caller from South Ferry Road states that there is a brush fire in her backyard; not near any buildings at this time. Services rendered.  
5:22 p.m. MPD officer assisting Erving PD at Erving Paper Mill. K9 unit requested.  
6:22 p.m. Caller from Eleventh Street states someone whom she does not know came in and stole her tobacco while she was there with a friend. Caller also made several threats against ServiceNet, stating that she was going to put sugar in their gas tanks and break some bones. Caller very irate during entire conversation. Officer spoke with involved male party and came up with a remedy to the problem.  
6:31 p.m. Caller was walking behind the Carnegie Library on his way home and saw that the wood door at the back entrance was open. Keyholder notified. Building checked and secured.  
9:33 p.m. Anonymous caller from Turner Street reports a loud group of neighbors outside with a large fire. Officer spoke to homeowner, and they agreed to quiet down.

CORRECTION

An error in the MPD’s records was reproduced in last week’s *Highlights from the Montague Police Log*, and we wish to help set the record straight.  
On Friday 3/23, a 59-year-old woman who asks her name not be printed a second time was arrested in Lake Pleasant and charged with driving under the influence of liquor, not of “drugs (second offense).” (Our digital archive has been modified to reflect this change.)

it burn down.  
**Tuesday, 3/27**  
1:18 p.m. Report of vehicle driving erratically as it pulled into Unity Park. Caller advises she attempted to speak with the operator. Officer spoke with operator, who stated he accidentally hit the gas instead of the brake but was not successful in trying to explain this to the caller. Operator advised re: complaint.  
2:49 p.m. Report of illegal dumping at dog park on First Street; several tires and some trash. DPW notified; they advise that the property belongs to FirstLight.  
5:06 p.m. Caller would like an officer to come out and look at a box of needles that was found in a car he was working on.  
5:09 p.m. Two 911 hangup calls received from Franklin County Tech School. Officer spoke to baseball coach, who confirmed it was just a misdial.  
7:17 p.m. 911 caller from Keith Apartments requesting police assistance with a disagreement with her next door neighbor. Both parties advised of options.  
8:25 p.m. Report of large brush fire in Wills Ferry Road area. MCFD and TFFD responding along with MPD.

her medication; requesting police report for same. When advised of the process, caller advised she had somewhere to be and that she may return later on to file a report.  
4:32 p.m. Two calls reporting IRS scams. Advised of options.  
**Friday, 3/30**  
10:08 a.m. Officer trying to help a trash truck gain access to the landfill so they can swap out the trash barrel.  
1:10 p.m. Caller states that there is a pile of needles on the side of the road near Lake Pleasant Road. Items recovered.  
6:54 p.m. Caller advises that people are smoking something from a pipe on Fourth Street. Officer advises one subject was smoking a cigarette on a porch. Clear.  
9:50 p.m. Caller from Davis Street advises she is babysitting and a party known to her was there about two hours ago and stole her cell phone. Investigated.  
**Saturday, 3/31**  
6:16 a.m. General fire alarm at Montague Machine. TFFD received call from site; believed to be cooking smoke. Upon clearing, TFFD advises no problems found.  
12:07 p.m. Report of loud music coming from a vehicle on a driveway on

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## DISCLOSURE from page B1

to disguise ourselves, what we disclose and don't disclose" as we go about our lives.

The premiere of her piece is appropriately timed, given the current social and political climate in the US. As a person of color, being of African-American and Latina ethnicity, Ms. Jenoure is very aware of her visibility here in the Pioneer Valley. Some people may only experience something similar when traveling in a foreign country, but all of us have certainly been in situations where our opinions or choices have come under scrutiny.

Her allegory of a canary trying to pass as a cat can be appreciated by anyone who has felt pressure to conform or adapt to the society around them — for example, those who come to America and feel pressured to change their name or religion to "fit in." In the current climate in this country, a heightened suspicion is aroused by anyone who appears different — whether it be in how they dress or speak or by their race, gender, sexuality, or ethnicity. So, although Ms. Jenoure's piece may not have been meant as a political statement, it is certainly timely.

Terry Jenoure met Linda McInerney about ten years ago through her theater work. This is their third project together and their mutual respect and admiration is immediately obvious when interviewing them. The other thing that was very obvious was their love for the Shea Theater. They find it to be a visually beautiful space as well as acoustically wonderful to perform in.

The hope of both Linda McInerney and Terry Jenoure, as well as the other performers in the event, is that people will allow themselves to be open to the ideas of interconnectedness that are presented at the festival, and that they come away from the day with a desire to be more inclusive and welcoming of others in thought and action.

## Schedule of Events

The first performance is titled, "from Walt, from me, to You" and will be performed by Katherine Adler at the Discovery Center at 4 p.m. The piece is based on the epic poem, "Leaves of Grass" by Walt Whitman. Ms. Adler's interpretation of the poem "seeks to promote inward scrutiny and interpersonal empathy" with the hope that the audience will be inspired to look inward in order to further enrich their lives.

The next performance, "Unsuitably Appropriate," will take place at 5 p.m. at the Hygge House, located at 67 Second Street. This piece, created by Crystal Nilsson, is a "multimedia compounding of intersections between archetypal relationships, digital personas, and a detached fragile self-image through appropriation and a comic book and pop art aesthetic," and is influenced by the art of Roy Lichtenstein.

Ms. Nilsson explores the effects our digital world has on social interactions. Choreographed by Crystal Nilsson and Stephen

## T-RUMP

Season Opener *Tar2f!* Promises Irreverent Comedy

**GREENFIELD** — Back in the 1600s, the celebrated playwright Molière was unapologetically critical of the excesses and hypocrisies of French society, so much so that performances of his plays were frequently shut down. Northampton composer and lyricist Jeff Olmsted knew that one of these classic Molière comedies, *Tartuffe*, was the perfect vehicle for his own musical jab at these turbulent times.

Silverthorne Theater Company presents the world premiere of Olmsted's work: *Tar2f! An Irreverent Musical Comedy* as the opening show of their fifth anniversary season.

As the resident theater company at Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center at 289 Main Street in Greenfield, the performances will be held there on the following dates: Thursday through Saturday, April 12 through 14, at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, April 15 at 2 p.m.; and April 19 through 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Peter Ludwig plays the title role of Tartuffe, a skilled conman who, oozing fake piety, worms his

way into the confidence — and household — of the wealthy Parisian Orgon (Sam Samuels) and his mother, Mme. Pernelle (Louise Krieger).

Orgon's wife Elmire (Myka Plunkett) soon discovers the scoundrel's real intentions toward her and her daughter Mariane (Grace Olmsted), whose plans to marry her sweetheart Valere (Steven Williams) are disrupted by her father.

Other characters, such as Orgon's son Damis (Rich Vaden), Elmire's brother Cleante (Ted Trobaugh), and the family's maid Dorine (Linda Tardif), try to penetrate Orgon's stubborn trust in Tartuffe, who proceeds to bring the family to near-ruin until a last minute royal pardon arrives. Thom Griffen plays Molière in this version. Chris Rohmann directs, and Ted Trobaugh is music director, with Lee Edelman on keyboards.

In this farcical face-off between love and greed, credulity and cynicism, the company has added a framing device that parallels the crisis within the play, leading to a surprise climax.

Tickets for this production are \$25 general

admission; \$20 students/seniors. Discount tickets for Silverthorne Theater shows are available at the World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield and Broadside Books in Northampton. Tickets may be purchased at [silverthornetheater.org](http://silverthornetheater.org).

Upcoming in May is an important piece of dramatic writing, *The Tattooed Man Tells All* — a new voice in the telling of the stories of the Holocaust. New York playwright Peter Wortsman's gripping solo piece, woven from a series of interviews conducted, on a fellowship from the Thomas J. Watson Foundation, in Vienna in 1975 with witnesses to and survivors of the Holocaust, the scene of Western civilization's worst excesses.

The mission of the nonprofit Silverthorne Theater Company is "to bring excellence of performance to adventurous drama, combining the best of the theatrical repertoire while also promoting unheard voices and underserved populations." Stay tuned to these pages for more upcoming reviews and previews of Silverthorne productions.



Crystal Nilsson performs in a store window. She is one of the performers at Radical Interconnectedness on April 14.

Tracey Ursprung.

At 6 p.m. "Hauling Toward Home," a sound installation, can be seen at the Senior Center at 62 Fifth Street. The piece was created by Samantha Wood using rocking chairs to explore "the definition of home through the human voice — place and story..." The rocking of the chairs is a metaphor, both soothing and also imitating the motion of rowing, carrying one home across dark waters.

"Karl and Mr. Drag" will be performing at the Great Falls Harvest, located at 50 Third Street. You can join Mr. Drag and his assistant Karl for their new talk show, "Morning Vodka," while imbibing a beverage of your own. Mr. Drag is played by the world-renowned makeup designer Joe Dulude II. His assistant, Karl, is performed by Katherine Adler, the movement artist doing the day's first piece.

The final event will be the premiere of Jenoure's "The Pass" at 8 p.m. at the Shea Theater. This multi-dimensional piece uses violin, voice, komongo, piano, and flute to create the allegory of a canary disguising itself as a cat. "The Pass" is about how we deceive ourselves by attempting to pass for something other than who we really are and the price paid for that delusion.

The work includes Sibylle Po-

morin, Angelica Sanchez, Maria Mitchell and Jin Hi Kim, who will all accompany Ms. Jenoure on this journey of movement, poetry, prose and song to tell a story that could ring true for us all.

The Full Disclosure Festival begins at 4 p.m. on April 14 in Turners Falls. A \$15 ticket gets you into everything! Children under 15 are free. For tickets, go to [eggtooth.org](http://eggtooth.org).



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## ONGOING EVENTS: EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

## FIRST SUNDAY MONTHLY

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

## EVERY MONDAY

Greenfield Harmony Spring Session. No auditions. 6:45 p.m. Contact [mcbass@vermontel.net](mailto:mcbass@vermontel.net) for location and details.

## 2ND AND 4TH MONDAYS

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

## EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

Leverett Library: *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 April 14 at 6 p.m. Through April.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro: Six new Spring exhibits: *Best of Springs, Sprockets and Pulleys; 100 Views Along the Road; Bottle in the River; We Walk in Their Shadows; Gloria Garfinkel; Susan Calabria*.

Great Hall, Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Seen/Unseen, portraits by Cindi Oldham*. A conceptual watercolor portrait series that explores what it means to be seen, yet unseen at the same time. April 6 through May 30. Reception April 28.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Speaking Figuratively*, by Eric Grab. He will do a life drawing demo at his reception on Friday, April 27. Exhibit through May.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Art of Onge*. Paintings by Andrea "Onge" Newland whose ranging "from portrait to abstract where worlds collide in a kaleidoscope of color." Opening reception April 6, 5-7 p.m. Through May 15.



Raptor expert Tom Ricardi and his golden eagle will be at Pot-hole Pictures in Shelburne Falls at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 7, before the showing of "The Eagle Huntress" at 8 p.m. Come meet a real live eagle and learn about falconry up close! The movie is a documentary about Aisholpan, a thirteen-year-old Mongolian girl, who is given the opportunity to capture a wild eagle and train it to hunt — the first woman to do so in twelve generations. Friday's showing is preceded by music from guitarist Jim Eagan. At Memorial Hall on Bridge Street.

Historic Northampton, Northampton: *Single Room Occupancy: Portraits and Stories from Northampton Lodging, 1976-2016*. Northampton Lodging was demolished in 2016. Cassandra Holden interviewed residents and Paul Shoul took portraits of them just before they were relocated. Tracing the waning years of boarding houses in Northampton and existence at the edge of the community. Through June 10.

Hope and Feathers Gallery, Amherst: *What Will Happen?* Mixed media portraits by Jason Antaya. Opening reception Thursday, April 5, 5 to 8 p.m. during Amherst Arts Night Plus. There will be an artist reception and DIY collage with Jason on Saturday, April 21, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Potpourri*, paintings by artist Louise Minks of Leverett. Through April.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Turners Falls Show*. Nina Rossi presents work about Turners Falls from over the years. Through May 15.

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: *Heavenly Bodies*. New multi-media work by Nina Rossi featuring back lit clouds and flying figures. Reception, with music by Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band, Sunday April 8, 2 p.m. Through April 30.

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Slate Roof Press 2018 Elyse Wolf Prize for a poetry chapbook. Winner receives publication and \$500. For full contest guidelines, visit [www.slateroofpress.com/contest.html](http://www.slateroofpress.com/contest.html). Submit no more than 28 pages of poetry by June 15. \$10 reading fee.

## EVENTS:

### THURSDAY, APRIL 5

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Wildcat O'Halloran Band* plays the blues, including cuts from their new CD. 7 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*. Americana. 8 p.m.

Gill Tavern, Gill: *Penultimate round of Trivia*. Playing for the Greenfield Senior Foundation. 8:30 p.m. \$

### FRIDAY, APRIL 6

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Opening reception for *The Art of Onge*, 5 to 7 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton's 1940's Hit Parade*, 7 p.m., and *Warner Hill*, 9:30 p.m.

Episcopal Church of St. James & St. Andrew, Greenfield: *GCC Chorus Spring Concert Series Think Spring!* 7:30 p.m. Donations.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Home Body and Arc Iris* perform indie rock. 9 p.m. \$

### SATURDAY, APRIL 7

Our Lady of Peace, Turners Falls: *Elizabeth Von Trapp Concert*. In the tradition of the Von Trapp singers and The Sound of Music. 7 p.m. Donation.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Chris Smither CD Release*. Celebrating his first set of originals in six years entitled *Call Me Lucky*. Smither draws deeply from folk and blues, modern poets and philosophers. 7 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Strange Creek Battle of the Bands*. With so many talented bands interested in performing at Strange Creek Campout, these friendly annual "battles" were created to let bands earn their way onto the festival stage. 7 p.m. \$

Mount Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Joe Jencks in Concert*. "Jencks weaves a diverse web of stories with brilliant musical skill, ensnaring even the most rigid of hearts, inviting them to open. His songs invite us to live inside of our passions and our beliefs." 7:30 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Nite Caps Honky Tonk*. Classic country with a dose of pedal steel and a twanging telecaster. 7:30 p.m. \$

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Cool Hand Ukes*. Ukelele group. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*. Reggae. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Franklin County Sweethearts*. 9:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 8

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Heavenly Bodies Artist Reception* with member artist Nina Rossi. Refreshments, plus music by Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band. 2 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Traditional Quebecois Music Session*. 3 p.m.

First Congo Church, Greenfield: *The Eventide Singers*. Group offers "songs of hope and comfort for the ill." Fundraiser for their services providing the healing power of music for those in need. 3 p.m. Donation.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Immigrant Voices*. Showcase of immigrant's artistic talents and contributions to the lively culture of Western Mass. Song, dance, poetry and more. Fundraiser for the Center for New Americans. 3 p.m. Donation.

Leverett Library: *Common Threads*. Poetry discussion group led by Leverett poet Janine Roberts and Shutesbury poet Janet MacFadyen. 3 p.m. RSVP appreciated to: [janine@educ.umass.edu](mailto:janine@educ.umass.edu).

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# Warming Up...



The Turners Falls High School softball team is in spring training. Clockwise, from top left: Bella Allen is ready to make the tag as Eliza Johnson sprints to second base. Softball championship veteran Cassidyhe Wozniak throws to first base. Lindsay Whiteman fields a fly ball in the outfield. Abby Loynd warms up her throwing arm.

## GRAB from page B1

Grab also creates largely abstract paintings that draw upon his study of symbolic and mythological systems from around the world. Some canvases are like archaeological sites, with layers of paint and gesso simultaneously obscuring and revealing Grab's archetypal figures.

Asked about the very different styles he's working in, Grab says it's partly a matter of time. The life drawings are completely in the moment. They happen so quickly, there's "zero hiding" for either artist or model. With the paintings, "There's a lot more time where my mind and my faculties are standing in front of this thing, moving things about." This expanded sense of time manifests as a spiritual dimension in the work.

"I think it's just a way for me to communicate with myself, without knowing what I'm trying to communicate," Grab says. "It's like the deeper part of me speaking to myself. My subconscious, when I make these works, is talking to me. It's speaking not through verbal language but through visual language. When I'm in that mode, I don't even know what I'm doing. I don't know what I'm saying. There's something else that's trying to come through."

Greenfield Gallery is located at 231 Main Street. Hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, noon to 8 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Check out Eric Grab's website at [ericgrab.com](http://ericgrab.com).

Trish Crapo is the publicist at The Greenfield Gallery.



Eric Grab's pastel drawings "Dakini Mudra" (top) and "Figure Drawing 173" (bottom).

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