



The Montague Reporter

YEAR 16 – NO. 28

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 3, 2018

NEW BEGINNINGS



SALLY PICK PHOTO

Montague tree committee members and neighborhood residents pitched in to plant a London planetree and a Daybreak magnolia in front of the Montague Center post office on Sunday. The committee and tree warden also held Arbor Day planting ceremonies in each of the town's other four villages last Friday.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Board: A Non-Civil Service Chief May Be Easier to Fire, But Take Too Long to Hire

By JEFF SINGLETON

On Monday, the Montague selectboard began its long-awaited discussion of whether the town police chief should remain covered by the Massachusetts Civil Service System.

"It's not a small decision," said board chair Rich Kuklewicz. "So I think we ought to make the decision one way or another for the right reasons.... whatever we think those right reasons might be."

"It sounds like right now, we all have completely different opinions on it," replied member Michael Nelson.

Two months ago, when former chief Charles "Chip" Dodge resigned following an internal investigation highly critical of his handling of a

prescription medicine drop box at the police station, the board seemed on the verge of removing the chief's position from the civil service. At that time, members seemed to feel that the negotiations, which led to Dodge being granted an additional year of paid leave, were influenced by the fact that the former chief could appeal local decisions to the state Civil Service Commission.

According to released minutes of a February 12 executive session at which the board discussed the town's settlement agreement with Dodge, town counsel Timothy Zessin is reported to have given an "explanation... regarding uncertainties with regard to Civil Service and how long the process could take."

At the board's March 19 meeting,

see MONTAGUE page A8

Montague Center Water Bills Will Rise By 40%

By MIKE JACKSON

On Tuesday night, the Montague Center Water District held its annual meeting, and voted to raise the water rate from \$5 to \$7 per 1,000 gallons, which will show up in customers' next bills in November.

According to water commissioner Gary Dion, the hike was enacted in anticipation of major expenses on the horizon, including replacing the district's water storage tank, as mandated by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in January.

Dion has estimated that the tank replacement project could cost \$300,000 or more.

"We need to do something with our tank within the next three years," Dion said. "Replacing it's going to be cheaper than refurbishing it."

The district, chartered in 1953, provides water to 154 households, about 6% of the overall town pop-

ulation. It draws the water from a well just south of West Pond. In 2004, it partnered with the Turners Falls Fire District, which provides water to the majority of the town, to purchase 12 acres of land on Main Street near its well.

Dion said that the district takes in about \$48,000 a year in revenue – estimated to rise to around \$63,000 after the rate hike – but that it will still be repaying money borrowed for that land purchase for another seven years.

"I don't know how we can keep up with this, as a small district, without some grant money and help," he said. "We've never tried to get grant money."

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides matching grants to rural communities for critical water infrastructure. The matches are based on communities' income levels; Dion guesses

see WATER page A8

Leverett Town Meeting Taxes Cannabis, Decries Nukes, Debates Education Costs

By MIKE JACKSON

Sunny spring weekend days have been in short supply so far this year, but last Saturday, a sense of civic discipline brought a gymnasium full of Leverett people together to attend to their town's annual business of bylaws and budgets.

The central theme this year was concern that the town may not be able to continue to raise enough in taxes to keep pace with the inflating cost of education. An hour-long discussion was dedicated to this topic, and a "one-time" \$20,000 patch for Leverett Elementary School's budget was sent to a written ballot, where it passed, 170 votes to 15.

The other 32 articles on the warrant were approved by voice vote – most unanimously, with a few stray nays on eight or nine. A budget of \$6,052,921 was passed for FY'19, a rate of 1.4% growth over the current year.

Bethany Seeger and Levin Schwartz were re-elected to the school committee, and Julie Shively to the selectboard. No one was nominated, though, for an empty seat on the board of assessors.

Selectboard member Peter d'Errico warned the assembly that the town faced another large tax abatement



The town's highest authority passed all 33 warrant articles.

request from an estate he did not name.

Education Expenses

The meeting voted Leverett's consent for a compromise agreement over how the Amherst-Pelham regional high school district assesses costs to towns. The district has historically used a per-pupil head count to split

see LEVERETT page A5

Remembering Patricia Pruitt

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – Last week, Patricia Pruitt, a beloved community member and a former editor of this newspaper, died of complications of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Patricia and her husband, Chris Sawyer-Laucanno, have been involved in the Reporter since its first years, and in due course Patricia served as a reporter, assistant editor, and editor of our monthly Poetry Page.

We reached out to a number of our friends and readers, asking them to share their own thoughts and memories of Patricia. Together, they have made a better eulogy than we could offer. Here they are. Please feel free to write in with your own reminiscences!

My earliest recollection of Patricia was meeting her approaching the Town Hall, she from the side parking spaces, and I from the Ave. We had met a few times before that, but really didn't know each other well.

As we greeted each other and determined that we were going to the same meeting, Patricia made a slight



TRISH CRAPO PHOTO

Patricia Pruitt, in a photograph taken last fall.

movement, and we took off running for the door to see who would get there first! We arrived together, laughing at the quick run from adulthood to childhood and back again. It was hard to stop laughing

as the meeting began.

In addition to Patricia's beauty and grace, her exquisite understanding and use of our language in her beautiful poetry, the gift that she

see PRUITT page A6

TFHS Sports: The Week In Review

By MATT ROBINSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – This week, Mother Nature drenched the area with April showers, forcing the cancellation of 12 Turners Falls sporting events. On Wednesday, April 25, a chilling rainstorm canceled tennis and baseball. On Friday, another deluge washed out the day's events, and on Monday the 30th, Nature again rained on Powertown's parade.

So this "week in sports" is all about last Thursday, April 26, when the school squeezed in baseball, softball, and one tennis match. Also this week, Turners Falls lost a daughter.

Softball

TFHS 8 – Frontier 4

"We're in trouble!" one of the True Blue faithful said at the home game last Thursday.

It was the top of the fifth, Frontier was leading 3-1, and the Red Hawks were still at bat. With Turners' only run coming from a RBI walk, it looked pretty bleak for Blue – not to mention that they were riding a one-game

see TFHS SPORTS page A4



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Powertown's powerful pitcher Peyton Emery was sent in during the fifth inning against the Frontier Red Hawks.

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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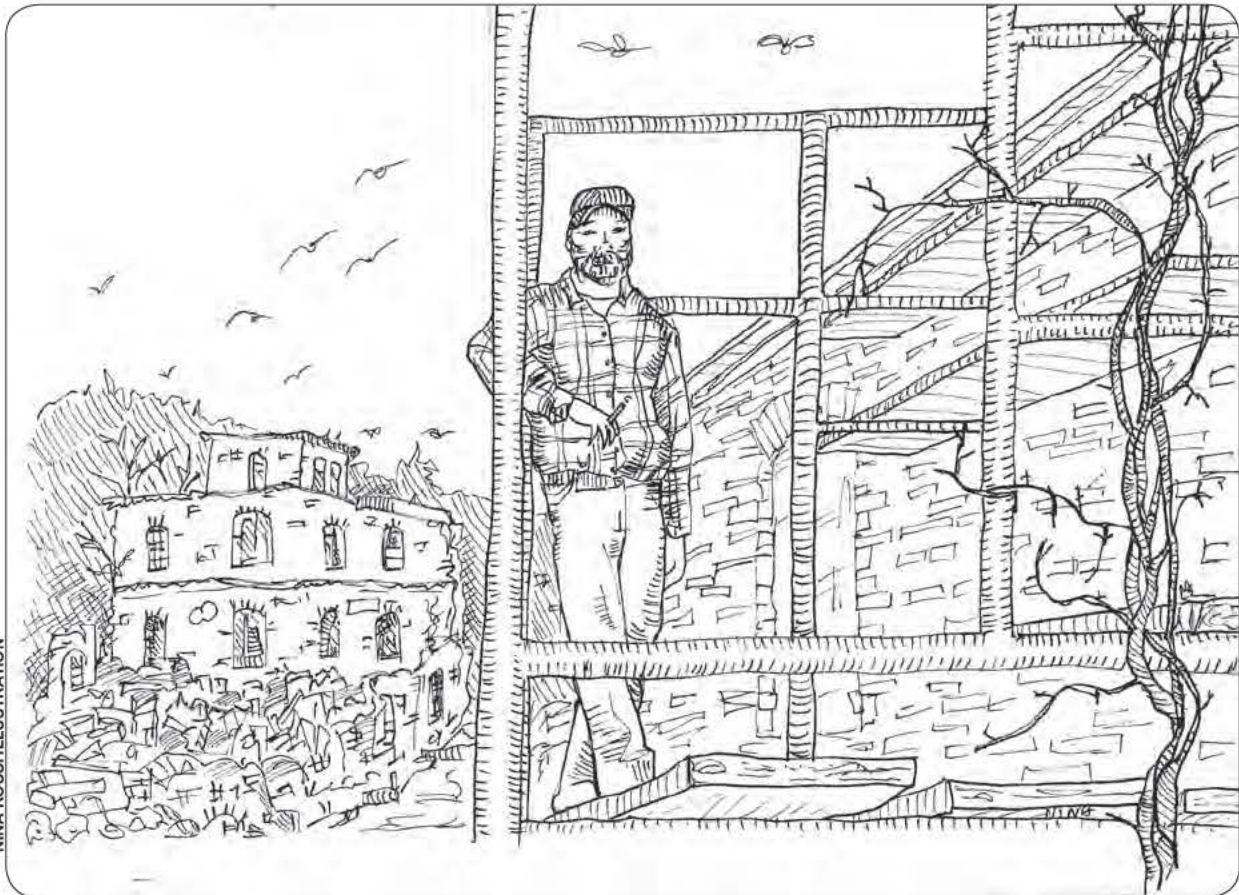
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About Face Computing

Founded by
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August 2002



Brickmason Bill Sevene gets ready to work on restoring the corbelling of the old Railroad Salvage Annex building in Turners Falls.

Permanent Record

Do you think this newspaper should print the names of arrested individuals in our police logs?

It's an issue that comes up from time to time, and one that we will be actively reconsidering over the next two weeks.

Publishing police logs is useful to residents for a number of reasons. It provides a cross-section of the type of incidents or situations that are coming to police attention in a given area.

This imparts something about the nature of criminality in the area, but also something about the natures of complaint and enforcement. Most entries combine different degrees of crime, complaint, and policing.

Not all crimes observed by police result in arrest, and not all nuisances reported to them are criminal in nature. Given those caveats, a police log can be a helpful snapshot of the types of events that are leading to people getting arrested at a given time and place.

Then there is a traditional argument that to "name and shame" perpetrators of antisocial behavior serves to discourage that behavior, even if the risk of arrest and legal punishment does not. Knowing which of your neighbors was busted driving drunk, or dumping bulky waste down an embankment, can be a useful tool for navigating life in a small town.

But then there's the other side. Not all arrests are the result of moral failure; not all arrests are even of the correct person. And it is certainly true that not all ar-

rests lead to prosecution, and even fewer to conviction.

What's the use of being innocent until proven guilty – one of the fundamental (and better) principles of the American legal system – when you're marked for shame on the public record?

In 2013, the *Reporter* decided that in any situation that read like it involved domestic abuse, we would omit names and personal information – even of alleged perpetrators – based on evidence that airing it does not prevent abuse or help survivors. A 2014 Massachusetts law then prohibited police departments from releasing that information.

But why stop there? Do we really need to put in print anything more than, e.g., "a 50-year-old man was arrested on Federal Street and charged with possession of a Class B substance?"

Last month we got a wake-up call about this when the Montague Police Department handed us printed logs that included an incorrect charge with an arrest – operating under the influence of drugs, as opposed to alcohol, an error which that arrestee told us risked them their job.

Is it worth being a part of that? Is it even really worth it when the *correct* charges are listed?

According to reader surveys, police logs are one of our most popular items, so we'd like to hear your input on this topic. Email your thoughts to editor@montaguereporter.org. We'll announce our decision in our May 17 edition!

Regulating Edibles: Clarification and Update

In last week's edition, we reported on an April 18 meeting of the Wendell selectboard that mentioned, as an aside to a discussion about licensed cannabis cultivation, a statement that our reporter Josh Heinemann says "was a casual remark made during the meeting, [that] struck me as absurd":

The [state Cannabis Control Commission] does not consider marijuana edibles food – just as marijuana is not considered a plant – so making marijuana edibles need not involve the board of health.

"Need" not – but the story didn't end there. According to Nina Keller, chair of Wendell's board of health, her board actually did discuss and enact regulations concerning edibles during a hearing the following Monday, April 23.

"If people are going to start selling it from Wendell kitchens, it's a food," Keller told us. "They're eating it, and we have to watch out for unsavory kitchen diseases."

Keller said that planning board chair Nan Riebschlager had relayed a warning she'd heard at a Franklin Regional Council of Governments meeting: towns might potentially be sued if a person becomes sick after eating cannabis-infused products sold within their borders.

"There was no one attending but us," Keller said of the April 23 hearing. "We talked about it, trying to figure out how best to word it so as not to be judgmental."

Keller said these new non-judgmental town regulations will be available soon for reading on the town website, www.wendellmass.us.

Letters to the Editors

Education First A Treasure

The May 21 town election is one of the most important in recent years. Our local school district is beginning to rebound after decades of instability, uncertainty and lack of consistent, competent leadership.

Dedicated and creative efforts are being implemented to track spending and exercise fiscal efficiency. There is increased camaraderie, cooperation and communication throughout all levels of learning – among and between teachers, teachers and administrators, teachers and parents.

Students are being invited to engage more actively in student life as well as learning endeavors.

Enrollment had been on the decline for some years now, perhaps not surprising given past history; that is changing, and you can help foster continued educational improvement, teacher satisfaction and administrative progress by going out to *VOTE* on May 21.

Mary Kay Mattiace
Montague

Committed To Future

Municipal elections sometimes offer a choice between a Past and Future perspective.

On May 21 two-town voters will fill four of the nine positions on the Gill-Montague District's School Committee, and our choices will affect the balance of viewpoints that will make the next year's decisions.

Committee members should focus on the preservation of academic quality (planning for the Future) in the face of continuing financial constraints (an unfortunate continuation of the Past).

This challenge requires that candidates demonstrate to us, during the forums and meet-and-greet events in the next weeks, that they can, and will, work co-operatively to discharge the full range of the Committee's responsibilities. Informed support of Dr. Sullivan's current leadership – principals and central administrative staff – by the School Committee will contribute to the district's future success.

There are indications that net losses of students to other districts may have flattened out, and school

enrollment may actually be growing. I believe the district should support *joint* efforts with neighboring towns and districts to secure reliable and adequate State support of our districts, because joint efforts will still be more effective than acting independently.

Voters should judge the candidates on their commitment to this future, and not on their desire to return to a past that we have moved beyond.

I've had a chance to listen to several candidates on the ballot, and urge voters to compare their planned approach to that of other candidates. At this point, lacking new information, my support will go to experienced incumbents Timmie Smith and Mike Langknecht, and motivated first-timers Haley Anderson and Jennifer Lively.

I expect high turnout for this election, and hope district voters will endorse a constructive path forward by adding their vote for these candidates.

John Hanold
Turners Falls

Thanks for the detailed article and interviews focused on the latest developments at the Industrial Heritage Museum (*MR*, April 26, 2018).

The Museum is a local treasure poised to make a wide splash through their new cyber efforts. I have sent the article along to Rob Cox, Head of Special Collections and Archives at UMass' W.E.B. DuBois Library; Rob is already engaged with preserving local archives and your article will interest him.

I am also going to discuss possible cooperation between the IHM and Leverett's Historical Association, which maintains two buildings containing artifacts of Leverett's industrial past.

Best wishes,

Peter d'Errico
Leverett

Difficult Work

The important job of a school committee member affects the lives of all local families and the well-being of our children.

It is difficult work that requires a long-term commitment to the entire district and a variety of skills: Understanding large budgets. Seeing the bigger picture. Fundraising. Navigating complicated state and federal laws. Working hard to get and keep excellent teachers. Listening respectfully to others.

Haley Anderson and Jennifer Lively have these skills – as well as children who attend district schools, or soon will. I'm voting for them, and hope you will too.

Maggie Sadoway
Turners Falls

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No paper last week of November, or the Thursday closest to 12/25.

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Join Bette Sokoloski as she brings the latest craze to Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls this Saturday, May 5, from 10 to 11 a.m. **Iris Folding** is an attractive paper craft technique used in card making, scrap-booking and many other projects. Learn how to make a shape by folding a variety of colored paper for a unique, “one of a kind” design.

Sokoloski will be providing this simple, basic workshop free of charge. Bring a friend and enjoy your creation. Light snacks will be provided by the bank.

May Day Festivities will start at 10 a.m. on Sunday, May 6, on the Montague Center town common.

Join the **Franklin County Community Chorus** for their fifth annual Spring Concert on Sunday, May 6, at 3 p.m. in the Greenfield High School Auditorium. The 75-voice chorus, under the direction of Paul J. Calcarì, promises an afternoon full of fun as they perform a diverse selection of songs spanning various musical genres.

Do you know how to **recognize and respond to an opioid overdose**? How do you administer Narcan to reverse an overdose?

Next Tuesday, May 8, from 6 to 8 p.m., Montague Catholic Social Ministries will host a community training at 43 Third Street, Turners Falls. Participants will learn how to recognize an opioid overdose, and how to administer this lifesaving overdose reversal drug.

This training is free and open to all community members. If you can't make it on Tuesday, the training will repeat the following Monday, May 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Greenfield Public Library. The series is presented by the Opioid Task Force, in collaboration with Tapestry and the North Quabbin Recovery Center.

Montague Democrats will hold a meeting on Wednesday, May 9, at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall downstairs meeting room. The agenda will set goals and initiatives for the committee to work on for the coming year.

The meeting is open to the public and any candidates to town office who would like to address the mem-

bers. For more information, contact mpwisnewski@gmail.com or call (413) 588-6307.

Celebrate spring at the Millers Falls Library on Thursday, May 10. The Millers Falls Community Improvement Association will present a “Mothers Day / Spring Event” from 3 to 6:30 p.m.

Decorate pots and plant pansies, make origami and beaded flowers, and enjoy cotton candy and other snacks while supplies last. All ages welcome. See millersfalls.wordpress.com for more information.

Folksinger and storyteller **Tim Van Egmond** will perform for an intergenerational audience at the Swift River School on Friday, May 11 at 10 a.m. The performance is sponsored by the Councils on Aging of New Salem and Wendell. Seniors from both communities will join students and parents for the performance.

A resident of Montague, Van Egmond has performed for over 30 years throughout the country, appearing at hundreds of schools, libraries, and community centers. His performances for senior citizen groups and intergenerational programs appeal to a broad range of ages.

The program is also supported in part by grants from the New Salem and Wendell cultural councils.

On Friday, May 11 at 6 p.m. there will be a **Roast Stuffed Pork dinner** at the Erving Senior Center. The cost is just \$10 per person, and there will be music after the meal.

If you are interested, tickets must be purchased in advance by calling (413) 423-3308. This is a senior event; feel free to ask any other senior who might be interested.

The **Turners Falls Fishway** will be open from Saturday, May 12 until Sunday, June 17. Watch as fish climb the ladder past the dam to spawn. Located on First Street just off of Avenue A, the Fishway will be open Wednesdays through Sundays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., as well as Monday, May 28 for the Memorial Day holiday.

The “**Turners Falls: An Artist's View**” exhibit is now up at Nina's Nook, 125A Avenue A, Turners Falls. Decades of work documenting the town in various media including clay, photography, paint, cloth, collage by owner/artist (and *Montague Reporter* features editor) Nina Rossi.

For more information, visit ninasnook.com, or call (413) 834-8800. Exhibit goes until Friday, May 11.

The Turners Falls Water Department mailed out **semi-annual water bills** May 1. Payments are due by June 1 to avoid a \$20 late charge.

Payments can be made by mail, online, or at the Water Dept Office, 226 Millers Falls Road. Business hours are Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and a drop box is located to the left of the front door for payment after hours.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

GUEST EDITORIAL

By CHRIS MASON

MONTAGUE – Based on evidence, 97% of climate scientists have concluded that human-caused climate change is happening. Massachusetts is already experiencing its effects, and unless we do more to avoid it, these effects will only get worse over time.

At the annual town meeting this Saturday, May 5, Montague can help Massachusetts take a leading role in slowing down climate change by endorsing a state-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) fee and rebate system proposed by Massachusetts' legislators.

In the April 19 *Montague Reporter*, I explained how the proposed system would work and how it would benefit Massachusetts' economy and advantage rural communities and low-income individuals, while driving down GHG emissions.

In Massachusetts, we have already reduced GHG emissions 21% below our 1990 level, but our rate of success is slowing down, and the need to accelerate our efforts is urgent to help slow the impacts of climate change.

What are the impacts of global warming in Massachusetts?

Powerful storms, which used to occur decades apart, now occur every couple of years. From the 2011 Halloween nor'easter, Tropical Storm Irene (2011), and Hurricane Sandy (2012) to record winter Northeast coastal flooding in 2015, 2016, and 2018, our safety, economy, and properties are being hammered by storms. This will only get worse as

global warming strengthens.

In the 1990s, it was a hot year if you had more than 10 days over 90° Fahrenheit (F), and today, 100° F days are still somewhat rare.

Unless we slow down global warming, Massachusetts climate models predict that, by the last quarter of this century, we will regularly experience 30 to 60 days a year over 90° F, and 100° F days will no longer be rare.

Other predicted impacts of global warming are longer and more severe droughts and an increase in insect damage to trees, as winters are no longer cold enough to control bugs that can kill trees. Hemlock and ash are two species that are already threatened. Maple syrup production will be affected as seasonal weather patterns change.

Global warming also impacts our health. The Valley experiences several days each summer that don't meet EPA standards for air quality, which drives up local incidences of asthma and other air quality illnesses. That poor air quality comes from a combination of hot weather and burning gasoline, diesel, propane and natural gas, and the number of poor air quality days will increase as temperatures rise.

This news is scary and hard to hear. We can, however, take meaningful action that will result in more comfortable homes and less wasted energy – and money.

How?

The largest contribution of GHG pollution in Massachusetts (39%) comes from burning gasoline and diesel fuel for transportation. Re-

ducing that is as simple as placing a high priority on the number of miles per gallon your next car gets. Or, better yet, walk, bike, share rides or take the bus.

Another 29% of Massachusetts' GHG pollution comes from using heating oil, natural gas and propane to heat our homes, commercial establishments and domestic hot water. Wonderfully, in Massachusetts there are significant subsidies to help homeowners make their homes and businesses more comfortable by paying to seal air leaks, reducing the cost of insulating your home or business and buying down the price of high-efficiency heating systems.

If it is so easy, why don't all of us do it?

While increasing numbers of people are taking steps to reduce energy use, let's face it, many of us don't take these steps because we don't generally consider the effects of climate change and pollution when we make these decisions. It's human nature that many of us consider short-term costs.

For instance, it is well recognized that when gasoline prices are low, people buy larger, less efficient vehicles. When prices are high, people buy high efficiency vehicles.

How does the GHG fee and rebate encourage you to buy low energy-using items?

With a GHG fee and rebate system, people will be motivated to keep as much of the rebates as they can by choosing to buy lower energy-using items that will drop their annual fuel costs and pollution fees. If you use

less than the average amount of fossil fuels, you will get more money back from the GHG rebate than you spend on pollution fees.

How can Montague town meeting make a positive impact on climate change?

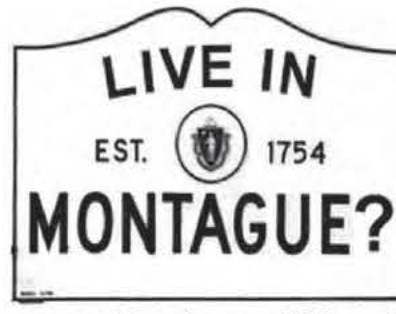
On May 5, Montague town meeting will be asked to pass a resolution calling on our state government to enact a greenhouse gas fee and rebate system. Two “carbon fee and rebate” bills are currently before state legislators. These bills would provide higher rebate payments to individuals in areas where people drive more than average, such as western Massachusetts.

Lower income residents, who typically spend less on fossil fuels, would benefit from rebates that will likely be higher than the costs of fees that they incur. The state would provide rebates to businesses and institutions based on their number of employees and would increase rebates to energy intensive industries and to businesses that face stiff out-of-state competition. Because the fee can be adjusted, a fee and rebate system is flexible, and can respond to changing situations.

If you feel, as the members of Montague's energy committee do, that it is imperative to reduce greenhouse gas pollution as quickly as possible, please ask your town meeting representative to vote for the fee and rebate resolution at the May 5 town meeting.

Chris Mason is the chair of the Montague energy committee. He lives in Montague Center.

Montague Town Meeting to Consider a “Fee and Rebate” Resolution – Part 2: Why?



www.MontagueMA.net
local gossip, news & business listings

Montague Public Works Open House Event

**500 Avenue A, Turners Falls
Monday May 7, 3 to 5:30 p.m.**

- Tour the current DPW Facility
- Learn about proposed facility
- Q+A with planning committee and town officials

16th Annual Anti-Racism Film Festival

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church
399 Main Street, Greenfield MA
**Sunday, May 6, 2018,
1:30 p.m.
FREE ADMISSION
Free Child Care**

Film Schedule:

1:30 p.m. - Whose Streets? (2017)
Directed by Sabaah Fohayan and Damon Davis. 90 minutes. Discussion leader: Gloria Matlock.

4:15 p.m. - I Am Not Your Negro (2016)
Directed by Raoul Peck. 93 minutes. Discussion leader: Momodou Sarr.

6:30 p.m. - Supper! A nourishing meal of local foods cooked by our favorite chef Kirsten Levitt from the Stone Soup Café will be served. Vegan and gluten free options. Sliding Scale donation \$4-\$10. No one will be turned away.

7:30 p.m. - Wind River (2017) Directed by Taylor Sheridan. 107 minutes. Discussion leader: Strong Oak.

For more information call:
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Molly Chambers at (413) 772-0003

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in Montague



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GUEST EDITORIAL

By The People: S.O.S. (Stop Outrageous Spending), Part 3

By JEANNE GOLRICK

MONTAGUE – This week's lyric is from Pink Floyd:

Money, it's a crime... Share it fairly, but don't take a slice of my pie. Money, so they say, is the root of all evil today...

Eleven million dollars for a new "highway facility." Well, this is money that the people of this town cannot afford, but that is a fact that the administration of this municipal corporate government continually ignores or is just pushing aside.

Did you know that the Erving highway facility cost under \$2 million to build? Even if that limited size of 6,000 square feet were tripled to the size the administration claims it needs, the price tag could come in still under \$6 million.

Are you aware that a new industrial facility (of 20,000 *square feet*) is being built in Bernardston, and it costs well under \$5 million?

Yet Montague uses, for justification, towns such as Boylston and Bourne. Neither is anywhere near Franklin County, nor do they contain the same populations or economic standing.

So again, as I have written in an earlier article, Montague cannot work to make its own money as it is *not* a living human being, like the people of this town who work to afford to stay here. So the corporate municipality can vote to take from the pockets of people whatever it deems it needs.

Take a moment again to listen to the lyrics of Pink Floyd, because although the song may be old, the message sounds as clear today as when it was originally written:

Money, get away... Get a good job with more pay and you're OK...

TFHS SPORTS from A1

losing streak, and scheduled to play Central Mass powerhouse Wachusett on Friday.

But Turners has its weapons, and coach Gary Mullins knows how to use them. He pulled Jade Tyler out of the circle and put in a still-ailing Peyton Emery. Tyler had pitched a pretty good game, but four uncharacteristic errors by her fielders shook her up a bit, leading to some wild pitches.

Emery pitched her way out of the inning, allowing the Blue Ladies a chance to prove why they're champions.

Earlier on, Turners had their chances to score, loading the bases twice in the first two innings but coming up empty each time. Now in the fifth, Turners found themselves two runs down, and were forced to either dig in or swallow the loss.

The Hawk pitcher was a little wild herself, hitting several batters and walking several more, and she continued this trend in the fifth, putting men on base and sending one run home. Then, with two runners on base, down 3-2, Abby

Remember that a municipal government does not work for its own money to spend. We will all have to get more money for the administration to spend on "our behalf" if we approve this project as currently presented. (We will have to pay for this with our real estate tax money for the next 25 years if this is voted in on May 21.)

Families in this town know that living within a budget is mandatory for survival, but that is not the mantra of the government here. This exorbitantly priced highway facility is beyond the pale for this town, located in the poorest county of the state. Franklin County is listed as the smallest, at 71,000 people residing here and, according to income standards, Montague per capita income is \$26,000.

This facility should be voted *NO* on May 21, because if the vote *by the people* is a yes, then there is no reason for anyone to complain for the next 25 years that we cannot afford it, as our voted tax increase will have indicated otherwise.

This is the *only* opportunity to voice our opinions at the polls to this fiscally *unlimited* referendum (which by the way, please note when you go to the polls, that the proposed referendum has *no* fiscal figure contained in the wording, because the "law" prohibits it to specify such).

Yes, there is a need for a new facility. But there is a larger more pressing need by the people to become more involved in the oversight and management of the government department before supporting such an outrageous desired outcome.

Simply throwing money at problems does not solve them in all cases.

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

Loynd came to the plate.

Turners is not a home run team. Not this year anyway. Although they've scored in double digits four times this season, before Thursday's game, only two girls had hit homers. But desperate times call for extraordinary effort. Loynd sent the ball over the left field fence, and just like that, Blue was on top 5-3.

The Birds managed to score another run in the sixth, but Power-town answered with three runs of their own. Emery shut down Red in the seventh, preserving the 8-4 victory for Turners.

Girls Tennis
Greenfield 4 – TFHS 1

While Turners was struggling against Frontier on the softball diamond, a field away, the girls' tennis team was having their own troubles against Greenfield.

With the exception of third singles, Greenfield had swept every first set. Haleigh Greene who won her first one 6-4, went on to sweep her match, but Carlie Kretchmar and Amber Taylor both lost their singles matches in straight sets.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving to MassDOT: Focus On Bridge

By KATIE NOLAN

After Jeff Hoynoski of the state Department of Transportation (MassDOT) presented the preliminary designs for two safety improvement projects along Route 2 in Erving, selectboard chair Jacob Smith told him that the board considers safety improvements at French King Bridge as the priority.

Police chief Christopher Blair said the department has had numerous "late night calls to the bridge over the years." "There were fifty people out in the fog and rain the other night," he said, searching for a potential suicide.

He said that the person in question had been located and convinced to leave the bridge, but that there were ongoing, serious concerns for the safety of potential jumpers and responding police officers and firefighters. Fire chief Philip Wonkka concurred with Blair.

Hoynoski had presented the preliminary designs for projects in the areas of Farley and Erving Center. The projects include road straightening, drainage improvements, pavement repair, intersection realignment, and signage. Neither of these multi-million-dollar projects has reached the 25% design stage, and MassDOT has not yet funded either. The bridge safety project is also currently unfunded.

Sludge Too Dirty

Erving Industries CEO Morris Housen presented a letter to the board saying that POTW (Publicly Owned Treatment of Waste) #2 will no longer accept sludge from Erving's POTW #1.

POTW #2 is owned by the town, but operated by ERSECO, an Erving Industries subsidiary. POTW #2 primarily treats wastes from Erving Paper Mill, but also treats wastes from some Erving residences. Under an agreement signed in 2017, POTW #2 also processes sludge from the town's POTW #1 in Millers Falls for free, as long as the sludge meets certain standards.

Ralph Cutter of Erving Industries told the board that the dewatered sludge cake that is produced from the sludge is used for farmland and gravel pit reclamation, and must therefore meet standards for

In first doubles, Izzy Farrick and Steph Peterson won their second set 6-4, but lost in the tie breaker. In second doubles, Ceci Wood and Rachel Tucker were swept in straight sets.

The loss gives Turners a 3-5 record overall, 1-3 within Tri-County North.

Baseball
Smith Academy 8 – TFHS 7

While the ladies were duking it out in Turners, the baseball team traveled to Hatfield to play the Smith Academy Falcons.

It was not an auspicious beginning for Blue, as the Smithies poured on 5 runs in the first two and a half innings while holding Powertown to triple zeroes. But Turners' defense held the Falcons in the bottom of third, and in the top of the fourth, their offense pounded seven runs across the plate, giving

fecal coliform count.

In November, after POTW#2 accepted the first load of sludge from POTW#1, the fecal coliform count increased to greater than the maximum allowed, and the count has stayed high, but below the maximum, ever since.

POTW#1 wastewater operator Peter Sanders told the board that the sludge will now be sent to Lowell for incineration.

Piles Too Trashy

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache and highway foreman Glen McCrory reported on their reconnaissance of the Almost Anything Goes piles located along Erving's roads. Once a year, the town pays to have certain bulky waste items picked up from Erving residences.

Bastarache and McCrory said that many piles contained wastes not officially allowed in the Almost Anything Goes pickup, such as concrete, lawn waste, construction debris, household trash and disassembled cars. Bastarache said that in the past, the town has been "lenient," taking the non-compliant items and disposing of them, but that the town should consider, "next year, new enforcement action."

Bastarache said he and McCrory had taken photos of the non-compliant piles, and would follow up with homeowners to let them know which items should not be left out for pickup.

Bylaw Database

Suzanne Owens, account manager for General Code, told the selectboard that her company would review the town's bylaws, develop an organized document for town review, provide legal and editorial analysis of the bylaws, implement any changes, and then provide a final document and a "user friendly" online database.

Owens said that the state attorney general's office would review the codification, and, once it was approved, the town could adopt the re-organized code book as a whole. Owens said the database would be embedded in the town's website.

General Code provided an estimate of \$8,081 for these services. Board members said they would review the proposal and estimate.

Turners a 7-5 lead.

The Birds scored a run in the sixth and then again in the seventh, sending the game into extra innings tied at 7. Neither team scored in the eighth or ninth innings, sending the game into the 10th.

Turners was unable to score in their half, and in the bottom of the inning, they let up a walk, a steal, a fielders' choice, and a short single to put the game away.

The loss gives Blue a 2-4 record and sinks them to the bottom of the Hampshire West Conference.

On a personal note, Judith Robinson D'Antonio, a 1973 Turners Falls High School graduate and loving mother, grandmother, sister and wife passed away on Saturday, April 21. She will be sorely missed.

Next week: Track, if weather permits.



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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill to MassDOT: Focus On Bridge

By GEORGE BRACE

Among other business at Gill’s selectboard meeting Monday night, administrative assistant Ray Purington reported to the board on a meeting of the Route 2 Safety Task Force he attended on April 18, representing the town. The task force was formed in 1994 to identify, advocate for, and implement safety improvements on Route 2 in the area between Philipston and Greenfield and consists of representatives from towns through which the highway passes, and other interested parties.

Purington said that he cited Gill’s number-one priority as being barriers for the French King Bridge, and this idea was supported by Erving administrator and chair of the task force, Brian Smith, who advocated for prioritizing this project, even ahead of two long-stalled projects in Erving.

Purington reported that the task force voted to designate the barriers as their top priority, and are setting about to advocate for that and other projects during the public comment period for the state’s five-year Capital Investment Plan. He said the task force will draft a position letter for towns to sign, along with other advocacy efforts. The letter will be delivered during the public comment period, which begins on May 15 and ends June 4.

Gill Elementary Well

Purington reported that the board has agreed to a revised consent order from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) concerning the Gill Elementary school well water treatment project. He said the information requested in the order has also been submitted.

The order had asked for further changes to the plan for the treatment system, to account for iron and manganese levels the DEP judged were higher than the equipment specified in the original plan could handle. Purington said the order’s most recent revision had reduced the penalty for the town missing a response deadline from \$500 to \$250. The DEP citing financial hardship to the town, and progress made, as the reasons for reducing the penalty.

Purington said that the revised schematics and equipment specifications for the proposed system have been received by the DEP, but he is not sure when their official review will be completed.

Chair Randy Crochier commented, “Good. Hopefully we can move forward on that over these next few months, and get it done before school comes back.”

Departmental Liaisons

A discussion was held on the idea of designating selectboard members as liaisons to three town departments: highway, police, and fire.

Crochier said that there is a need for better communication at times, and this may be one way to achieve it. Purington added that over the span of years, the need shifts among the departments, and can apply to one, two or all three. He provided a handout with feedback from a number of other area towns on the idea, some of whom have liaisons, and

some of whom don’t.

Benefits and potential pitfalls were discussed, with Crochier stating that if the idea is pursued, one of the goals would be to avoid “micro-managing” any of the departments. “I don’t see it as, if I am the liaison, I am down there telling them how to run their department.”

Purington brought up an idea from the feedback email of setting one-year terms for the positions, to reduce the chance of “capture,” so no board member gets locked in as a certain department’s liaison for long periods of time.

Board member John Ward said that he could see the benefit of a department head knowing that they had a “point person” on the board, and wouldn’t have to worry that they were playing favorites by going to one board member rather than another.

Crochier added that often, department heads approach whoever happens to be the chair, or a person they are more familiar with, which can place added burdens on the chair or a particular board member, and that designating liaisons might help smooth out board members’ workloads.

Ward and Crochier decided to have a fuller discussion on the matter when the third board member, Greg Snedeker, is present.

Seals of Approval

The board approved two bids for the use of town properties, and one for lawn mowing services, among other approvals.

Joe Williams was high bidder for the agricultural use of the Boyle lot in 2018 at \$130. The board exercised its option to approve the second year of a three-year bid for the agricultural use of the Mariamante property to Brian Peila for \$150. Artscape Designs’ bid for general lawn-mowing services on town properties was also approved.

In addition, the board approved a septic system design on Chapel Drive which will require a small amount of backfilling and grading near a town road.

A 2018 food concession trailer license was approved for Ken’s Roadside Diner.

Last but not least, Kaeden Soquet was promoted from junior firefighter to regular firefighter.

Announcements

There will be a town-wide tag sale this Saturday, May 5, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Bulky Waste recycling day will also be May 5, from 9 a.m. until noon, at the Northfield highway garage.

The first half of the town’s annual meeting will be at the town hall on Monday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m. Senator Stan Rosenberg is expected to be in attendance to present a gift to the town in celebration of its anniversary.

The Great Falls Discovery Center will host its 13th annual family fishing day from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 2, with a shuttle bus running from the center to the Barton Cove picnic area, and fishing gear and bait provided by Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game’s Fisheries and Wildlife division.

LEVERETT from page A1

costs, but Shutesbury has been agitating for a switch to the state’s “statutory” method, which weighs in certain measures of wealth.

The district’s finance director, Sean Mangano, was on hand to explain the agreement, which he said was hashed out by leaders of the four towns. It “phased in” the statutory method by 20%, he said. Leverett’s share, \$1,490,042, was about \$20,000 less than it would be if the statutory method were used outright.

Next, Tom Powers of the finance committee opened discussion of the town budget by presenting his committee’s rationale for wanting to cap budget growth at 1.5% annually. Leverett, he explained, is approaching the hard limit of \$25 per \$1,000 in property valuation, established by Proposition 2-1/2 and impossible to override.

Uncontrollable fluctuations in the town’s total property valuation, Powers argued, threaten to cause even a budget pegged to inflation to hit that \$25 tripwire and trigger mandatory, across-the-board cuts. The fin com hopes the town can avoid this hazard by slowing growth until the total valuation rises – or until political momentum gathers statewide to raise the ceiling.

A 1.5% growth cap, though, does not keep up with inflation, and Leverett Elementary is unable to keep level services. A dissenting argument was voiced from the floor, by various residents, that the prestigious elementary school was itself the main driver of the town’s property values.

A man from Juggler Meadow Road criticized Powers’ presentation, suggesting that the period of rapid growth in assessed property values between 2002 and 2008, rather than the stagnation from 2009 and 2018, should be used to forecast the “norm.”

“We all came here at one point, one of the main reasons, was for the elementary school,” said Gary Gruber. “That was true 40 years ago when I got here.... We’ve got to balance the needs of the school with the safety departments.”

“If the services continue to be cut,” said Sarah Dolven, “and the school can’t provide the level of educational services it’s known for, people are not going to school choice into the schools, and we’re going to lose that revenue.”

“I believe that school choice is really a pact with the devil,” Nancy Grossman said. “We’re doing it at the expense of neighboring towns.”

Grossman also condemned the state’s charter school laws for allowing charters to accumulate and hoard public money. “The rules were written to get people in the towns fighting against each other over scarcer and scarcer resources,” she said.

The town budget, including the Leverett Elementary line with capped growth, passed unanimously, and after further discussion, people formed lines down both walls of the gym to cast paper ballots granting an additional \$20,000 to the school – a rate corresponding to an additional \$7.93 per \$100,000 in property value.

Bethany Seeger explained that, without this additional money, the school would be forced to cut from art, music, and physical education. Even with it, a custodian and a teacher’s aide were being eliminated.

“That’s a no-brainer,” said Jed Proujansky. “People spend that much on cigarettes, beer, whatever you waste your money on.”

In response to a question from the floor, d’Errico said that about 30 households in town were unable to keep on their taxes, and Shively reminded residents that they could contribute to a townwide tax relief fund.

“Nobody has asked me to make an extra contribution to the school, and I might be happy to,” Tom Ewing said. “Parents are probably asked to make extra contributions – what about the rest of us?”

Spending Items

The meeting approved, but not unanimously, pulling \$38,184 from stabilization to purchase a vehicle for the fire chief. The chief has traditionally received a hand-me-down vehicle, but his current ride has grown untenable, and the capital plan does not have anything lined up for him.

“This town has a long history of discussing this type of article for a long time, and then always approving it,” observed Farshid Hajir.

Another \$15,500 will go toward a trash compactor at the transfer station, \$2,600 to repair the town hall chimney, \$11,500 to paint the library, and \$88,521 to fix the elementary school’s sprinkler system.

\$31,555 was approved to pay old road-paving bills, and \$29,657 allocated to a fund for “other post-employment benefits” – which sparked some conversation about whether the town’s commitments to past and present employees were being forward-funded at the expense of next year’s elementary school budget.

\$3,750 was pledged as the town’s 5% match for a FEMA grant to buy equipment for the fire department, including a cylinder-filling station and a washer and dryer for turnout gear.

Community Preservation

A series of six articles authorized spending from the town’s Community Preservation Annual Fund, a pool of money parallel to the town’s regular accounts that receives funds from the state to match a special additional real estate tax.

This again triggered a conversation about where money was going and why, but town officials explained that rescinding the Community Preservation Act “donation” would not allow the town to raise regular taxes, but would cause it to lose the state match, and pointed out that CPA funds have sometimes been spent on items that save money in the regular budget.

\$28,400 was approved for restoration work on gravestones on Chestnut Hill, part of ongoing cemetery preservation that will ultimately cost the town somewhere around \$300,000. \$25,000 was approved for roof work and gutters on the Leverett Crafts and Arts building, \$21,000 to hire a land use planner to produce a formal open space and recreation plan, and another \$5,000 for a report on the town’s “historical assets.”

Bylaw Updates

Two adjustments were made to the town’s zoning bylaws, both of them procedural.

One loosened the requirements for posting for public hearings for a site plan review. Previously, they had been the same as for a special permit hearing. “It was burdensome on the petitioners,” planning board chair Ken Kahn explained.

The article’s language allows the planning board the authority to amend the posting regulations, “from time to time,” which raised some concerns from the floor, but

the article ultimately passed with no opposition.

The second concerned special permits necessary for building multiple “principal structures” on a lot. Previously, the planning board issued these; now, the authority will lie with the zoning board of appeals.

A more notable change to the town bylaws was made by Article 28, which made the town clerk, previously an elected position, an appointed one. Clerk Lisa Stratford rattled off various ways the job of town clerks has gotten more complicated during her ten-year tenure, including changes in voting laws and public records law.

“Isn’t this the real reason that campaign costs are soaring?” Gary Gruber joked.

The change was approved unanimously. In the future, Leverett town clerks will not have to be residents of the town.

Cannabis and Nuclear War

“I’ve been looking forward to this,” said selectboard member Tom Hankinson when Article 27, which placed a 3% retail tax on cannabis sales, came up for discussion.

“Whereas all of the other taxes that we pay go to the state,” he explained, “here’s an opportunity for 3% of every ounce of pot that you buy to come back to the town, as direct revenue.”

“Finance committee’s enthusiastic about new sources of revenue,” Powers said. “This is the first time in a long time the state has actually granted us the authority to tax somebody... We’re cool with this.”

Most other area towns are also enacting 3% taxes, the maximum level permitted.

The tax would only be assessed at legal dispensaries. “We’re just getting ready, in case,” said Shively.

“The post office is for sale right now,” Hankinson pointed out.

The article passed, with a lone dissenting vote.

The final article of the meeting, petitioned by Apple Ahearn but presented by Beth Adams, “call[ed] on the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war” and suggested a number of means to do so.

These included renouncing the first-strike option, “taking US nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert,” “ending the president’s sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack,” and participating in international disarmament efforts.

“It is a threat to life on Earth right now,” Adams argued. “And the money being used, which should be back here in our communities – used for education and other things – is being wasted on stockpiling weapons.”

“If we had a different way of doing diplomacy in this world, we wouldn’t need to have deterrence,” she added.

“We really have no solution to the nuclear waste from making nuclear weapons,” said Theresa Duffy.

Nancy Emond recalled signs at Leverett’s borders in the early 1980s declaring the town a “nuclear-free zone.” “They were stolen, which means everyone wanted them,” she said. Another resident recounted being impressed by the signs on his first bicycle trip to Leverett.

The article passed, nearly unanimously. The selectboard will send a letter to Jim McGovern, Elizabeth Warren, Ed Markey, Donald Trump, and newly confirmed Secretary of State Mike Pompeo informing them of the town’s position on the matter.



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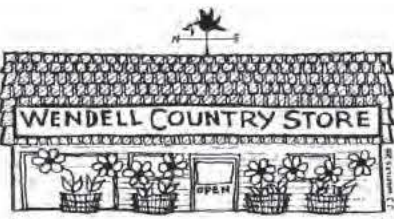
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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was May 1, 2008: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Anctil Buys Strathmore Mill

"We've got a long way to go but we can get there," said the ever-optimistic John Anctil, when asked about his plans for the Strathmore and the former Montague Energy Group property - where the Indeck co-generation facility once stood - on the west end of the mill complex.

According to a deed filed with the Franklin County Registry of Deeds on Tuesday, Anctil, of Lowell, operating under the limited liability corporation Swift River Development Corp, purchased the Strathmore Mill form Fabulous Investment Properties, LLC for \$50,000.

Fabulous Investments was the holding corporation set up by James Bent, of New York, who acquired the mill from Jerry Jones for \$1 on March 29 of this year. Bent had threatened to knock down the Strathmore and sell its bricks for salvage.

At a land court hearing in Boston, Anctil, through his lawyer, attorney David Singer of Greenfield, agreed not to contest payment of \$469,900.33 in back taxes, penalties, and costs associated with securing the building this winter to the town of Montague, plus legal fees and court costs, in return for a pledge by the town's lawyer, Kathleen O'Donnell of Koppelman and Paige, that the town of Montague would "work with him" on a payment plan, rather than press for foreclosure on the property.

Fairbrother Names Caldwell as Making Racist Remark

Turners Falls airport commissioner Mark Fairbrother named

Richard Caldwell, 78, of Turners Falls Road in Montague as the man who uttered a racial slur about "rock-hugging Indians" on April 4, at the airport administration offices.

Fairbrother, who has denied a report that he was the one who made the remark in response to Mass Aeronautics Commission executive director Robert Welch's comment that "tree-hugging Indians" were holding up a \$5 million runway extension project at the Turners Falls airport, said others in the room that day had told him it was Caldwell who made the remark.

Fairbrother named Caldwell at a hearing into the incident before the Montague selectboard on Monday.

Caldwell said it was Fairbrother who responded to Welch's remark with the crack about "rock-huggers."

Others at the meeting stated unequivocally that it was Fairbrother who made the comment.

Historic North Leverett Sawmill Saved

More than 60 people turned out for a local history talk at the Leverett Public Library on Thursday. The meeting room didn't hold them all.

The history buffs were there to hear Lee Glazier speak about the water-powered sawmill in North Leverett, which his family owned from 1919 to 1965. The mill roof collapsed a few years back, but on Saturday the town of Leverett voted to fund renovations to the building at annual town meeting. Work has already commenced.

On Thursday, it took Lee the better part of an hour to even mention the sawmill. He was too busy recounting tales of fires at the charcoal kilns, barn fires, and Leverett's first fire truck, and other facets of local lore.

PRUITT from page A1

was to everyone who knew her, she was mischievous - delightfully so - never hurtful - always fun.

Eileen Dowd

There is this emptiness that abides, this sudden passing of Patricia. I want more conversation, more time with her, and there is never enough. It stays with me to remember.

The role of patience and determination to do something well on the behalf of others, advocacy and activism for communities, families, for the arts and poetry, for this newspaper, the poetry page she would lay out so perfectly, a venue for poets in a newspaper? Yes, and what I valued from Patricia the most.

She listened, she heard our stories, read all our work, printed it, and asked for more. Giving of herself, it all seems simple enough, but what really changes anything? That's what Patricia reminds me of in her absence.

Knowing Patricia changes my sense of identity. Watching her arms stretched out to her grandchildren, friends, family, community, relationships, her community literally was this world. We are what she valued, all of us: all our versions, differences, expressions, her humanity.

Al Miller

I never read a poem by Patricia that didn't attempt to improve the human condition.

Her poetry certainly improved my condition. But as Oscar Wilde once said about his talent, she reserved the best part of her genius for the art of living.

Warm, friendly, outgoing, easy to be with, kind, gentle, considerate, caring, brilliant, witty, widely read, broadly traveled, serious about learning, and deeply experienced in all the truly important affairs of being alive, Patricia continues to be a daily agent of change for all those fortunate enough to know her.

Richard Andersen

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Leverett Board Hears Cannabis Greenhouse Proposal

By JEFF SINGLETON

A newly-formed company called New England Agricultural Technologies (NEAgTech) came before the Leverett selectboard on Tuesday with a proposal to build a marijuana cultivation facility on the corner of Montague Road and Cave Hill Road. The company proposes to construct "six to twelve" greenhouses, which it will lease to cannabis cultivators and perhaps "other traditional produce growers."

NEAgTech itself would not produce cannabis, nor would it be primarily responsible for the state and local licenses and taxes required under state law.

The company, according to a memo distributed at the May 1 meeting, "is a collaboration of legal and renewable energy professionals, supported by a growing staff with agricultural, real estate and municipal governance expertise... We provide the capital infrastructure as well as legal and administrative support which allows growers to focus on production."

Representing the company at the meeting was Rob Wolf, an "accountant, attorney and licensed FCC engineer" listed as one of the two principal partners in the memo. He was accompanied by Bob Rivard, a real estate agent working with the company.

Wolf's memo estimated that that each 30' by 60' greenhouse could produce 180 pounds

of cannabis per year. Assuming a value of \$1,000 per pound, that would mean each cultivator with a large greenhouse could gross \$180,000 annually, with an estimated margin of \$100,000. "I will take half of that," said Wolf, referring to his company's estimated cut of the profits.

Wolf also estimated that if his company leased to ten individual cultivators, that could mean as much as \$54,000 in additional tax revenue to the town.

"We'd like to see this happen," said selectboard chair Peter d'Errico, noting the recent revenue shortfalls the town and elementary school have experienced. "We've already been thinking about this," he said.

Tom Hankinson asked Wolf where he would get water for cultivation, and how the facility would deal with "effluent" or drainage.

"We don't use that much water," said Wolf. "Are you hydroponic?" continued Hankinson, to which Wolf responded in the negative.

Hankinson also asked about the expertise required to grow cannabis profitably. Wolf said that the company leadership team included the noted greenhouse expert Garry Pearson, professor of plant sciences at the University of California Davis. But he also stated that the technical aspects of cultivation were the business of those leasing the greenhouses. "I can't be the judge of that," he said. "They

can grow weeds if they want."

There was a brief discussion of whether the company would need to apply for a variance from existing zoning regulations to construct the facility. D'Errico indicated that changing zoning bylaws would probably be preferable to a variance.

According to the timeline in the company's proposal, NEAgTech will seek the approval of the Leverett planning board in May and June. In July and August, the company would negotiate and hold hearings on the "community host agreement" required before applying to the state. In August and September, cannabis growers leasing greenhouses would apply to the state for licenses, and in September and October, NEAgTech would oversee "construction and the commencement of activities."

Highway Department

The board approved a request by highway superintendent David Finn to move his staff to a four-day week, with ten-hour days (6 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Finn said the change would only be for the "warm season" when the sun rises early.

Finn also reported on the status of the Dudleyville Bridge, which is being reconstructed. When asked about a completion date, Finn responded, "hopefully Friday."

Asked about the status of the Coke Kiln Bridge, Finn said the town was "still waiting"

for a permit from the state.

When Finn noted that the state had considered making the bridge high enough for kayaking on the Sawmill River, d'Errico responded that "We don't want people from Boston kayaking. We just want our bridge back." He then suggested that the town "declare an emergency" and unilaterally replace the bridge.

Other Business

The board discussed the good attendance, and the large number of new people, present at Saturday's annual town meeting. "The school is the reason why people came out," said d'Errico, noting that many of these people did not leave when the school budget discussion ended.

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis reviewed the work of consultants reviewing the town's "capital infrastructure." The work is being paid for by state Community Compact funds.

The board approved a reserve fund transfer to pay for "overlap" between the outgoing and the new librarian.

The meeting ended with a brief discussion of the negotiations, or lack thereof, involving the owner and a potential buyer of the building that currently houses the post office.

The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be on Tuesday, May 15.

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Selectboard members Pat Allen (left) and Patricia Pruitt (right) march together at the 2006 Memorial Parade in Turners Falls.

Patricia’s first meeting as a selectperson was on a certain Monday in May 2004. That Thursday was our Reconciliation Day ceremony. How appropriate that Patricia had joined our board at that very moment – a sign of the perfect fit she would bring to the selectboard, and Montague, for the next six years.

Our next event that same year was the 250th Anniversary parade – she certainly picked a great year to begin her political career! As we walked along the route, there were several women who yelled out, “I voted for you!” That certainly spoke to the recognition and appreciation of Patricia’s talents and the optimism for the future of the town that the voters had in electing her to the board.

Patricia’s overriding sense at meetings, whether selectboard on Mondays, finance on Wednesdays, dog hearings, and many others in between, was to be kind, caring, and compassionate. At times it was clear she had a difficult time because she knew the right decision had been made but the result would cause someone discomfort – and Patricia always empathized deeply with each individual’s position. The two of us would occasionally drive together to Franklin County Selectboard Association meetings, and remind each other that we would have to drive in silence in order not to break the open-meeting law. Pretty quickly we found there were plenty of other topics to talk about, or laugh over, which had nothing to do with town business.

Some of us with amusement (and a love for the oddities of language) realized that this particular selectboard only had four different names among the three of us: Patricia Pruitt – Patricia Allen – Allen Ross. I believe we were a unique board of three individuals with differing personalities who were able to unite as a whole to put the needs and interest of the community first.

We worked well together. People seemed to want to bring new ideas and energy before us, which I think meant we were approachable and enthusiastic – much of that due to Patricia’s influence.

Patricia and Chris were quintessential, if not native, Turners Falls residents who embraced every aspect of life on the hill, in the alleyways, and beyond. They went to every event and supported all the local folks, especially the artistic community. Patricia would take everyday interactions and occurrences and weave them into the broader context of life through her poetry.

Montague and Turners Falls mourn the loss of Patricia Pruitt and especially her care, compassion and sensitivity to all of us around her.

Personally, I miss her humor and gentleness, and thank Chris, Sarah, and Jessica for sharing Patricia’s heart, soul, and energy with us.

Pat Allen

As with many folks in a neighborhood or a community, there are those one knows less personally than simply by their actions.

By that measure, Patricia brought dignity and diligence to the dialogue of community in her work on the selectboard and with the networks with which she personally engaged. I’m sorry I didn’t get to know her better.

Jay Dipucchio

Here is a photo I took of Chris and Patricia – most likely from the 2009 Block Party. Of course all poets should be behind caution tape!

Remembering her silly side: I have this quote from Patricia from an article I wrote on an Arts and Icicles event for the *Montague Reporter*, December 2007. I asked several participants and observers of the event two questions. *What is Art?* and *What is an Icicle?* Patricia’s quote: “Art’s an old friend of mine.”

Thank you for collecting these memories of Patricia. She had so many lives, all in one. Our paths crossed at the *Montague Reporter*, poetry happenings, and at the Thrive Project, the Rendezvous, and all about town....

Janel Nockleby



Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno and Patricia Pruitt at the 2009 Turners Falls Block Party.

And I thought, “Montague is not ready for you. Not now.”

Perhaps our town will never be ready for you, Patricia.

She always felt most at home surrounded by the smell of books, the dust motes from their softly turning pages rising in a slanting beam of light, even the light from the malfunctioning valences of the ancient overhead fluorescents flickering as the murmurous snores of patrons dozing in the reading room rose and mingled with their hum.

When I wander now in the dim and airless stacks, with their closely ranked romances and crime novels and the odd O’Connor, Welty, Kincaid, Arundhati Roy or Zora Neale Hurston sticking out like plump sore thumbs, I always half expect to find her there, around some corner, in a corridor of moths, fitful and gleaming, foretelling the future as she always did, keeping her eye on everything that’s imminent and overdue.

I joined her in a fervid downhill flume of poetry in memory of her dear departed friend Allen Ginsberg, the Buddhist Bamapana, when he took his leave of this world to enter one of 30, or more,

other possible worlds.

I applauded her attempt to expand the Montague selectboard, which she succeeded in doing all on her own when town meeting failed to follow.

I admired her parading down the uneven cobbles of our broken sidewalks in a winged wheelchair, once again foreseeing the shape of things to come.

I sat on the front porch with her and watched the children turning figure eights in midair, with balletic grace, on the skatepark she prophesied and made real.

I sat across from her at dinner, in one of her unforgettable evenings of gathered friends and family and endless poetic salons.

I miss her down the alleyways of town, where she walked first and I am slow to follow.

You can get the news from poetry, they say. And here we are, all diminished and enlightened, as we read the last leaves of her first and final folio in the library where she lived and loved and labored. There on the hill. Where I first met her. And still look for her, still.

David Detmold



OBITUARY

Patricia L. (Lemora) Pruitt
1945-2018



TURNERS FALLS - Patricia L. (Lemora) Pruitt, 72, of Prospect Street died Monday, April 23, 2018 at the Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield.

She was born in Haverhill, MA on August 4, 1945, the daughter of Samuel and Mary (Dixon) Lemora. She attended local schools in Haverhill and was a graduate of Haverhill High School. She continued her education and received her Bachelor’s Degree in Greek from the University of Massachusetts Boston and then her Master’s of Fine Arts from Naropa University in Boulder, CO.

Patricia was a teacher at Boston College and a teacher and Dean of Bay State College. She was a selectman for the Town of Montague from 2004 to 2010.

As a poet, she published numerous books. Last fall her *Full Moon at Sunset: Selected Poems* was issued to great acclaim by Talisman Press.

Among her survivors, Patricia leaves her husband, Chris-

topher Sawyer-Lauçanno; two daughters, Sarah Pruitt and her husband Carsten Dahl of Greenfield and Jessica Pruitt of Turners Falls; four grandchildren, Imogene Pruitt-Spence, Felix and Eva Pruitt-Dahl, and Aisha Pruitt-Gonzalez; a sister, Nancy Cherry of Maple Falls, WA; a brother, Jeffrey Duchemin of Rome, GA; and several nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents, Patricia was predeceased by a brother, Joseph Duchemin.

Funeral services will be private. Burial will be held at the convenience of the family.

Memorial contributions may be made to Doctors Without Borders USA, PO Box 5030, Hagerstown, MD, 21741-5030, or to the Southern Poverty Law Center, 400 Washington Ave, Montgomery, AL 36104.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Kostanski Funeral Home. Sympathy messages available at www.kostanskifuneral-home.com.

Pictured above: Patricia in Athens, Greece, circa 1985.

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MONTAGUE from A1

Nelson stated that “I definitely recognize that civil service made our discussions go a certain way... that may have gone a different way, had we not had civil service.”

“I agree wholeheartedly,” Chris Boutwell responded at the time.

But on Monday, Nelson expressed concern about a debate over removing the position from civil service delaying the town from hiring a permanent chief. The decision, he noted, would have to be approved by a town meeting, probably in September. “We’re talking about at least a year before we had someone as a permanent chief,” he said.

Kuklewicz suggested he favored whichever system would provide the town with a larger pool of candidates, and repeatedly stated that he wanted a process that would lead to hiring the “best candidate.” “I’m not ready to vote, but I’m leaning toward having a better pool of candidates,” he said. “I’d be more inclined to say I’d like to look at a larger pool, but give preference to somebody who is local.”

Nelson said he interpreted this to mean Kuklewicz favored removing the chief from civil service.

Boutwell asked why there are only two towns in Franklin County that currently have a civil service chief, and wondered why Orange had taken its chief out of the state system.

Town administrator Steve Ellis summarized a memo reviewing “key facts and considerations” about the civil service system. The

memo noted that there are only two communities in Franklin County – Montague and Greenfield – with a civil service chief, and that only 19% of cities and towns in the state (66 out of 351) have chiefs covered by the system.

The memo reviewed the options for hiring a chief under the civil service. A city or town can either hire within its own ranks or “pursue a lateral transfer candidate,” but not both. A “lateral transfer” would mean opening up the candidate pool to chiefs in other “civil service communities,” but would exclude members of the Montague department, chiefs in non-civil service communities, and police in non-chief positions in other civil service departments.

The memo concluded that “outside civil service, Montague has the opportunity to define eligibility and hiring criteria, and the potential pool of candidates could be assumed to be much larger.”

The memo stated that under either system, the town would probably hire a consultant to run an “assessment center” process and help select the top candidates. Ellis estimated that the hiring cost under civil service would be approximately \$7,500, but that hiring for a non-civil service position “could be as much as \$20,000.”

Ellis concluded that given the “modern” police chief contract – which would require “just cause” for termination – removing the chief position from civil service “would not make it substantially easier to

dismiss a chief.”

The board decided to continue the discussion at its Tuesday, May 15 meeting.

Other Business

The board voted in executive session to approve, but not release publicly, the minutes of four executive sessions during which Dodge’s handling of the prescription drug drop box was discussed.

Three of the sessions occurred in June and July 2016, just after the board became aware of the state police investigation into the matter. During that period, the board expressed strong support for Dodge. The fourth occurred in December 2017, after the town’s “internal investigation” of Dodge.

Ellis said the minutes will not be released, on advice of town counsel, because they involved “personnel” issues. The board has released other executive session minutes involving the negotiations surrounding Dodge’s “separation agreement.” with the town, as well as the highly critical report from the internal investigation of Dodge’s actions.

The board voted to send a request by Mark Hankowski of Mystic Pinball on Avenue A for a beer and wine license to town meeting. There was a good deal of discussion about the possibility of the board requesting additional licenses from the state not linked to a specific location, but no action was taken on the matter.

The board executed a number of documents associated with the so-

WATER from page A1

it might cover 55% of the cost of the new tank.

However, Dion said, the application requires both an experienced grantwriter and analysis by an environmental engineer. He said he hoped to find community members with the relevant expertise.

Even then, he said, the funding may not be available anytime soon. “Some people have already applied for grants two or three years ago, and haven’t gotten any money,” he said.

The DEP has also required the district produce a Water Infrastructure Assessment Management Plan, which Dion guesses, by comparison with larger and smaller districts, might cost an additional \$15,000 or \$20,000.

The district’s commissioners are responsible mainly for its finances; the operation of the system is performed by a licensed local contractor, John Rittall of Water-Wright Co. Dion said Turners Falls

Water Department superintendent Michael Brown is listed as Montague Center’s backup operator.

“He’s been very helpful to us,” Dion said of Brown, adding that the Turners department has also been helping his district identify other potential grant sources.

Interconnections between the two departments’ systems exist. In late 2015, after high coliform bacteria readings led to a “boil order” in Montague Center, those valves were opened and the Montague Center system was flushed and supplied with Turners water.

About 12 village residents are reported to have attended Tuesday’s annual meeting, more than the six or so officials who usually carry out district business.

“One of the ladies did say, ‘maybe it is time to merge with Turners Falls?,’” Dion said. “We haven’t looked at that – we’re hoping not. We’ve been a water district on our own since 1953, and we’re hoping to stay one.”



lar project on the town-owned former landfill, being constructed by Kearsarge Energy. The projects are nearly completed and are waiting for final “interconnection” with the electric company Eversource.

The board voted to extent the implementation of the 2017 Green Communities Grant to May 2019.

It also voted to extend the purchase and sale agreement with the Crabapple Whitewater Company for the “Cumbie’s Building” at 34

Avenue A. According to town panner Walter Ramsey, the extension is necessary because Crabapple’s “business plan” is dependent on action by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which is considering relicensing of Turners Falls hydroelectric systems.

The board adjourned to an executive session to consider prior executive session minutes. The next selectboard meeting will be on Monday, May 7.



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Chasing our Tales: Little Big Man, Part II

By LYN CLARK

TURNERS FALLS – We return to the story of Montague Reporter distribution manager Don Clegg's family. We left his grandparents aghast in a movie theater during World War II, where they had just witnessed a horrifying newsreel that seemed to indicate that their son Ray, Don's father, had been killed onboard a ship.

They never entered another movie theater after that incident. Ray, though, had survived.

When Ray Clegg returned home he was accepted into a General Electric apprentice course, which was similar to a technical college today. The country was booming with post-war construc-

tion and manufacture, and it was a good time to be young, willing and able to work. It was not unusual in those days for a man to stay with the same company for his entire work life, and Ray was no exception, working at GE for 40 years.

When gas rationing ended in 1946, Edward and Eva, who were to develop a love for travel, drove Ray and his younger sister across country to Yellowstone National Park, towing a two-wheeled utility wagon filled with camping equipment. The park was newly opened after having been closed all during the war.

It would be only the first of many trips the couple would take, domestic and abroad, and later, with a deep love for their grandchildren,

see **TALES** page B4

A 1959 Cadillac DeVille similar to the one driven by Don Clegg's grandfather. (Creative Commons photo by Shawn Alen Snell.)



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Spring At Last

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – Just when we were unbelievably sick of the cold and damp and ready to order another cord of wood for the stove, the sun came out.

The daffodils slid open, the goldfinches turned bright yellow. The white throated sparrow returned to practice hoarsely his song, sang it upside down tentatively, practiced some more and got it right. The peeper frogs joined the chorus from the forest pools.

The ground in the garden dried up enough for us to plant the peas later than ever, but in at last. The new rhubarb plant emerged. The bloodroot came up in the woods of the back yard. The cat sprinted about and ran up the apple tree. The apricot blossoms opened like a Japanese painting against the blue sky.

When we returned from our travels south eager for signs of spring at home, it seemed like two months of March with no April to follow. The vernal equinox came and went with little sign of spring.

Then, in honor of Earth Day, the temperatures rose into the sixties, the sun shone brightly and suddenly: spring! We hung the wash on the line, opened the windows to fresh air, and began grilling outside. With a meteoric rise of the spirits: real, live spring.

This sweet season is short, with something new to rejoice in every

day. We wake to the birdsong, spend hours in the yard, and often finish the waning day with a fire pit blaze against the growing dark. These are days to savor: soft air; gentle, perfumed breezes; and long hours of daylight with temperatures that allow for the labors in the yard and garden before the season of heat.

In this ephemeral time, the spirit and body are light and air and water. Energy is renewed, and we are lighter in spirit after the cold, dead of winter.

In the sunroom, the tomato plants have had two transplantings and are ready for another. They look strong and hardy, and have moved on from soils designed for seed starting and feedings of light seaweed fertilizer, to regular potting soil with added food. On sunny days the room temperature is in the eighties, the ceiling fan is on, and the door is open to the air.

In this gradual way the plants will harden up. It is likely a full month ahead before it will be safe to put them outside.

Then the summer's heat will come on. Without it, we cannot grow crops like tomatoes, fresh corn and sweet peppers or squash and melons here in New England except in a greenhouse. This same heat and humidity which cossets our warm weather crops often leaves the gardener feeling languid and lazy.

We confess to preferring the more temperate seasons. Spring is

see **GARDENERS** page B3

Drumming for Peace *with* Wendell Warriors

By MEZ ZIEMBA

WENDELL – It is a beautiful Sunday morning: Earth Day in Wendell. The town common is quiet, save for the robins singing their springtime song.



ZIEMBA PHOTO

The Wendell Warriors practice their drumming twice weekly at the town's senior center.

And then, the drumming begins! Inside the Wendell Senior Center, a quaint, white historic building on the Wendell common, Jafar Manselle leads the group of ten drummers with confident ease. All eyes and ears are on Jafar, hands hover-

ing above their drums. The group breaks into a melodic rhythm, drumming as one. The members of the Wendell Warriors, as well as Jafar, play *djembe* drums, tall with an hourglass shape.

This is Wendell Warriors, our local drumming group that began in July, 2017 when a neighbor knocked on Jafar and Susie Manselle's door. "I hear drumming! Can you start a drumming group in Wendell?" And so Jafar, a drummer since 1967, gathered a group of interested Wendellites together to drum and the Wendell Warriors was born.

The Wendell Warriors' debut performance was at the Millers Falls Art Festival last July. It was so well-received that the group began regular weekly practice sessions at the senior center, Thursdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 10 a.m.

The drummers now have a regular gig opening for the Deep C Divers

see **DRUMMING** page B5

SCENE REPORT: Hands Across The Hills Visits Letcher County, KY



CHANA ROSE RABINOVITZ PHOTO

Fourteen members of Hands Across the Hills of Leverett traveled to Letcher County, Kentucky, coal country, from April 19 to 23. This trip continued the dialogue and cultural exchange begun when the Kentuckians visited Leverett last October. Hands Across the Hills, part of the Leverett Alliance, formed after the 2016 election to explore ways to bridge divides, near and far. Letcher County voted 80% for Donald Trump, Leverett voted 79% for Hillary Clinton. Above: Participants gather on an overlook of Kentucky mountains. Some Leverett people brought their local newspaper!

By SHARON DUNN

LEVERETT – "Did your group change Kentucky minds about Donald Trump?" "Are they sorry they voted for him?" "Did you discuss Cambridge Analytica?"

These are some of the questions our friends in the Pioneer Valley ask us, the members of Hands Across the Hills, who've just returned from Appalachia.

And the answer is: We did not engage with Letcher County residents in order to change their minds. We sought them out to understand who they are and what life circumstances cause them to vote the way they have, to experience them as fellow Americans not "the Other."

We want to go beyond stereotypes, and they do, too.

Last October the Kentuckians stayed in our homes, ate with us, danced with us and, most importantly spent six hours in safe, private dialogues with us, facilitated by Leverett's Paula Green, whose career bridging divides spans thirty years. The Kentuckians became our friends.

In coal country our days filled with conversations, Kentucky meals, and opportunities to visit community centers, a farmers' market, a Shriners club, a coal mine. We met the mayor of Whitesburg and the Letcher County Judge (Chief Executive).

We danced, we saw a theater

piece created from local stories, and drove hairpin curves up steep mountains on narrow roads, often with no guardrails. We saw the slender hollows between the mountains, the "hollers" where most in Letcher County live.

The hours of dialogue at the heart of our stay went even deeper now that we knew each other better. We did talk about Trump. However it was not the hot-button topic for most of us – he receded into the background as we focused on ways we might continue to work together.

What is the future of our Leverett-Letcher County connection?

Some of us want to help a young Kentucky teen who is in a difficult situation; others want to

focus on business ideas, collaborate on sensible gun legislation, or possibly extend this bridging effort to other communities.

Want to know more about our experiences in Appalachia? What were our shifts and insights?

Come join us on Tuesday, May 15 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Leverett Elementary School for a short narrated slideshow of our stay. Our members will speak about their experiences, what surprised us, what we learned and where our efforts may go next. Everyone will have an opportunity to ask questions.

Sharon Dunn, a Leverett resident for thirty-two years, is co-director of media for Hands Across the Hills.



DUNN PHOTO

Leverett and Letcher County participants circled up for the first dialogue of the Kentucky visit, April 20.

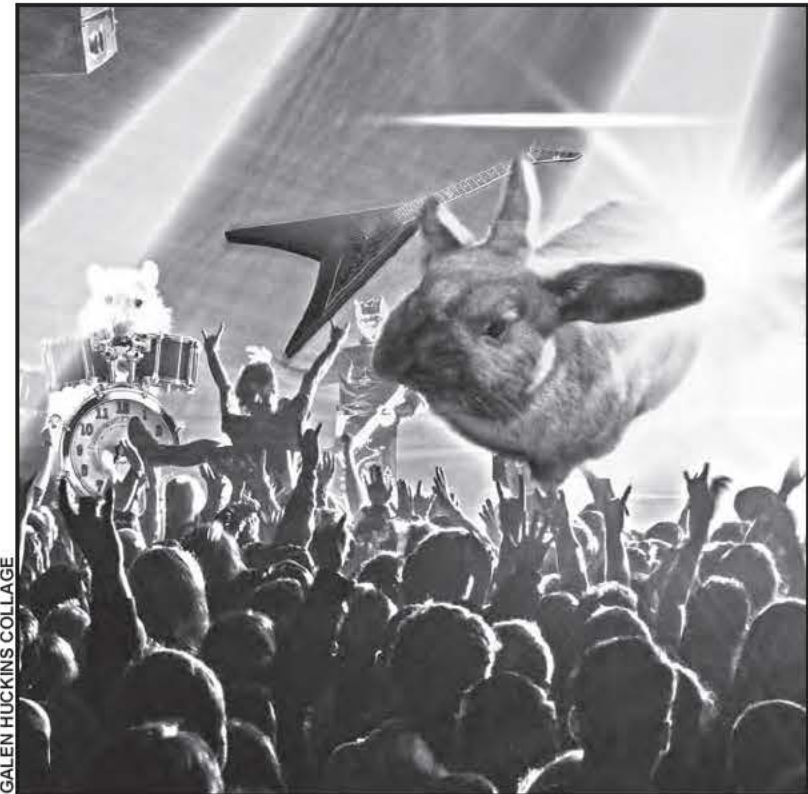
Pet of the Week

Todd, a.k.a. “Flop-Z,” has been a big player in the regional Hare Metal scene, and is credited with inspiring the newest wave of regional Nu-Hare music (or Nibblecore).

Founding guitarist for *RazrCage*, Todd went on to start an ambitious solo project after tensions with band members boiled over following their widely panned 2016 Easter album. But as music sales con-

tinue to decline industry-wide, with streaming revenue hardly filling the gap, Todd has been seeking more permanent housing than his glamorous, but temporary, stay at the Dakin Humane Society.

Show up for your local music scene by welcoming Todd into your home today! Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.



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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

Sunday 5/6:
1 p.m. As You Write It Reception

Monday 5/7:
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 5/8:
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga w/Jean

Wednesday 5/9:
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach
11:45 a.m. Friends Meeting
12:30 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 5/10:
9 a.m. Tai Chi w/ Mari Rovang
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga w/Andrea C.
1 p.m. Cards & Games
4 p.m. Mat Yoga w/Andrea C.

Friday 5/11:
1 p.m. Writing Group

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

Flexibility & Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays 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.

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.

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 5/7: No lunch served
9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi

Tuesday 5/8:
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch

Wednesday 5/9:
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo & Snacks
6 p.m. Pitch Night

Thursday 5/10:
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch
12:30 p.m. Create 2 Donate

Friday 5/11:
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop
9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling
11:15 Music, Movement, Mayhem!
6 to 10 p.m. Dinner Dance

MAY LIBRARY LISTING

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

Montague Public Libraries

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

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

ONGOING EVENTS

The Leverett Public Library invites residents to come check out their new telescope!

EVERY TUESDAY

Leverett Library: *Spanish Conversation Group*, 4 to 5 p.m.; *Qigong with Dvora Eisenstein*. 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Adult Watercolor Art Group*. Call Rosie for details. 6 p.m.

2ND TUESDAYS

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

3RD TUESDAYS

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Wendell Free Library: *Sylvia's Awesome Play Group*, a sand table and lots of activities for newborn to 5 years old and their guardians, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Carnegie Library: *Story Time with Karen*. Young children with caregivers. 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. *Homeschool Science. Hands-on STEM* (science, technology, engineering, and math). All age homeschoolers. 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Tales and Tunes Story Time w/Heleen Cardinaux*. 10:30 a.m. to noon. *Advanced Tai Chi class*. 1:45 to 2:45 p.m.

Dickinson Library: *Knit With Us*. All skill levels welcome. Facilitated by Kathy O'Shea. 6 to 8 p.m.

1ST WEDNESDAYS

Dickinson Library: *Wednesday Morning Book Group*. Book discussion. 10 a.m.

2ND WEDNESDAYS

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

EVERY THURSDAY

Carnegie Library: *Music & Movement* with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson. For children. 10 to 10:45 a.m.

1ST THURSDAYS

Dickinson Library: *Environment Awareness Group*. Discuss the monthly topic facilitated by Emily Koester. 6:30 p.m.

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

3RD THURSDAYS

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

EVERY FRIDAY

Dickinson Library: *Story Hour*. Stories, crafts, music and movement with Dana Lee. Pre-schoolers and caregivers, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. *Kids' Friday*: When Northfield Elementary gets out early, come to the library. Sometimes we have a program, or just hang out, 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Expore Yoga with Shay Cooper*. Mixed level. 10 a.m. \$ or barter.

Leverett Library. *Senior Fitness with Dr. Sward*. 11 a.m. to noon.

1ST FRIDAYS

Carnegie Library: *First Friday*

Mystery Activity. Each week will be different. Possibilities are crafts, science experiments, tech-tools. Of interest to children age 8+ and teens. 4 to 5:30 p.m.

THIRD FRIDAY

Leverett Library: *Movie Night*. 7:30 p.m.

EVERY SATURDAY

Wendell Free Library: *Adult Strength Training with Rosie Heidkamp*, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. *AA Open Meeting*, 6 to 7 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Advanced Tai Chi*, 10 a.m. *Beginning Tai Chi*, 11 a.m.

1ST SATURDAYS

Carnegie Library: *Book Sale*. Books, dvds, cds, etc. \$1 or less. 10 to 1:30 p.m.

2ND AND 4TH SATURDAYS

Dickinson Library: *Food Pantry*. 11:30 to 2:30 p.m.

EVERY SUNDAY

Wendell Free Library: *Yoga*. Advanced beginning level. Kathy Sward is the instructor for April. 9 a.m. \$. *AA Open Meeting*, 6 to 7 p.m.

EXHIBITS

In order to apply for a show, find applications on library websites.

Leverett Library Community Room: *Recollections of Schooling in Leverett*, through June.

Dickinson Library: *Kevin "Slatts" Slattery Retrospective Exhibit*. Through May.

EVENTS

MAY 1 THROUGH 10

Erving Library: *Plant and book sale*. Beautiful, locally grown plants and thousands of books.

FRIDAY, MAY 4

Dickinson Library: *Kids' Friday, Maasai Beading with Carol Pike*. First we will see Carol's photos from Tanzania including animals and then try a Maasai beading craft to make some of the animals. 3:30 to 5 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 5

Wendell Free Library: *Breema Body Workshop*. Certified instructors Luc Bodin and Patrick Connors present exploration of Breema techniques. For info and to register contact Luc at (978) 544-9705 or nebreema@gmail.com. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$

Carnegie Library: Saturday matinee movie, *Coco*. Celebrate one year anniversary of the Youth Advisory Committee with movie, snacks, crafts. 2 to 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

Erving Library: *Tech workshop for kids!* Want to make your own Operation game with working lights and a buzzer? Come on in and work on setting up circuits to make our games work! We'll have popcorn and the tools you'll need. 1:45 p.m.

Dickinson Library: *Readings*; by Anton Chekhov. 3 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 10

Millers Falls Branch: *Mother's Day/Spring Event*. Millers Falls

Community Improvement Association Presents a spring event to decorate pots & plant pansies, make origami & beaded flowers, enjoy snacks & cotton candy while supplies last. All ages welcome. 3 to 6:30 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Lego Club with Sheila Hunter*. Come create and build – we have some new sets! Snacks. 3:15 to 4:30 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Book Discussion Group*, “Lucy Barton” by Elizabeth Stroud. Copies available at the desk. 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Living the Alexander Technique*. Talk and demo by Alexander practitioner Ruth Rootburg. Move through life with less wear and tear, more confidence, less anxiety. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 12

Carnegie Library: *Mother's Day Card Making Party*. 10:30 a.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Movie, Millennium*. Plane lands in a place it didn't expect. 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 17

Wendell Free Library: *Healthy Soils/Healthy Gardens*. Talk by Sharon Gensler, NOFA educator, on workable practices for home garden. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 18

Leverett Library: Family movie, *Wonder*, with Julia Roberts and Owen Wilson. 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 20

Leverett Library: *Leaders of the Pack: Women and the Future of Veterinary Medicine*, with Julie Kumble. Former Leverett resident discusses her new book about women now leading this profession. 2 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 21

Leverett Library: *Designing a Suburban Permaculture Homestead*, w/ Ashley Schenk of Broadfork Permaculture. 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 24

Leverett Library: *Electronic Take-Apart* with Seth Seeger. See what's inside household electronics and how they work. All ages. 3:15 to 4:30 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Ukulele Night* with Julie Stepanek. 7 to 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 25

Wendell Town Hall: *Ed the Wizard: Build and Fly Air Powered Rockets*. Workshop for grade school kids – learn the basics of flight and test your skills for flight length, flight accuracy, controlled banks, turns, and stunts. Pre-register at (978) 544-3559. 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 29

Dickinson Library: Local author Tinky Weisblat presents recipes and essays from her new book *Love, Laughter, and Rhubarb*. Entertaining conversation and delicious home-cooked treats from the “Div of Deliciousness.” 6:30 to 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 31

Wendell Free Library: *Left, Gay, and Green, A Writer's Life*. Allen Young reads from his new autobiography and signs books. 7 p.m.

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GARDENERS from page B1

the top of the list. It is such a joy of the senses for the winter weary. True, it is a fickle season, coming on in fits and starts, a source of extreme beauty which can't be counted on. An absolutely perfect day in bloom and scent can be followed by one that is cold, wind driven and downright raw.

Perhaps that is part of its charm; we know that spring is short and fleeting, so we treasure it all the more. It is as mortal as we are. Now we cherish each new leaf; come summer with the lush fullness of the trees there is somehow less excitement; we are more matter of fact. Now we take notice of every new

blossom and plant, the bird arrivals, the balm of the sun.

Summer is a complacent time. We seem to expect the growth and the coming harvests. In spring we experience a new awakening and special gratitude for surviving yet another winter blast, an ode to joy. It is almost like seeing through the eyes of a child again.

Enjoy it to the fullest, and say thanks.

*Describe plum-blossoms?
Better than my verses...white
Wordless butterflies.*
— Basho



MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Spring greetings from Montague Community Television!

This week, we'd really like to encourage you to think about what's going on in your community that you'd like to put on camera and share.

Oh, and by the way – if you're looking for ways to get involved in local events, how about a visit to turnersfallsriverculture.org? There you can find a whole calendar of happenings coming your way. With

the weather getting warmer and May flowers on their way, there's bound to be lots of fun things to do in the weeks to come!

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

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

MOVIE REVIEW

Black Panther (2018)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I saw a special about the history of famous comic book characters, and it showcased the Black Panther among them. I went to see this movie because I thought it would be a different kind of Marvel superhero movie, like *Antman* was. I thought it did the portrayal of the Black Panther character justice.



We hear in the movie the origin story of the first mystical Black Panther, and how he united four African tribes, like the king of Israel wanted to do with the twelve tribes of Jerusalem in the Bible. One tribe wasn't under his rule, and chose to live in the mountains.

The place where the other four tribes live, Wakanda, is a hybrid mix of the supernatural, advanced technology, and African traditions. Which is kind of cool to see on screen.

Beside the Black Panther himself, this movie also does similar justice to other aspects of the story, such as Wakanda and its royal guards. The guards dress in red armor, and dis-

play themselves as being well organized and disciplined. From what I learned from the comics, they have accurately portrayed the Black Panther's home in the film, and the way they describe Wakanda is perfect.

After it premiered, *Black Panther* became a wildly popular film with audience members, from what I have heard. There is a good reason that it did, because of its history. The Black Panther was one of the first black superheroes in the comics, part of a landmark trailblazing that was done in the comics.

Apparently it is still considered trailblazing, because both the covers of *Time* and *Rolling Stone* have had *Black Panther* on them, and articles about the character and his important connection to black history.

Besides wanting to see one of the first black superheroes, people might have gone to see it because they thought it would be a different kind of superhero movie, like *Antman* was for me. I was right when it came to this thought. I enjoyed the film, and was entertained by the plot.

I also liked the mysticism that was featured in the film – I like stories with mystical parts in them. One was a ceremony that makes the main character the Black Panther, and the official king of his homeland. Stan Lee also continues his history of doing a cameo in his movies.

After all of the action that goes on in the film, the Black Panther lives to fight another day as king of Wakanda. By the end of the movie, the tribe from the mountains is united with the other tribes under his rule. He decides that the way his homeland is will be different – I don't want to spoil how, but the people of the world will know what Wakanda is really like.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Southworth Theft; Morning Raccoon; Suspicion About Solicitors; Rudeness; Intoxication; Noise At Scalpers Lodge

Monday, 4/23

11:02 a.m. Walk-in reporting that he was involved in a minor accident in the Greenfield Savings Bank parking lot and the other driver left without giving any information. Report taken.

1:41 p.m. Walk-in reporting that a man he knows has been coming onto his property and stealing expensive items from his sawmill and shed. Report taken.

5:53 p.m. Report of syringe in the grass between Subway and the Shea Theater. Caller willing to stand by for a few minutes to point it out to an officer. Item retrieved.

8:20 p.m. Caller from Fifth Street came home to a lot of trash in front of his door. Using receipt found in trash, officer obtained additional information from the staff at Cumberland Farms. Caller will contact landlord to inform him of the incident.

8:42 p.m. Caller concerned about refrigerator truck parked across from Keith Apartments. Refrigeration unit has been left running since 4 p.m. yesterday. Officer confirmed truck still at location; advises that noise is not that loud.

Tuesday, 4/24

8:46 a.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

10:40 a.m. Caller advises that one of his mail carriers discovered a glass smoking device inside the mailbox when he was collecting the mail at Food City. Item retrieved.

11:38 a.m. Caller from Southworth reporting theft of a piece of bronze paper equipment; other items may also be missing. Report taken.

3:04 p.m. Caller reporting that her vehicle was backed into at Scotty's by what she described as a blue Ford sedan. No injuries. One operator found to be at fault and issued a verbal warning for failure to use care in backing.

5:29 p.m. Report of fire in a barbecue grill on Davis Street that has gotten out of control in close proximity to a residence. TFFD and PD units advised. TFFD advising that fire has been extinguished.

10:17 p.m. Caller from F.L. Roberts reporting male party digging in trash. Caller asked party twice to stop digging in the trash. At that time, he left after making an obscene gesture in the direction of the caller. Advised of options.

Wednesday, 4/25

10:26 a.m. Report of smoke coming from one of the washing machines at the Third Street Laundry. Confirmed no flames visible. TFFD advised.

3:32 p.m. First caller had two men knock on her door on Walnut Street to ask if her electric bill was included in her rent. Caller informed men that it was, then shut her door and saw the men get into a blue van. Second caller had one man knock at his door claiming to be from Eversource; caller was shown an ID badge but did not get a good look at it. Caller closed door and reports that the man got into a dark blue minivan. Area checked; unable to locate; will be on lookout.

5:17 p.m. Caller received a call from his mother, who resides at Park Villa. She had two men in her home who asked a lot of questions about her electric bill, which she answered. Caller advises that the men left about ten minutes ago; thinks they may still be in area. Area search negative.

5:34 p.m. Report of three solicitors going door to door on Laurel Lane claiming to be with Eversource. Upon arrival, officers located three subjects. Parties were identified and advised re: soliciting guidelines. One of the subjects is on probation and has several open cases including aggravated rape, kidnapping, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, intimidation, larceny, carrying a dangerous weapon (knife), possession of cocaine, etc. as well as multiple closed cases.

6:22 p.m. Two vehicle accident in front of Turners Falls Pizza House. No injuries/smoke/fluids. Written warning issued to one party for failure to use care while backing.

6:40 p.m. Caller witnessed two loose dogs that live at the corner of Avenue A Extension and Rastal-

lis Street running through the street. Caller believes that he witnessed one of the dogs act aggressively toward a man who had to beat the dog off with a shovel. Caller later reported that owner of dogs has returned home and secured them inside. Copy of call left for animal control officer.

10:54 p.m. Copied via simulcast that Gill and Erving PDs are responding to the area under the French King Bridge for a possibly suicidal subject. Shelburne Control requesting K9 and mutual aid officer if available. Third shift officers advised and responding to assist. K9 unit on scene. Party located; one of the other departments will take it from here.

Thursday, 4/26

12:06 a.m. Anonymous caller reports that a male and a female have been arguing on L Street for several minutes; parties started arguing outside but are now inside. No domestic disturbance. Officer spoke to female at residence, who was very rude and denied any problems. Advised of noise complaint.

3:33 p.m. Store clerk from Family Dollar requesting police response due to an aggressive, unruly customer who was swearing at them. Investigated.

7:53 p.m. Report of three subjects at the smaller abandoned building to the right of Railroad Salvage. Officers spoke with parties on site; parties advise they have permission to be there. Call placed to building owner. No answer; will try back.

Friday, 4/27

8:02 a.m. Report of large raccoon wandering on L Street about to use the cut-through toward High Street. Caller expressed concern that it might be ill due to it being out during the daytime; many children walk that route to get to school in the mornings. ACO checked area; unable to locate.

6:03 p.m. Caller states that there is a white pickup truck behind her on Millers Falls Road trying to hit her vehicle and flashing its high beams. Officers made contact with both vehicle operators and advised them to call the police instead of confronting one another.

6:41 p.m. Caller from North Leverett Road reports that his neighbor came into his home, assaulted him, and stole his dog. At the same time, the wife of the neighbor called 911 to say that their neighbor was beating his dog, so her husband went over there to protect the dog and took it from him. ACO contacted. Officer transporting dog to animal shelter in Deerfield to be evaluated for injuries.

Saturday, 4/28

9:10 a.m. Caller from Keith Street requesting that DPW respond for a sewer backup into her basement. DPW contacted; will be responding.

9:13 a.m. Caller states that a man in a large truck became very aggressive and out of control because he was upset about a car driving the wrong way up T Street. Caller was assisting with parking for a funeral; aggressive male was screaming that he had to get to work.

8:41 p.m. Officer checking on elderly male that appears to be intoxicated in area of Fourth Street and Avenue A. Transport refused.

11:34 p.m. Caller complaining of noise level coming from Scalpers Lodge. Officers spoke to establishment; doors had been open but are now closed, and noise level is much quieter.

Sunday, 4/29

12:59 a.m. Report from Element Brewing of two intoxicated males yelling outside; heading on foot toward Erving side. Erving PD given heads up via Shelburne Control.

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TALES from page B1

they would take them on cruises.

In 1951 Ray, a graduate of the Clegg Dance Studio, joined a buddy for an evening at the Wonderland Ballroom in Revere, MA. Edward took Ray's friend aside before they left and instructed him, "You find him a girlfriend. He's too old at twenty-six to be living at home!"

It was that evening during a slow dance that Ray fell in love with Eleanor Coyle, whom he married the same year. He moved out of Edward's home and had a house of his own design built not far from his parents in Lynn. Ray's choice of a wife was in keeping with family tradition: she was a petite 4'11" tall.

Don remembers his grandfather Edward saying to him several times, "You must always have a goal. There will be setbacks all your life, but you must have goals." It was all about picking yourself up, and getting going again; about accepting hardships, but always pushing forward, never giving up.

Edward had his share of hardships and disappointments – hard work in the mills from age eight, chronic pain from diverticulosis for many years, a wife who developed Alzheimer's; the loss of his oldest child, Leonard, who chose a career as a bookie and was subsequently murdered, and of his estranged daughter who secretly married a mobster.

Setbacks. Life is often two steps forward, one step back. But you get up and keep going, continue to set goals.

One of Edward's goals was to move away from snowy New England to warm Florida, and in 1959, he purchased a house in Daytona Beach consisting of four apartment units, with a garage with one more. It was only five blocks from the ocean, and a year later when he retired at age 60, he and a reluctant Eva moved south.

Some might say that it seemed a young age at which to retire, but aside from the obvious benefits associated with retirement, there was another reason: General Electric had conducted a study among its many thousands of former employ-

ees, relating age at retirement to age at death, and concluded that those who retired at age 60 lived, on average, 12 years longer than those who retired at age 65. That was all that Edward needed to hear!

The apartment house needed work, but at age sixty, Edward was still able to make the necessary repairs, and before long he had rented out three units, and he and Eva were living in a fourth. The fifth they kept open for family visits. Every summer in July, Ray drove the family to Florida, and every October, Edward and Eva visited them in Lynn.

A great lover of baseball, when he was living in Florida Edward was an Atlanta Braves fan – they had been a Boston team back in the day – and when he came north for a visit, a Red Sox fan. When Don was young and played baseball in Lynn, his grandfather never missed a game, and when Don was older, he was the one to take his grandfather out to the ball park. He also took him to watch Boston College play football, and every year to see the Celtics play.

Don even had him sit in on several of his Boston College classes; while not exactly spectator sports, this must have greatly pleased him.

Edward was a natty dresser. When he retired to Florida, his uniform was a blue or green pastel shirt, plaid trousers accessorized with a white leather belt, and white shoes, and the best accessory of all, a great, long white 1959 Cadillac DeVille with wide whitewall tires. When he arrived for his October visit to Lynn and pulled the Caddy up in front of the house, he created quite a stir in the neighborhood.

Once when Don was 16 with only a driver's permit, he had asked his girlfriend to go with him to the movies, but needed his father to drive them. Edward and Eva were visiting, and Edward said they would do the honors, but when they reached the Caddy, the grandparents climbed into the back seat, much to Don's surprise, and asked him to drive. He never forgot how impressed his date's parents were



Daytona Beach bandshell, April 1957. Jim Stokes photo, courtesy State Library and Archives of Florida.

when he arrived for their daughter driving a vehicle fit for a princess.

By 1978 Eva, who suffered a gradual descent into Alzheimer's, was in a nursing home. The following year, Edward was on his way to visit her with her best friend when a truck backed out of a street in front of them. As a result of the accident, the friend was killed outright and Edward spent months in the hospital and in rehab.

His broken body never fully recovered. He sold the apartment building, and moved into a trailer park. Don and his grandfather frequently exchanged letters, and Don called him every week, and when he was in Florida, he visited his grandmother in the nursing home. She thought he was his father more often than not.

He remembers his grandfather as fun to be with: a loving, if strict, man; one who deserved and got respect. He was very bright, and he was generous. He and Eva were estranged from their own siblings, but made up for it with the affection they expressed for Ray's children. When Don and his younger sister Ray Ann were in Florida, Edward was always slipping them money to play Skeet ball, and when his older sister Doreen said she wanted to be a cheerleader, Edward took her to the beach and taught her how to turn

cartwheels and stand on her hands.

When Don was only 14 (shhh... don't tell anyone!), Edward took him to the beach in the 1956 Buick Special that he bought strictly for beach driving, and there he let Don hone his driving skills.

Edward and Eva took the grandkids on a cruise in the Bahamas when Don was 20. He remembers dressing up for dinner. Once, when he and some buddies were visiting and staying at a motel in Daytona Beach, they invited Edward to join the party. He was 76 at the time. Not normally a drinker, he had a couple of beers that day, and then shocked everyone by doing a backflip off the diving board into the pool. It's no wonder that this grandfather left a lasting impression on his grandson!

Yet Edward could be a quiet, private man as well. He would often sit on the porch by himself smoking cigarettes – he rolled his own – and there were frequent times when Don sensed that he wanted to be alone, and wouldn't disturb him. He was, says Don, very sensitive.

We all look over our shoulders as we age. That part of our brain that stores memories is chock-o-block full the more years we tack on, and the memories clamor to be recognized.

In the quiet of the porch, was Edward remembering his vaudeville

days, hearing the laughter, the Tin Pan Alley songs? Or thinking of his young years on the mill floor, hearing the clatter of the looms?

Was he remembering his lost children with regret, and wondering what went wrong? Or simply thinking of Ray, the one who made him proud, whom he credited with the fact that all three of his children graduated from college (Tufts, Wellesley and Boston College), the first Cleggs to do so.

Could he still remember the journey across the ocean to a new land that must have been so exciting to a young boy? Or was he just living in the moment, finally finding peace?

When Edward died in 1983, still broken in body, Don's father was on a cruise in Alaska, and it was Don who flew down with his younger sister to make the burial arrangements. Visiting his grandmother while there, he found her in poor condition in the nursing home. He went out and bought her a new wardrobe, wrote her name in every garment in indelible ink, and told the staff he expected to find that they were dressing her in a fresh outfit every day. She passed away four years later.

We often wonder what we take away with us from our ancestors, distant and near, what part is in our DNA, what part in the examples they model for us, the subtle influences they have on our personalities and behaviors. We don't usually give it much thought, but perhaps we should. Whatever it was that Edward Clegg passed along to Don, it's clear that he was Little Big Man to his grandson.

Please consider telling us about an ancestor, distant or recent. Write it yourself, or let me interview you and I will write it for you. Do you have some old letters? Some photographs you could share with us?

They have stories to tell, these all-too-human folks but for whom you would not exist. Let us honor them!

Please contact Lyn Clark at genealogy@montaguereporter.org.



MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

Snow Off The Ave. Winners Announced!

By LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – The pile of snow across the street in the Food City parking lot disappeared around noon on April 11. The Carnegie Library has an annual tradition of a free raffle celebrating its anticipated departure date.

No one guessed the exact date, but five people chose the day before or after: Gregory Balsewicz, Brian Farrell, Mishel Herrea-Ortega, Heather Laughton, and a Sasha.

They all won \$10 2nd St. Bakery Gift Certificates donated by the bakery. Thank you to the 2nd St. Bakery for the prizes!

HICKMAN PHOTO



The shopping plaza's white-capped snow peaks back on January 17.

Memorial Hall Holds Opening Events

OLD DEERFIELD

The Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association's Memorial Hall Museum opens for the 2018 season with a botanical twist. As a proud ArtWeek host, there will be free admission during opening weekend on Saturday and Sunday, May 5 and 6. The weekend includes a floral-themed scavenger hunt and an array of free art activities for adults and children.

On Saturday, Orra White Hitchcock's herbarium and other museum objects will inspire staff-led workshops for adults from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with nearby art activities for children ages six and older. The museum will offer floral design, perfumery, watercolor painting, wet felting, and even an infused mint-water tasting salon. Activities are ongoing and vary in length from about 15 to 45 minutes or more, depending on interest.

Sunday kicks off at 11 a.m. with live music in praise of honey bees, and there will be drop-in nature-inspired art activities for all ages.

According to PVMA ArtWeek project director Shei-



Watercolor painting of a portulaca flower by Eliza Allen Starr (1824–1901), from the Memorial Hall Museum collection.

la Damkoehler, "Although widely regarded as a history museum, Memorial Hall houses a large collection of works by local artists and fine craftspeople. With so many exquisite fine and decorative arts pieces in our museum collection bearing floral designs, a botanical theme immediately came to mind for our first participation in ArtWeek."

The botanical theme will carry through the season, with an eco-print workshop planned for the fall. In October, Old Deerfield Craft Fairs artist Martha Simpson will lead participants through the process of transferring color from a variety of leaves and berries onto silk cloth.

Visitors to Memorial Hall Museum can see examples of Martha's work on display this season – a modern-day blending of art, nature, and science

– alongside early botanist Orra White Hitchcock's reproduction herbarium. Completed in 1821, the herbarium features paintings of Franklin County flora, and is on display in the recently installed "Astronomy, Geology, and Dino Tracks! Oh My!," an exhibit on Edward and Orra Hitchcock and early natural sciences.

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millersfalls.improvement@gmail.com

Fresh From the Farm on Wednesdays

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – In just a few weeks, fresh produce, plants, and more will be available at the Great Falls Farmers Market. Opening for the season on Wednesday, May 16, the market is conveniently situated on the corner of Second Street and Avenue A, across from the Country Creemee and on the grounds of the Discovery Center.

There's plenty of parking, and it's open from 2 until 6 p.m. for folks who need to stop by on their way home from work.

The market offers something new each year, but there are also

perennials, vendors who return every year such as Peter Kretzenger of Montague. Peter offers perennial plants, jams and jelly, vegetables and fruit in season. Also reappearing are the folks from Johnson Farm of Deerfield, with their vegetable and plant starts.

Organizer Donna Francis is expecting South Cross Farm of Gill to come over the bridge with their alpaca products such as socks, hats, stuffed toys, and other delights.

Jeff Kingsbury of Deerfield has maple syrup to vend, and Elisha Poulin will maintain a table of herbal-infused raw cacao bars, herbal body care products, medicinal and

fresh culinary mushrooms (in season), and herbal teas.

The young farmers at Everyday Farm in Gill are new this year, and bring fresh vegetables, herbs and flowers, and Jen's sourdough bread to the market. "Things are looking up!" says Donna. "Women from the Catholic Social Ministries are interested in selling Mexican and Guatemalan foods like tamales, but that is still in the works."

SNAP/EBT are accepted methods of payment; the Healthy Incentives Program has run out of funds, but legislators are considering reinstating it later in the season.

The *Montague Reporter* will have a table several times a month where folks can pick up last week's paper, subscribe, purchase our coffee mugs, and sit down for a brief informal interview with features editor Nina Rossi to get your four column inches of local fame in the next issue.

Interested in vending? There's room for more, and the fees couldn't be more reasonable: \$5 a week, or \$90 for the entire season through October. Contact Donna Francis at greatfallsfarmersmarkettturners@gmail.com to register.

You can check for updates on Facebook on the Great Falls Farmers Market page, but be assured that there will be a market, rain or shine, every week from mid-May until October.

Occasionally there will be live music to enjoy from local musicians. Shop for your garden or table, get a treat, and hang out for a spell on the grounds of the Great Falls Discovery Center and Farmers Market.



Joe Connolly and Hanna Sol of Everyday Farm in Gill, with one of the sourdough breads made by Jen Simms they will be selling at this year's Wednesday farmers market.

DRUMMING from page B1

band every week at the Deja Brew Pub in Wendell. They also performed at the Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse last weekend, opening for the group I Anbassa. Again, their performance was well received.

Jafar Manselle, originally from the Hartford, CT area, began practicing on the hand drums at age 19, and was part of the first African dance and drum troupe in Boston. Their name was Boka N' Deye, which translates to "Of the Same Mother."

Jafar's music is a function of the celebration of traditional community life in sub Saharan West Africa and in countries in the western hemisphere affected by the African diaspora, including Brazil and Caribbean countries such as Cuba. His teaching follows in the path of Wendell colleagues who taught African-inspired music such as Carlson "Stone" Montgomery, Bambidele Osummerea, Eno Asaba Washington, and Nuru D'Africa.

As well as guiding and playing with the Wendell Warriors and local group Marilyn Middleton-Sylla and the Bamidele Dancers & Drummers, Jafar travels to the Boston area every week to drum with Under the Sun Dance and Drum, the Unexpected Jazz Band, and the Arlington-based Wicked Hangin Chads.

Jafar started drumming to get in touch with his cultural roots over fifty years ago. He is reflective as he shares that he, like his drummers, is always learning and growing. "Music is so varied," he says. "I enjoy all kinds of drumming."

Warriors member Boo Pearson of Wendell comments that Jafar represents "not only long standing ancient Afro-Centric song and dance, he is highly regarded in the drumming community."

Some of the members of the group, like Boo Pearson, a founding member of Loose Caboose and the Equalites, have been playing drums for many decades professionally. Others came into the drumming circle with no experience – just the desire to learn to drum and be part of the music.

Boo says, "Music is obviously a wonderful thing for people in any community to learn to play together. It's a great way to 'represent' in the broader world. Music is big. There's something in it for all of us to share."

Jafar adds, with a twinkle in his eyes, that they are

a cohesive group and "everybody likes each other." New members are welcome to bring their drum and come to a practice at the senior center on Thursdays or Sundays.

Ina Peebles is enthusiastic about her experience with being a Wendell Warrior as well. "The drumming takes you somewhere else," she says. "It is just so healing – it moves you to another dimension – I love it!"

And Benjamin Zahradnik of Wendell adds: "We rock! We drum for peace!"

"Drumming is a large part of religious ceremonies in Africa," Jafar continues. "It calls in the spirits. Drumming moves people. Music can be healing. It taps into something that moves us, and music is like life: there are always more questions to ask, more knowledge to gain."



Jafar Manselle is the leader of the Wendell Warriors, a community drumming group that formed last summer and continues to meet twice a week.

MONTAGUE CENTER TOWN WIDE



Sunday, May 6th

This is a big day for our little town. It's our annual Montague Mayday Festival! Also many neighbors will be hosting tag sales. Most tag sales will start at 9am. See you there!

If you would like your house listed in our Craigslist ad, please

email: stephensonjane@yahoo.com

For other questions, email: mvesset@gmail.com

Memories Caught, Anthology Released

TURNERS FALLS – Local authors will read their most recent stories from the anthology *As You Write It VI* at the Gill Montague Senior Center on May 6.

Join Estelle Cade, Joan Hopkins Coughlin, Sally Fairfield, Noreen O'Brien, Laura Rodley, Joseph A. Parzych and Alice Thomas from 1 to 3 p.m. and enjoy this relaxing entertainment while eating complimentary desserts.

Local author Tinky Weisblat described the *As You Write It* anthologies this way: "Authors share memories of pets, of family members, of snowstorms, of odd characters, and of work experiences. Above all, they share their hearts, humor, and wisdom." The authors are part of a monthly writing group led by Laura Rodley at the senior center.

Whet your appetite with the following story by Estelle Cade from their most recent sixth edition!

Green and Some Other Thoughts

By ESTELLE CADE

Green – popping up all over; the new shoots of spring by your front door – crocus, grape hyacinth, their early leaves promising color soon. The lilac buds are green, as is the green on the lawn, pale green now, perhaps bringing thoughts of hot afternoons spent mowing, or preferably, thoughts of a tree shaded lawn chair, occupied by your self, as you sip ice cold green tea with honey, accompanied by a pretty plate holding a chilly slice of key lime pie. Ahh – perfection in green.

As children we anticipated those early spring days when we could once again run around and play freely, rid of those heavy winter coats. One delight was jumping rope. The stores (the "Five and Tens") brought out those usual commercial ones, brightly woven "rope" its colorful wooden handles. These were always fun to see, neatly laid out on the counters, but we knew these

toys, with very soft rope, were fit only for the "little kids" who were just mastering the *idea* of jumping, i.e. getting both feet off the ground at the same time!

No, those were not for us. We wanted *real rope*, clothesline actually, and long enough to have someone on each end to turn it; long enough for at least four to six girls to be able to jump in together, according to the game being played. And someone else would usually bring another, identical rope along, so braver souls than I ("older girls") could show off and do "Double Dutch."

Jumping in with two ropes swinging took courage and alacrity because a stumble or misstep could find you flat on the ground. But what a thrill when synchrony ruled and all those young feet would be jumping in perfect unison to whatever chant was being called out.

And speaking of jump rope chants – whenever a group of women of a certain age recall games of their youth, the jumping rope songs always come to mind, and they seem to be universal, at least here in New England. No matter what part of it you came from, our songs seemed the same – "Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, turn around," "Mabel, Mabel, set the table – and don't forget the salt, vinegar, mustard, PEPPER." Pepper was the clue to start turning the rope faster and faster, until the jumping one missed a step. Seeing how many you could do before missing gave you bragging rights until someone else did more jumps.

So – under the shade tree beginning to show a breath of soft green, on the driveway next to the lawn, newly seeded – see those six little girls, turning their rope and singing their songs. How many pairs of shoes do you suppose they have worn out, with jumping and running around outside? In those days, we all did. And the new green of spring was our prompt.

(From the *As You Write It VI* anthology, published April 2018.)

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Exploring Trails Close to Home



Trails on Northfield Mountain.

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

Sometimes, rather than wander randomly, the best way to get a sense of a new place – and avoid getting lost – is to walk trails.

We have a plethora of trails in our area. Here are just a few to explore, but there are many anomalous little trails that are fun and un-crowded in our area. Please write in and tell us about some of your favorites.

New England Trail: The New England National Scenic Trail (NET) is a 215-mile hiking trail route that passes through 41 communities in Massachusetts and Connecticut. The fifty-year-old system encompasses the historic Mattabessett, Metacomet, and Monadnock (M-M-M) Trail systems.

We basically call it “the replacement for the M&M trail,” and it forms a lovely centerpiece for so

many local trails. At newengland-trail.org you can find maps and descriptions of trail portions as well as overnight camping sites.

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust areas: Mount Grace owns or has conservation easements on over 32,000 acres of land in north central and western Massachusetts, and much of it is open for recreational purposes.

You can see an interactive map of all their properties on their website: Mountgrace.org. They are in the process of posting full maps and information for their recreational properties including where to park and what activities are allowed (e.g. hunting, walking, biking, fishing).

Northfield Trails: In Northfield, we have so many trails it would take at least a season to do them all. The Northfield Trails Association ([north-](http://northfieldmass.org/trails)

fieldmass.org/trails) is very active in keeping them in good shape for hikers, and for cross-country skiers, who get their very own specially-designed trails, also fun for snowshoeing.

Town of Montague Trails: The town of Montague maintains a list of its trails on its website under the Planning and Conservation Department at montague-ma.gov. There are several trails to choose from, and a guide covering six trails is available there.

For example, the Canalside Rail Trail goes 3.7 miles, from Turners Falls all the way to Deerfield. It's flat, paved, and very accessible for walkers and bikers year-round. It begins at Unity Park where there are picnic tables by the river. A really nice easy walk along the river and canal; the perfect “starter trail” for people who want to introduce more

physical activity into their lives and connect with nature.

Northfield Mountain: The Northfield Mountain pumped storage station maintains a vast network of trails in their recreational area

for mountain biking, hiking, snowshoeing, and skiing. They also have outdoor environmentally-themed educational programs for kids and adults. Find Northfield Mountain on Facebook for links to more information.



The view from Poet's Seat Tower in Greenfield.

Plastics: From Store to Ocean

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

Even if they are made to degrade into smaller and smaller pieces, plastics stick around. Fishing line takes 600 years to degrade in the ocean; a beverage bottle, 450 years; while a tin can degrades in 50 years. Most plastics end up in landfills or in the ocean where they break into smaller and smaller pieces that, in practical terms, never go away. These pieces are eaten by fish and end up in the food chain according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Plastic pieces harm fish in two ways: by staying in their stomachs and making the fish feel full when they're not – causing malnutrition, starvation, and harm to their digestive systems – and by leaching harmful pollutants such as PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls).

I recently read an article in *Alert Diver* (Fall 2017) by Alex Rose, who was part of a small team that visited Clipperton, “the most remote atoll in the world.” The author dived in the 87-degree water, and while there cleaned up some of the plastics, including “almost two miles of line [...] and a huge ghost fishing net” and “as much as we could reasonably carry while underwater, but this represented only a tiny portion of what we saw.”

On this tiny remote island were “refrigerators to razors, trinkets to toothbrushes, medical waste to microplastics. Every shape, size, color and variety of plastic is represented on this island, which has not been inhabited since before the plastic revolution began.” The author goes on to exhort divers who care about the ocean to make changes to reduce their plastic usage.

If you're a diver, there's an organization that specializes in ocean health, Project Aware (projectaware.org), but this is good advice to all people who care about our marine environment and planet's

health. There are multiple groups that don't require SCUBA certification but are interested in cleaning up beaches and in conducting research about oceans and plastics.

On the East Coast, the Blue Ocean Society (blueoceansociety.org) does both, and NOAA has a national marine debris program (marinedebris.noaa.gov) with information on monitoring debris, including the great Pacific garbage patch, and how to help.

Locally, you can take part in the great Source to Sea River Cleanup that the Connecticut River Conservancy hosts. This year it will happen September 28 and 29 – save the dates, and visit the website to submit sites that need cleanup or to learn how to participate or sponsor: criver.org.

While efforts are ongoing to make manufacturers responsible for their product from cradle-to-grave, consumers can make choices that affect how much plastic waste we create. One easy target is single-use plastic bags. Reusable bags are more sturdy and not difficult to change over to; just keep them in your car so they're handy to bring into stores.

It might be inspiring to note that the entire country of Kenya has banned single-use plastic bags, with a 4-year jail sentence or \$40,000 fine for manufacturing, using, or selling plastic bags. Officials assure their citizens that they are targeting manufacturers, not users of bags for these big fines – at least, at first.

Closer to home, Greenfield has banned foam containers, a good start. At Baglaws.com you can check on the status of single-use plastic bag bans by state and by town; although the list might be slightly out of date, there appears to be nothing on the books in terms of bag bans for our area except Greenfield where a measure failed, and Athol where one passed. There is statewide legislation pending, Senate bill S.424, which would require stores to charge \$.10 for a single-use bag at check-out, a possibly very effective market-based solution. You can find more information on single-use bag legislation town by town at: massgreen.org.

But it doesn't take legislation for individuals to choose to change: you can start using reusable bags any time, and the oceans will thank you.



The unaltered stomach contents of a dead albatross chick, photographed on Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge in the Pacific in September 2009, include plastic marine debris fed to the chick by its parents. Creative commons photo by Chris Jordan, via US Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters.

Moon Calendar for May 2018:

Monday, May 7:
Last Quarter

Monday, May 21:
First Quarter



Tuesday, May 15:
New Moon

Tuesday, May 29:
Full Moon

Ramadan starts on Tuesday, May 15 at sunset. Ramadan starts the same evening every year in the lunar-based Islamic calendar (it is the evening before the first day of the 9th month), but our solar-based Gregorian calendar is different, so the date of Ramadan seems to drift 11 days or so each year. Calculating the date it begins – based on astronomical calculations or actual moon sightings – is a point of debate.

Full Moon photo from Shutterstock under Creative Commons license.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ONGOING EVENTS: EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

FIRST SUNDAY MONTHLY

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

EVERY MONDAY

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

2ND AND 4TH MONDAYS

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

Leverett Library: *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*. 8 p.m. Free.

2ND WEDNESDAY

Hip Hop Dance Night with Craze-faze at Hawks & Reed. 7 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:

Anja Shutz Studio. Arch Street: *Hexe*. A group exhibit on female

rage. Part of ArtWeek. Open May 3 through May 6, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

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. Through May 30.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Speaking Figuratively*, Paintings and drawings by Eric Grab.



Easthampton artist Marty Klein says: "People with cameras take pictures. I make them." He's referring to the fact that he does not use a camera to make his images; instead, he lays objects on the bed of the flatbed scanner. His images are created with natural objects, most locally grown or foraged. Enjoy Klein's scanography at Salmon Falls showroom in Shelburne Falls and catch a reception with sax music this Saturday, May 5 from 3 to 5 p.m. Klein will give a talk on his unique process Sunday, June 10, at 4 p.m.

Through May.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Art of Onge*. Paintings by Andreea "Onge" Newland that range "from portrait to abstract where worlds collide in a kaleidoscope of color." Through May 15.

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.

Leverett Library: *Recollections of Schooling in Leverett*. Through June.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Turners Falls Show*. Nina Rossi presents work about Turn-

ers Falls from over the years. Through May 15.

McKusker's Market, Shelburne Falls: *Precarious*, Art by Alice Thomas. Through May 31.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *In My Nature*, an exhibit of scanography by Marty Klein. Through July 1. Reception on Saturday, May 5, 3 p.m. with improvisations on sax by Loren Feinstein.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Drawings & Sewn Works on Paper by Katie Yun*. Reflections of her life in Franklin County. As a Korean-American queer woman, Yun's art brings to light the inherent politics of identity. Reception Saturday, May 5 at 3 p.m.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *For the Birds*. The show includes work inspired by avian images in media including painting, prints, photography, clay, glass, metal, fiber art, sculpture and collage. Through May.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, MAY 3

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Professor Louie & The Crowmatix*. Rock 'n' roll legends. 7:30 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Yarn, M a m m a 's*

Marmalade. Roots / americana. 7:30 p.m. \$

Pushkin Gallery, Greenfield: *The Tattooed Man Tells All*. Gripping drama based on interviews with Holocaust survivors. Presented by Silverthorne Theater. 7:30 p.m. Repeats Saturday, Sunday, with 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Steve Gunn*, folk-rock guitarist, with *Trevor Healy Trio* and *Willie Lane*. 8 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Larry Allen Brown*. 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 4

Leverett Crafts & Arts: *The Cloth of Community*. Part of a month long exhibit by Leonore Alaniz, spin local wool, make rope, weave, repurpose textiles. Activities repeat Saturday and Sunday from 12 to 5 p.m. as part of ArtWeek. Exhibit through May.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Your Exquisite Corpse: Interactive Art Show* with Jeff Wrench and Nina Rossi. Part of ArtWeek. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.; repeats Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday 12 to 4 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Johnny Memphis Band* and *Kate Lorenz and the Constellations*. 7 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton's 1940s Hit Parade*. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *GCC Music Department Concert*. Students and alumni. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Fawns, Winterpills*. 8:30 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *She Said*. Woman-powered rock. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 5

Artisan Beverage Coop, Greenfield: *The Arrow*. Cocktail party and art show featuring photographs by Joe Kopera. Part of ArtWeek. 2 to 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Road to RPM Fest*, featuring *Black Palm, Granite Mouth, Goldenhall, The Negans, De-ranged Youth*, and *Top Down*. Metal. 5 p.m. \$

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Lina Tullgren*, indie rock, with *Spirits Having Fun*, and *Wendy Eisenberg*. All ages, substance free space. 8 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Flame N Peach, Waffles, Blame Cadence*, and *Wishbone Zoe*. 8:30 p.m. \$

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Riverside Brothers*. Folk. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 6

Montague Center: *Montague May Day Celebration*. Procession, carol singing, maypole dancing, Morris dancing. Bring along a blanket and picnic lunch. 10 a.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 8

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Remote Viewing Session with Greta Svalberg*. Food and psychic games. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Deadgrass*. Celebrating the music of Jerry Garcia. 8 p.m. \$

THURSDAY, MAY 10

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *French & the Punk, Gay Mayor*, more TBA. 8 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Katherine First and Kitchen Party*. Celtic, Cape Breton, Appalachian. 8:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Lush Honey; Dish Soap*. 9:30 p.m. \$

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**FRI 5/4 9:30 pm
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“Thunder”: Wrong Twice!

By DENIS BORDEAUX

TURNERS FALLS – I wrote articles, and drew cartoons, deriding the decision to drop our beloved Indian logo.

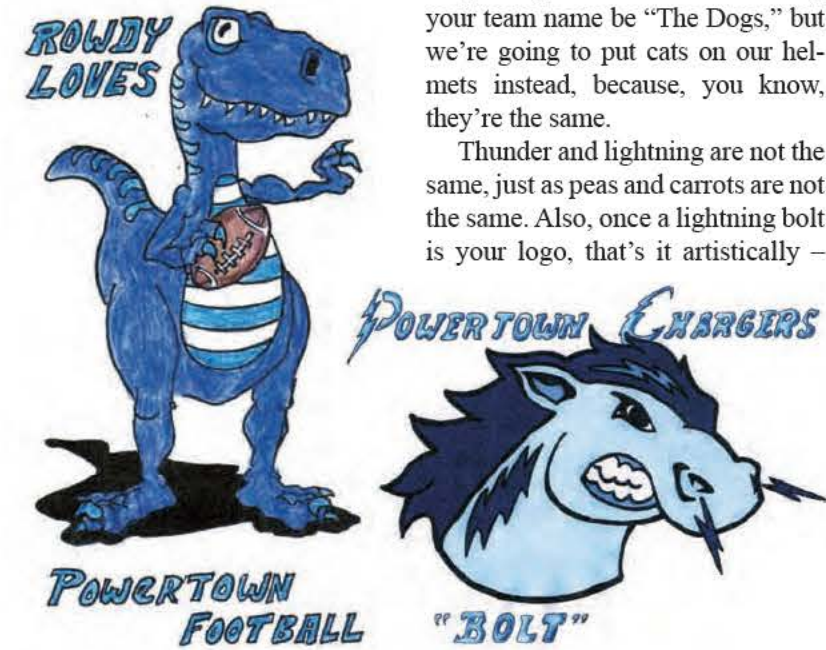
But when it was done for good, I started to jot down names for its replacement. I quickly had about 25 new names, and when the “criteria” for said logo were handed down by the school committee, I began to

cross off those that didn’t fit said “criteria” – which, by the way, were pretty specific.

Then they announced three finalists, and there was “The Thunder” as one of the choices. A name I erased for two reasons.

Creatively, artistically, visually, colorwise, and in terms of originality, Thunder is a total dead end. So bad is Thunder that the accompanying artwork isn’t even Thunder, it’s a lightning bolt. That’s like having your team name be “The Dogs,” but we’re going to put cats on our helmets instead, because, you know, they’re the same.

Thunder and lightning are not the same, just as peas and carrots are not the same. Also, once a lightning bolt is your logo, that’s it artistically –



The author has submitted a number of logo designs to the taskforce, including these versions of the Raptors and Chargers, two finalists be endorses. Residents of Gill, Montague, and Erving and district alums are invited to vote at vote.tfhslgo.com.

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while the “Charger” war horse, and the velociraptor for “River Raptors,” are an art department’s dream. The entire student body’s imagination can run amok with costumes, masks, posters, merchandising, and endless visuals.

The inspiration for elementary kids to want to participate in high school activities should not be overlooked. I’d bet horses and dinosaurs are the two favorite animals of elementary school kids. Talk about building school spirit early! That is the artistic reason to choose Chargers or River Raptors over Thunder.

But the main reason – and this happens often, when you’re talking “art by committee” – is a group that

sets criteria down but in the end abandons it, and picks what it likes, while the rest of us who strived to follow the “criteria” are left with “Oh well, that’s the way it goes.”

Amongst the list of “criteria,” the main point was that the logo should be historically relevant to the town. Yes, it does thunder here – like 99% of the planet.

A taskforce member told me there was a cheer called “Thunderation,” and that’s what made it historically relevant.

Firstly, that is not a cheer. It is a cheerleader-stolen, unoriginal, monotonous, one-word chat that every other cheer squad in the country did at one time or another. If you

can listen to it for more than two minutes, then congratulations – you’re the type of person who can be happy watching paint dry while listening to a metronome. The “Fire Hydrants” in Montague have more relevant history.

So, even if the committee and taskforce didn’t follow their own “criteria,” in the name of fair play, you can boycott Thunder with your vote. Otherwise I, along with others, should be allowed to resubmit logos we ki-boshed because they didn’t fit the “criteria.”

I’d start with “Fire Hydrants,” and the logo would have a dog standing next to it. You know, because they’re the same, like thunder and lightning.

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